

**The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,
Columbia University in the City of New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Paul F. Knitter Papers, 1962-2012



Faculty photograph of Paul F. Knitter. <http://myunion.utsnyc.edu/paulknitter>

Finding Aid prepared by: Jessica Gavilan and Rebecca Nieto, September 2016
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Summary Information

Creator: Paul Knitter, 1939-present
 Title: Paul F. Knitter Papers
 Inclusive dates: 1962-2012
 Bulk dates: 1972-2012
 Abstract: UTS Faculty 2007-present (emeritus), author and theologian. Collection contains books and notes from his time in Germany and Rome, course materials, lectures, articles, Vatican problematta, certificates and plaques, photographs, graphic materials, and a/v materials.
 Size: 50 boxes (2 oversize), 29.75 linear feet
 Storage: **Offsite storage**, except Series 7C
 Repository: The Burke Library
 Union Theological Seminary
 3041 Broadway
 New York, NY 10027
 Email: burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Jessica Gavilan 9/1/2016

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The Paul F. Knitter papers were donated by Professor Knitter, and form part of the Union Theological Seminary Archives, which comprises institutional and administrative records of the Seminary, combined with the papers of many organizations, scholars, pastors, laypersons, and others connected with the school.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkespecial@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. [Burke Library staff](#) is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying. Please note that boxes held in Offsite storage will require 48 hours' notice in response to a weekday request for retrieval.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS 1: Paul F. Knitter Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Paul F. Knitter was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 25, 1939. He married Cathy Cornell. In 1966, he obtained a licentiate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. In 1972, was granted permission to leave the priesthood in 1975, and received a doctorate from the University of Marburg in Germany. In 1975-2002, he was Professor Emeritus of Theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1986-2004 he was on the Board of Directors for CRISPAZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador). He is on the Board of International Interreligious Peace Council. He joined the Union Theological Seminary in 2007 and was named Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions and Culture in 2008. He married Cathy Cornell, and as of 2016, continues to teach at Union Theological Seminary as professor emeritus.

Dr. Knitter is a leading theologian in interfaith dialogue. His teachings, research, and publications deal largely with religious pluralism and interreligious dialogue. He began to pursue these and other controversial religious issues in 1964 when he was a seminarian in Rome and experienced the Second Vatican Council when the Roman Catholic Church revealed its new attitude towards other religions. He has been previously criticized by the Vatican for his positions on many of the Church's firmly-held positions, including abortion. In 1984, he signed "A Catholic Statement on Pluralism and Abortion", and traveled the world to deepen his religious and ethical beliefs. He traveled to South Korea to promote interfaith dialogue between Buddhists and Christians.

Knitter's publications include the 1985 book, *No Other Name?* in which he explores how the religious communities of the world can cooperate in promoting human and ecological well-being. This is the topic of the 1995 *One Earth Many Religions: Multifaith Dialogue and Global Responsibility* and the 1996 *Jesus and the Other Names: Christian Mission and Global Responsibility*. In 2005, Knitter edited a multifaith exploration titled *The Myth of Religious Superiority*. His 2009 publication is *Without Buddha I Could Not Be A Christian: A Personal Journey of Passing Over and Passing Back*.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection includes materials on many landmark issues in contemporary theology. It contains Knitter's theological pursuits and principals focusing mostly on pluralism. The majority of the collection comprises textual course materials that Knitter used while teaching such as notes, articles, discussion questions, exams, and syllabi. Materials on his educational background also form part of the collection. These materials include his dissertation and his *Exercitatio*, and relatedly include lectures from Union Theological Seminary and afield. Knitter's correspondence has been organized by institution or subject. Many of his personal correspondences were with fellow influential theologians like Raimon Panniker. The collection is organized in 7 series with further divisions into subseries:

- **Series 1: Education, 1962-1971 (8 boxes, 5.5 lin. ft.)**

This series contains the materials from Knitter's time in Rome and Germany where he was working on his undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral studies. It consists of notes, books, exams, and Knitter's dissertation when he was at the University of Marburg. The series is divided into three subseries.

- **Subseries 1A: Rome, 1962-1969 (2 boxes, 1 lin. ft.)**

This subseries contain the notes and clippings from when Knitter was a student at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Some of the material is in Latin. The folders are arranged chronologically.

- **Subseries 1B: Germany, 1969-1971 (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**

Within this subseries are the notes and clippings of Knitter's graduate and doctoral studies at the University of Marburg. Some of the material is in German. The folders are arranged chronologically.

- **Subseries 1C: Annotated Books, 1962-1965 (5 boxes, 4 lin. ft.)**

This subseries contains the books annotated by Knitter while he was pursuing his degrees.

- **Series 2: Catholic Theological Union, 1972-1975 (2 boxes, 1 lin. ft.)**
 Within this series are the courses that Knitter taught while he was at the Catholic Theological Union. The course files contain a combination of personal research notes, lecture notes, annotated articles, discussion questions, syllabi, exams, grades, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets related to the course subjects. The folders are arranged chronologically.
- **Series 3: Xavier University, 1975-2005 (23 boxes, 10.5 lin. ft.)**
 This series is divided into two subseries. The materials are from Knitter's time at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio where he was the Emeritus Professor of Theology. The records contain contracts and other administrative files. The bulk of the collection is comprised of the materials Knitter gathered for the classes he taught.
 - **Subseries 3A: Administrative Files and Correspondence, 1975-2002 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**
 This subseries consists of documents for a faculty research grant, teaching contracts with Xavier, yearly updates on his teachings, and correspondence that are related to his teachings while at Xavier. The folders are arranged chronologically.
 - **Subseries 3B: Course Files 1970-2005 (22 boxes, 10.25 lin. ft.)**
 Within this series are the courses that Knitter taught during his time at Xavier University. The course files contain a combination of personal research notes, lecture notes, annotated articles, discussion questions, syllabi, exams, grades, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets related to the course subjects. The folders are arranged chronologically.
- **Series 4: Union Theological Seminary, 2008-2012 (5 boxes, 2.25 lin. ft.)**
 This series contains the course materials that Knitter used while at the Union Theological Seminary. The course files contain a combination of personal research notes, lecture notes, annotated articles, discussion questions, syllabi, exams, grades, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets related to the course subjects. This series also contains contracts for his time at UTS. The folders are arranged chronologically.
- **Series 5: Lectures, 1974-2012(3 boxes, 1.25 lin. ft.)**
 The contents of this series pertain to lectures given by Knitter. Knitter gave these lectures at several different locations. There are also notes by Knitter for the lectures. The folders are arranged chronologically.
- **Series 6: Travel, 2003-2011 (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**

This series has to do with Knitter's international travels and mostly consists of lectures. The series also contain pamphlets and flyers from his travels. The folders are arranged chronologically.

- **Series 7: Personal, 1966-2012 (8 boxes, 8.75 lin. ft.)**

The series is divided into three subseries consisting of personal and biographical materials by and about Knitter. These materials include correspondence, critiques, and publications.

- **Subseries 7A: Correspondence, 1966-2012 (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**

The subseries contain personal correspondence from friends, family, and colleagues of Knitter. These correspondences include fellow prominent theologians like Schubert Ogden and Raimon Panniker. Folders and materials within the folders are arranged chronologically.

- **Subseries 7B: Biographical Materials, 1970-2010 (2 boxes, 0.75 lin. ft.)**

This series contains notebooks, criticisms from the Vatican, publications, reviews, and other materials relating to Knitter's career. Some of the publications are by Knitter. The folders are arranged chronologically.

- **Subseries 7C: Graphic and Audiovisual Materials, 1980-2011 (5 boxes [inc. 2 oversize boxes], 7.5 lin. ft.)**

This series contains personal photographs, certificates, awards, and audiovisual materials. The floppy disks are course lectures. The DVDs and video cassettes composed of shows with appearances by Knitter. The DVDs are Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum Dvds with different themes on Ahtheism, The new Testament, Intelligent Design, and The Resurrection, Knitter was involved in the 2009 Forum on Pluralism. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

Further Sources

"Friends Theological College." Paul F. Knitter Biographical Summary. Available at <http://www.quaker.org/ftc/PaulKnitterBio.html>

"Paul F. Knitter." Biographical sketch available at <http://myunion.utsnyc.edu/paulknitter>

“A Look at Christianity, Through a Buddhist Lens”. Profile on Knitter’s spirituality by Peter Steinfelds for the New York Times, October 9, 2009. Available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/10/us/10beliefs.html>

Contents list

Series 1: Education, 1962-1971

Subseries 1A: Rome, 1962-1969

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1A	1	1-7	Notes and Clippings, 1959-1966
1A	2	1	Divinarum Personarum Conceptio Analogica and Notes, [1960]
1A	2	2	De Deo Trino [1960]
1A	2	3	Mission Theology-Notes and Clippings, [1960]
1A	2	4	De Ecclesis- Ecclesiology, [1962-1966]
1A	2	5	Exams and Notes, 1962-1966
1A	2	6	Exercitatio at Gregorian University –The Non-Christian Religions: Their Place in the Economy of Salvation, 1966
1A	2	7	Mysticism and Phenomenology of Religions and Notes, 1968-1969

Series 1: Education, 1962-1971

Subseries 1B: Germany, 1969-1971

1B	1	1	Notes and Clippings, 1969-1971
1B	1	2-3	Marburg Dissertation- A Case Study for a Protestant Theology of the Religions: Paul Althaus, [1970]
1B	1	4	Paul Althaus and Karl Barth Correspondence, [1970]

Series 1: Education, 1962-1971

Subseries 1C: Annotated Books, 1962-1965

1C	1	1-4	Textbooks, 1962-1965
1C	2	1-2	Textbooks, 1962-1965
1C	2	3	Textbooks, 1968-1972
1C	3	1-2	Textbooks, 1968-1972
1C	4	1	Marburg Dissertation Books, 1968-1971
1C	4	2	Marburg Dissertation Books, 1968-1971
1C	5	1	Marburg Dissertation Books, 1968-1971

Series 2: Catholic Theological Union, 1972-1975

2	1	1-4	[RESTRICTED] The God Problem, [1970]
2	1	5	HDS 430- The Problem of God, [1970]

Series 2: Catholic Theological Union, 1972-1975

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	2	1-2	HDS 435- Origins and Eschatology, [1970]
2	2	3	HDS 330- The Problem of God and Contemporary Society, 1973-1975

Series 3: Xavier University, 1975-2005**Subseries 3A: Administrative Files and Correspondence 1975-2002**

3A	1	1	Proposal for Faculty Research Grant, 1983-1990
3A	1	2	Yearly Updates, 1975-1999
3A	1	3	Contracts, 1975-2001
3A	1	4	Correspondence, 1984-2002

Subseries 3B: Course Files 1970-2005

3B	1	1	Theology of Religions and Dialogue, [1970]
3B	1	2	Jewish Dialogue, [1970]
3B	1	3	Dialogue and Mission, [1970]
3B	1	4	Evangelical Theology of Religions, [1970]
3B	1	5	Dialogue and Global Responsibility, [1970]
3B	1	6	HDS 440-Christology, [1973]
3B	2	1-3	HDS 446-Missionary Dynamics of the Church, 1973-1975
3B	2	4	[RESTRICTED] TH 200-Evolution of Christian Theology, 1978-1979
3B	3	1-5	TH 229-Why a Church, 1979
3B	3	6	HDS 397-Christian Attitudes towards the Non-Christian Religions, [1980]
3B	4	1	HDS 431-Experience and Knowledge of God in the Non-Christian Religions, [1980]
3B	4	2	HDS 432- The Problem of God and Other Religions, [1980]
3B	4	3-4	TH 501-Method in Theology, 1981
3B	4	5-6	TH 219-Life After Death, 1982
3B	5	1	TH 219-Life After Death, 1982
3B	5	2-4	Process Theology, 1976-1983
3B	6	1-3	Process Theology, 1976-1983
3B	6	4-5	TH 344-Dialogue among World Religions II, 1979-1983
3B	7	1-3	TH 208-The Mystery of Christ, 1983

3B 7 4 TH 247-Mysticism and Science, 1983
 3B 7 5 TH 364-Zen and Christianity, 1984

Subseries 3B: Course Files 1970-2005

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
3B	8	1	TH 394-Jesus and Buddha Scholars Seminar, 1984
3B	8	2	TH 212-God, He or She, 1985
3B	8	3	TH 205-Christian Doctrine I, 1986
3B	8	4	TH 565 – Mysticism East and West, 1980-1986
3B	9	1-5	TH 565- Mysticism East and West, 1980-1997
3B	10	1-2	Buddhist and Christian Dialogue, [1980-1997]
3B	11	1-2	TH 569-Liberation East and West, 1987
3B	11	3	CHC 341-Christian Approaches to other Faiths, 1989
3B	11	4	TH 502-Christian Tradition and the Task of Understanding, 1989
3B	11	5	TH 529-Christ the Liberator, 1990
3B	12	1	Religious Pluralism, [1990]
3B	12	2-3	[RESTRICTED] CTH 342-War, Peace, Religions, 1988-1991
3B	12	4	TH 568-Christianity and World Religions, 1992
3B	12	5-6	TH 390-Ideas and Methods Senior Seminar, 1981-1992
3B	13	1-2	TH 442-Religions and Ecojustice, 1993
3B	13	3	TH 567-Dialogue and Ecology, 1993
3B	13	4	TH 443-Native American Religions and Ecology, 1994
3B	13	5	TH 347-Native American Spirituality and Ecology, 1995
3B	14	1	TH 575-Liberation of Life, 1995
3B	14	2	TH 362-Ein Gott Viele Religionen, 1997
3B	14	3	Articles by Colleagues, 1990-1998
3B	14	4	TH 306-Liberation Issues and Theology, 1998
3B	14	5	Gavin D'Costa and Anselm Min Articles, 1994-1998
3B	14	6	THEO 533-The Uniqueness of Christ, 2000
3B	15	1-3	[RESTRICTED] THEO 345-Challenges of Peace, 1985-2001
3B	15	4	TH 380-Comparative Religious Ethics, 2001
3B	16	1-5	TH 111-Theological Foundations, 1978-2002
3B	17	1	TH 111-Theological Foundations, 1978-2002

3B	18	1-4	THEO 343-Dialogue Among World Religions, 1975-2003
3B	19	1-4	THEO 343-Dialogue Among World Religions, 1975-2003
3B	20	1-5	THEO 343-Dialogue Among World Religions, 1975-2003

Subseries 3B: Course Files 1970-2002

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
3B	21	1-2	THEO 343-Dialogue Among World Religions, 1975-2003
3B	22	1-3	[RESTRICTED] TH 316-Globalization , 2002-2004
3B	22	4	THEO 680-Comparative Religious Ethics in Global Situation, 2005

Series 4: Union Theological Seminary, 2008-2012

4	1	1-2	ST 511- Theologies of Religions Seminar, 2008
4	1	3	WR 334- Religions and Poverty, 2008
4	1	4-5	[RESTRICTED] ST/WR 320-Dealing with Diversity, Christian and Buddhist Perspectives, 2007-2009
4	2	1-3	ST/WR 356-Tillich and the Religions, The Dialogue Continues, 2009
4	2	4	ST/WR 331-Interreligious Dialogue and Ecology, 2010
4	3	1-2	[RESTRICTED] CT102-Religions and the City, 2007-2011
4	3	3-4	ST 323-Dealing with Diversity, 2008-2011
4	3	5	ST/WR 322-Evolution and Religious Peacemaking, 2011
4	4	1-3	ST/WR 317-Christian Muslim Dialogue, 2007-2012
4	4	4-5	ST/WR 327-Double Belonging, Buddhist and Christian, 2007-2012
4	5	1	ST/WR 436-Jesus and Buddha in Dialogue, 2012
4	5	2	Contracts, 2007-2012

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5	1	1	Lectures, 1974-1989
5	1	2	Lectures, 1990-2002
5	1	3	Lectures, 2003-2004
5	2	1	Lectures, 2005
5	2	2	Lectures, 2006-2007
5	2	3	Lectures- Union Theological Seminary, 2007-2008
5	2	4	Lectures-Portland, 2008
5	2	5	Lectures, 2008

5	2	6	Lectures- Union Theological Seminary, 2009
5	2	7	Lectures, 2009
5	2	8	Lectures, 2010

Series 5: Lectures, 1974-2012

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
5	3	1	Lectures, 2011
5	3	2	Lectures, 2012-2013

Series 6: Travel, 2003-2011

6	1	1	Japan, 2003
6	1	2	India, 2004
6	1	3	Indonesia, 2006
6	1	4	Myanmar, 2010
6	1	5-6	Colombia, 1992-2011
6	1	7	South Korea, 2010-2011

Series 7: Personal, 1966-2012

Subseries 7A: Correspondence, 1966-2012

7A	1	1	Schubert Ogden, 1983-1989
7A	1	2	Seiichi Yagi, 1986-1989
7A	1	3	Michael Rodrigo, 1987-1989
7A	1	4	Raimon Panniker, 1989-2000
7A	1	5	General, 1966-1993
7A	1	6	General, 1994-2012

Subseries 7B: Biographical Materials, 1970-2010

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7B	2	1	Critiques and Reviews, 1986-2004
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7B	2	3	UTS Inauguration and Symposium on Religions and World Poverty, 2008-2010

Subseries 7C: Graphic and Audiovisual Materials, 1980-2011

7C	1	1	Photographs, [1980-1990]
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7C	1	3	Certificates, 1972-2011
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7C	OS3	1-2	Award Plaques, 1980-2013
7C	4	1-33	Floppy Disks, 1985-1997
7C	4	34-38	Video Cassettes, [2003]
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7C	5	3	Compact Disks, 2005-2011