

**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>

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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: Onsite storage
 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.
- 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 abroad. Knitter's correspondence has been organized by institution or subject. Many of his personal correspondences were with fellow influential theologians like Raimon Panikar.

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.

- o **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.

- o **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.

- o **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

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1B	1	4	Paul Althaus and Karl Barth Correspondence, [1970]

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1C	2	1-2	Textbooks, 1962-1965
1C	2	3	Textbooks, 1968-1972
1C	3	1-2	Textbooks, 1968-1972
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3A	1	3	Contracts, 1975-2001
3A	1	4	Correspondence, 1984-2002

Subseries 3B: Course Files 1970-2005

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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
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3B	8	4	TH 565 – Mysticism East and West, 1980-1986
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3B	11	4	TH 502-Christian Tradition and the Task of Understanding, 1989
3B	11	5	TH 529-Christ the Liberator, 1990
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3B 22 1-3 **[RESTRICTED]** TH 316-Globalization , 2002-2004

3B 22 4 THEO 680-Comparative Religious Ethics in Global Situation, 2005

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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

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