



Rabia Gregory

Religious Studies

University of Missouri-Columbia

Rabia Gregory is Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Classics, Archaeology, and Religion, where she teaches classes on the history of Christianity and religion and gender. Lebanese and American, she grew up in both the U.S. states of California and Virginia and the Middle Eastern nations of Lebanon, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia before moving to North Carolina in 1997 for college. She earned her AB in Religion and Medieval Studies from Duke University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before moving to Missouri to join the faculty of the Department of Religious Studies in 2007.



An interest in the Middle Ages sparked by films and novels became a career researching Christianity in medieval and early modern Europe. Gregory now co-edits the interdisciplinary book series *Christianities Before Modernity*, which interrogates the traditional chronological, geographical, social, and institutional boundaries of premodern Christianity. In her first book, *Marrying Jesus in Medieval and Early Modern Northern Europe: Popular culture and Religious Reform*, she documented why some men and women married Jesus in medieval Europe. Her current research explains how the introduction of affordable paper to western Europe in the late 1270s changed Christian history. She is also writing a history of the European Reformations through the life and art of Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer and completing a translation into English of the Belgian poet Anna Bijns (1493-1575). Her research brings to life the religious worlds of the past using the belongings and personal writings of both the famous and the forgotten

Growing up in the Middle East and especially her experiences during the Lebanese Civil War shape Gregory's commitment to teaching about religion and helping others recognize and respect religious differences. This work has been supported by a number of grants, including a \$30,000 Wabash Center project, "Addressing Religious Diversity in the Land Grant University Classroom." She is currently co-directing the Confluences project, funded by the UM System and the Missouri Humanities Council, which aims to document religious diversity in Missouri. She has observed that for many Missourians, religion is a part of daily life. It shapes the landscape, marks the calendars, and forms their communities. She believes it is important to understand the place she has made her home looks forward to sharing research about religion with Missourians and listening to and learning from their experiences.

Examining and handling centuries-old books is one of the great delights of studying the past. Gregory also enjoys visiting and exploring and photographing historical churches, castles, ruins, and other sites, tending her vegetable garden, growing native plants, exploring Missouri's forest and streams, and tackling complicated recipes.

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