

The Rev. Dr. S. Helen Chukka
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EDUCATION

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| 2023 | Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Illinois.
Dissertation: “Mixed Marriage Crisis in Ezra 9-10: An Anti-Caste Reading to Unravel the Intricacies of Caste.” |
| 2017 | STM in Biblical Studies, Union Theological Seminary, New York.
Thesis: Discerning Foundations and Discovering Relevance: Marriage Metaphor in Isaiah 54 |
| 2013 | Master of Theology in Old Testament, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai, India. |
| 2010 | Bachelor of Divinity, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai, India. |

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| 2023-Present | Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Wartburg Theological Seminary. |
| 2021-2023 | Teaching Assistant, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. |
| 2017- 2023 | Assistant to the Director of Worship, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. |

COURSES TAUGHT

Survey Courses

Hebrew Bible I (Penateuch), Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Fall 2025.

Hebrew Bible II(Joshua-Malachi), Spring 2024; Spring 2025.

Advanced Courses

Ezra-Nehemiah, Fall 2023

Women in the Hebrew Bible: Intersectional Perspectives, Fall 2024

Loss, Grief, and Hope: Lament in the Hebrew Bible as a Congregational Resource, Fall 2025

Electives

Reading Mothers in the Hebrew Bible with a Womanist Lens, Spring 2024.

Loss, Grief, and Hope: Lament in the Hebrew Bible as a Congregational Resource, January 2025.

Preliminary Biblical Hebrew, Fall 2025.

Other Courses

Spiritual Practices, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025.

MA Capstone Course, Spring 2025.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

“Dalits and the Bible: An Exploration of Intersectional Feminist Hermeneutical Directions” in *Oxford Handbook of the Bible in India*, Forthcoming, 2025.

“Reading Her Story in His Narration: Zuleika and Her Otherness in Genesis 39,” in *Bible Blind Spots: Dispersion and Othering*, edited by Jione Havea and Monica J. Melanchthon, 143-160. Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2021.

“Spirituality of Liberation: Encounters in Inter-Contextual and Multi-Textual Contexts,” in *Faith Seeking Justice: Dialogue and Liberation*, edited by Peniel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar, 118-131. Switzerland: World Council of Churches, 2021.

“Women As 'Ezer': Re-membering Women Role in God's Mission” in *Women from the Pulpit*, edited by Atola Longkumer and Mohan Larbeer, 253-262. Bangalore: BTESSC, 2014.

“Subaltern (Hagar) Talks: Talking from her Pathos and Ethos.” in *Building Theologies of Solidarity: Interfacing Feminist Theology with Dalit Theology and Tribal/Adivasi Theologies*, edited by, Chhungi, Hrangthan, Raj Bharath. Patta, P. Mohan Larbeer, 106-114. Bangalore: BTESSC, SCMI; Nagpur: NCCI, 2012.

Journal Articles

““My Beloved is Mine and I am His”: Reimagining Relationships through Song of Songs 2:8-13” in *Word & World: Theology for Christian Ministry*, Forthcoming, 2025.

“Reading Her-story (Ruth) of Resistance and Resilience.” *NCC Review* CXXXVI,10 (2016):627-632.

“Voicing the Silenced: A Re-Reading of Judges 19,” *Bangalore Theological Forum* 44, 2 (2012): 131–38.

“Exodus 15:20-21 Singing the Song of Liberation: Towards a Redeemed Culture and Identity,” *In God’s Image: Journal of Asian Women’s Resource Centre for Culture and Theology* 32,1 (2013): 23-30.

BOOK REVIEWS

Memory, Grief, and Agency: A Political Theological Account of Wrongs and Rites by Sunder John Boopalan for *Caste: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion* Vol 3, No. 1(2022): 203-206.
<https://journals.library.brandeis.edu/index.php/caste/issue/view/9>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Dalit feminist Reflections and Appraisals,” Forthcoming 2025

“Reading Ezra-Nehemiah through an Intersectional Feminist Lens” in *Themes and Issues in Biblical Studies: Ezra-Nehemiah*, Equinox Press, Forthcoming 2026.

“The Breastfeeding Dyad Under Constraint: God as Nursing Mother in the Bible” co-authored article for peer reviewed Journal.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Breastfeeding Hermeneutic: A Life-Affirming Interpretative Lens,” presented at *Contextual Biblical Interpretation* unit of Society of Biblical Literature, November 25, 2024.

““Zera’ haqqōdeš (Ezra 9:2) and niddā (Ezra 9:11): Gendering the People(s) of the land(s) for Exclusion,” presented at Ezra-Nehemiah unit of Society of Biblical Literature, November, 2023.

Panelist for the Dalit History Month panel on *Dalit Hist/Tories: Roots and Routes* hosted by Albert “Pete” Pero, Jr. And Cheryl Stewart Pero Center for Intersectionality Studies, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, April 28, 2023.

Panelist for the International Seminar on *Dalits, Religion and Liberation* organized by Christians Institute for the Study of Religion and Society, Bangalore, January 7, 2023.

Panelist for the one-day seminar on *Forty Years of Dalit Theology: Celebrating Prof. Nirmal’s Life and legacy* organized by United Theological College, Bangalore, February 17, 2022.

Panelist for the seminar on *Waking the Giant’s Training of Sustainable Development Goals* organized by the Lutheran World Federation, October 21, 2020.

Panelist for the webinar on *Caste and Social Violence: Why “Indian Matchmaking” is not Funny* organized by South Asian Solidarity Collective, August 29, 2020.

“Violence against Women in South Asia,” presented at the *Training on Human Rights Issues and Challenges: South Asian Perspectives* workshop organized by Christian Conference of Asia and National Council of Churches in India, Kolkata, February 2-4, 2014.

“Women Partners in God’s Liberative Act,” presented at the one-day Women Convention of Indian Evangelical Lutheran Church at Kattukadai, Kanyakumari district, May 1, 2014.

“A Paradigm Shift in The Temptation of Jesus: Ecological Perspective,” presented at the Climate Training in Jaipur Evangelical Lutheran Church in Koraput, Orissa, May 10, 2014.

‘Gendering Migration: Challenges for the Women’, presented at the Student Christian Movement in India Biennial Convention, Ranchi, May 30, 2013.

“A Journey Towards Justice as a Denial of Peace,” presented at the Young Theologians Consultation organized by BTESSC and Commission on Youth of NCCI in United Theological College, Bangalore, May 8, 2012.

Service to Academy

Participant, Becoming Intersectional Pedagogues, grant by Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, Summer 2024.

Panelist, Intersectional Teaching and Leading, Webinar co-organized by Wartburg Theological Seminary and Lutheran Theological Seminary, October 7, 2024.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2006	College Old Testament Award, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, and Research Institute, Chennai, India.
2006	Preliminary Hebrew Award, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, and Research Institute, Chennai, India.
2006-2010	ELCA Scholarship.
2012	General proficiency Award, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, and Research Institute, Chennai, India.
2010-2012	Lutheran World Federation Scholarship.
2017-2023	Advanced Studies Financial Aid Award, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.
2017-2018	InFaith Foundation Scholarship
2017-2021	Lutheran World Federation Scholarship.
2019	Edger Krentz Award for Biblical Interpretation, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.
2023	Ph.D. with Distinction

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2016-present Society of Biblical Literature

LANGUAGES

Ancient

Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Aramaic, Biblical Greek (elementary)

Scholarly Reading

English, Telugu

Spoken

English, Telugu: native, Tamil, Hindi

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

2012-2015 Executive Secretary for the Commission on Youth-National Council of Churches in India.

Church Presentations and Publications

Jointly led a retreat for the rostered leaders, on the theme ‘Life Together: Lament, Love and Christian Hope in a Time such as This’ with Rev. Dr. Kristin Largen, President of Warburg Theological Seminary, at the Grand Canyon Rostered Leaders gathering, September 29-October 1, 2025.

“Lutheran Biblical Hermeneutics” in *Forgive Us and Transform Us for the Life of the World* for ELCA, 2025.

https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/assets/CWA/Forgive_Us_and_Transform_Us_for_the_Life_of_the_World_Digital.pdf.

Panelist for a webinar, Sexual Assault Awareness Month on *Breaking Silence: Exploring the Complexities of Sexual Assault at the Intersection of Race, Caste, Class, and Ethnicity* hosted by The Episcopal Diocese of New York Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, New York, April 10, 2024.

Panelist for a webinar on *Decade to Climate Justice*, organized by Council for World Mission, Germany, June 5, 2023.

“Gender Relations: Role of the Youth in Sensitizing the Church And Society,” presented at the youth leaders’ program on *Transforming Youth for Transformatory Change in the Church and Society*, June 7, 2013.

“I+U=We: Biblical Overtones on Stewardship and Partnership,” presented at the Training on “Stewardship and Partnership” organized by the Church of South India Department of Ecumenical Relations and Ecological Concerns, Bangalore, June 24, 2013.

“Untouchable to Touch, Touchable to Rape: Re-Imagining the Body Politics of Dalit Young Women,” presented at the Dalit Women Conference organized by Commission on Dalits, NCCI in Kerala, October 2, 2013.

“Power and Greed: Deceptive Realities of Consumerism,” presented at the National Ecumenical Consultation on Transparency, Accountability and Responsibility organized by Commission on Policy, Governance and Public Witness, NCCI, November 30, 2013.

“Kinship, Friendship and Relationship: Ruth’s Unbreakable Ties of Socialization,” presented at the Consultation in Human Resource Development Centre, Church of North India, Nagpur, June 1, 2012.

“Routing the Map of Feminism within the Bible: A Quest for Alternatives,” presented at the Student Christian Movement of India Bible Study workshop, Bangalore, September 6, 2012.

“Vigilance as an Act to Subvert the Powerful: Juxtaposing Draupadi and Rizpah,” presented at the Centenary National Ecumenical Consultation organized by SCMI, Bangalore, November 1, 2012.

Web-based Publications

“The Politics of Scripture” (blog). The Political Theology Network,
<https://politicaltheology.com/author/s-helen-chukka/> Multiple entries.

“Sermon notes on lectionary” in Sermon labs
<https://sermonlab.org> (multiple entries)

Commentaries on RCL texts, in Working Preacher,
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/authors/helen-chukka> (multiple entries)

ORDINATION

Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church, November 9, 2012, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Esther Menn, The Ralph W. and Marilyn R. Klein Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

The Rev. Dr. Linda E. Thomas, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs; Bernard, Fischer, Westberg Distinguished Professor of Theology and Anthropology; Director of Rev. Dr. Albert “Pete” Pero, Jr. and Dr. Cheryl Stewart Pero Center for Intersectionality Studies.

The Rev. Dr. Sam D. Giere, Professor of Biblical Interpretation and Frank and Joyce Benz Chair in Scripture and Wartburg Theological Seminary.