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Paul F. Knitter papers11918079

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Knitter, Paul F.
Title:	Paul F. Knitter papers
ID:	11918079
Date [inclusive]:	1959 -- 2013
Physical Description:	29.75 linear feet 29.75 linear feet; 50 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Paul F. Knitter (b. 1939) was a UTS faculty member from 2007-present (emeritus), and is an author and theologian invested in pluralism and interfaith dialogue. The collection contains books and notes from his time in Germany and Rome, textual materials for courses by Knitter and about his travels, lectures, published and unpublished articles by Knitter, Vatican problematta, certificates and plaques, photographs, graphic materials, and audiovisual materials.

Preferred Citation

Item description, UTS1: Paul F. Knitter papers, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

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. 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*.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains books and notes from his time in Germany and Rome, textual materials for courses by Knitter and about his travels, lectures, published and unpublished articles by Knitter, Vatican problematta, certificates and plaques, photographs, graphic materials, and audiovisual materials.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 8 series: Series 1A: Education, Rome; Series 1B: Education, Germany; Series 1C: Education, annotated books; Series 2: Catholic Theological Union; Series 3A: Xavier University, Administrative files and correspondence; Series 3B: Xavier University, Course files; Series 4: Union Theological Seminary; Series 5: Lectures; Series 6: Travel; Series 7A: Personal, Correspondence; Series 7B: Personal, Biographical Materials; Series 7C: Personal, Graphic and Audiovisual Materials; and Series 8: Accessions.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2024-03-26

Conditions Governing Access

This collection open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: all boxes in series 1 through 7B. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Knitter donated his papers in 2013, with additions in 2023. Accession UTS1-2023-010 was added to the collection in 2024.

Processing Information

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. The finding aid was created by Jessica Gavilan and Rebecca Nieto in 2016 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2024.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Theologians
- College teachers
- Knitter, Paul F. -- : Archives
- Union Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.) -- : Archives -- : Faculty

Burke Library record group:

Union Theological Seminary Archives: UTS 1, papers of faculty and students

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Collection Inventory

Series 1A: Education, Rome, 1959 -- 1969

Physical Description: 1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 2 boxes

Language of the Material: English, Latin.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials from Knitter's time in Rome when he was a student at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and includes notes, exams, and clippings. Some of the material is in Latin.

Title/Description	Instances
Notes and Clippings, 1959 -- 1966	box 1A: 1
Divinarum Personarum Conceptio Analogica and Notes, circa 1960	box 1A: 2 folder 1

De Deo Trino, circa 1960	box 1A: 2	folder 2
Mission Theology-Notes and Clippings, circa 1960	box 1A: 2	folder 3
De Ecclesis- Ecclesiology, circa 1962 -- 1966	box 1A: 2	folder 4
Exams and Notes, 1962 -- 1966	box 1A: 2	folder 5
Exercitatio at Gregorian University –The Non-Christian Religions: Their Place in the Economy of Salvation, 1966	box 1A: 2	folder 6
Mysticism and Phenomenology of Religions and Notes, 1968 -- 1969	box 1A: 2	folder 7

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Series 1B: Education, Germany, 1969 -- 1971

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Language of the Material: English, German.

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials from Knitter's time in Germany pursuing graduate and doctoral studies at the University of Marburg, and includes notes and clippings, correspondence, and Knitter's dissertation. Some material is in German.

Title/Description	Instances	
Notes and Clippings, 1969 -- 1971	box 1B: 1	folder 1
Marburg Dissertation- A Case Study for a Protestant Theology of the Religions: Paul Althaus, circa 1970	box 1B: 1	folder 2-3
Paul Althaus and Karl Barth Correspondence, circa 1970	box 1B: 1	folder 4

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Series 1C: Education, annotated books, 1962 -- 1972

Physical Description: 4 linear feet 4 linear feet; 5 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

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

Title/Description	Instances
Textbooks, 1962 -- 1965	box 1C: 1
Textbooks, 1962 -- 1972	box 1C: 2
Textbooks, 1968 -- 1972	box 1C: 3
Marburg Dissertation Books, 1968 -- 1971	box 1C: 4
Marburg Dissertation Books, 1968 -- 1971	box 1C: 5

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Series 2: Catholic Theological Union, circa 1970 -- 1975

Physical Description: 1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series contains some restricted material. Restrictions related to specific material are listed in the detailed contents list.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains material on 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.

Title/Description	Instances
The God Problem, circa 1970	box 2: 1 folder 1-4
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>	
Conditions Governing Access	
This file may contain restricted material. Please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu for more information.	
HDS 430- The Problem of God, circa 1970	box 2: 1 folder 5
HDS 435- Origins and Eschatology, circa 1970	box 2: 2 folder 1-2

HDS 330- The Problem of God and Contemporary Society, box 2: 2 folder 3
1973 -- 1975

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

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials are from Knitter's time at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio where he was the Emeritus Professor of Theology, and include documents for a faculty research grant, teaching contracts with Xavier, yearly updates on teaching, correspondence, and other administrative files.

Title/Description	Instances	
Proposal for Faculty Research Grant, 1983 -- 1990	box 3A: 1	folder 1
Yearly Updates, 1975 -- 1999	box 3A: 1	folder 2
Contracts, 1975 -- 2001	box 3A: 1	folder 3
Correspondence, 1984 -- 2002	box 3A: 1	folder 4

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Series 3B: Xavier University, Course files, circa 1970 -- 2005

Physical Description: 10.25 linear feet 10.25 linear feet; 22 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series contains some restricted material. Restrictions related to specific material are listed in the detailed contents list.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains files related to courses that Knitter taught during his time at Xavier University, and include personal research notes, lecture notes, annotated articles, discussion questions, syllabi, exams, grades, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets related to the course subjects.

Title/Description	Instances	
Theology of Religions and Dialogue, circa 1970	box 3B: 1	folder 1
Jewish Dialogue, circa 1970	box 3B: 1	folder 2
Dialogue and Mission, circa 1970	box 3B: 1	folder 3
Evangelical Theology of Religions, circa 1970	box 3B: 1	folder 4
Dialogue and Global Responsibility, circa 1970	box 3B: 1	folder 5
HDS 440-Christology, circa 1973	box 3B: 1	folder 6
HDS 446-Missionary Dynamics of the Church, 1973 -- 1975	box 3B: 2	folder 1-3
TH 200-Evolution of Christian Theology, 1978 -- 1979	box 3B: 2	folder 4
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
This file may contain restricted material. Please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu for more information.		
TH 229-Why a Church, 1979	box 3B: 3	folder 1-5
HDS 397-Christian Attitudes towards the Non-Christian Religions, circa 1980	box 3B: 3	folder 6
HDS 431-Experience and Knowledge of God in the Non-Christian Religions, circa 1980	box 3B: 4	folder 1
HDS 432- The Problem of God and Other Religions, circa 1980	box 3B: 4	folder 2
TH 501-Method in Theology, 1981	box 3B: 4	folder 3-4
TH 219-Life After Death, 1982	box 3B: 4	folder 5-6
TH 219-Life After Death, 1982	box 3B: 5	folder 1
Process Theology, 1976 -- 1983	box 3B: 5	folder 2-4
Process Theology, 1976 -- 1983	box 3B: 6	folder 1-3
TH 344-Dialogue among World Religions II, 1979 -- 1983	box 3B: 6	folder 4-5
TH 208-The Mystery of Christ, 1983	box 3B: 7	folder 1-3
TH 247-Mysticism and Science, 1983	box 3B: 7	folder 4
TH 364-Zen and Christianity, 1984	box 3B: 7	folder 5
TH 394-Jesus and Buddha Scholars Seminar, 1984	box 3B: 8	folder 1

TH 212-God, He or She, 1985	box 3B: 8	folder 2
TH 205-Christian Doctrine I, 1986	box 3B: 8	folder 3
TH 565 – Mysticism East and West, 1980 -- 1986	box 3B: 8	folder 4
TH 565- Mysticism East and West, 1980 -- 1997	box 3B: 9	
Buddhist and Christian Dialogue, 1980 -- 1997	box 3B: 10	
TH 569-Liberation East and West, 1987	box 3B: 11	folder 1-2
CHC 341-Christian Approaches to other Faiths, 1989	box 3B: 11	folder 3
TH 502-Christian Tradition and the Task of Understanding, 1989	box 3B: 11	folder 4
TH 529-Christ the Liberator, 1990	box 3B: 11	folder 5
Religious Pluralism, circa 1990	box 3B: 12	folder 1
CTH 342-War, Peace, Religions, 1988 -- 1991	box 3B: 12	folder 2-3
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u>		
Conditions Governing Access		
This file may contain restricted material. Please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu for more information.		
TH 568-Christianity and World Religions, 1992	box 3B: 12	folder 4
TH 390-Ideas and Methods Senior Seminar, 1981 -- 1992	box 3B: 12	folder 5-6
TH 442-Religions and Ecojustice, 1993	box 3B: 13	folder 1-2
TH 567-Dialogue and Ecology, 1993	box 3B: 13	folder 3
TH 443-Native American Religions and Ecology, 1994	box 3B: 13	folder 4
TH 347-Native American Spirituality and Ecology, 1995	box 3B: 13	folder 5
TH 575-Liberation of Life, 1995	box 3B: 14	folder 1
TH 362-Ein Gott Viele Religionen, 1997	box 3B: 14	folder 2
Articles by Colleagues, 1990 -- 1998	box 3B: 14	folder 3
TH 306-Liberation Issues and Theology, 1998	box 3B: 14	folder 4
Gavin D'Costa and Anselm Min Articles, 1994 -- 1998	box 3B: 14	folder 5
THEO 533-The Uniqueness of Christ, 2000	box 3B: 14	folder 6
THEO 345-Challenges of Peace, 1985 -- 2001	box 3B: 15	folder 1-3

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file may contain restricted material. Please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu for more information.

TH 380-Comparative Religious Ethics, 2001	box 3B: 15	folder 4
TH 111-Theological Foundations, 1978 -- 2002	box 3B: 16	
TH 111-Theological Foundations, 1978 -- 2002	box 3B: 17	
THEO 343-Dialogue Among World Religions, 1975 -- 2003	box 3B: 18	
THEO 343-Dialogue Among World Religions, 1975 -- 2003	box 3B: 19	
THEO 343-Dialogue Among World Religions, 1975 -- 2003	box 3B: 20	
THEO 343-Dialogue Among World Religions, 1975 -- 2003	box 3B: 21	
TH 316-Globalization, 2002 -- 2004	box 3B: 22	folder 1-3

Conditions Governing Access:**Conditions Governing Access**

This file may contain restricted material. Please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu for more information.

THEO 680-Comparative Religious Ethics in Global Situation, 2005	box 3B: 22	folder 4
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Series 4: Union Theological Seminary, 2007 -- 2012

Physical Description: 2.25 linear feet 2.25 linear feet; 5 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:**Conditions Governing Access**

This series contains some restricted material. Restrictions related to specific material are listed in the detailed contents list.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in rough chronological order.

Scope and Contents

This series contains Knitter's course materials while at Union Theological Seminary, including personal research notes, lecture notes, annotated articles, discussion questions, syllabi, exams, grades, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets related to the course subjects, as well as contracts for his time at UTS.

Title/Description	Instances
ST 511- Theologies of Religions Seminar, 2008	box 4: 1 folder 1-2
WR 334- Religions and Poverty, 2008	

	box 4: 1	folder 3
ST/WR 320-Dealing with Diversity, Christian and Buddhist Perspectives, 2007 -- 2009	box 4: 1	folder 4-5
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access		
This file may contain restricted materials. Please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu for more information.		
ST/WR 356-Tillich and the Religions, The Dialogue Continues, 2009	box 4: 2	folder 1-3
ST/WR 331-Interreligious Dialogue and Ecology, 2010	box 4: 2	folder 4
CT102-Religions and the City, 2007 -- 2011	box 4: 3	folder 1-2
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access		
This file may contain restricted materials. Please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu for more information.		
ST 323-Dealing with Diversity, 2008 -- 2011	box 4: 3	folder 3-4
ST/WR 322-Evolution and Religious Peacemaking, 2011	box 4: 3	folder 5
ST/WR 317-Christian Muslim Dialogue, 2007 -- 2012	box 4: 4	folder 1-3
ST/WR 327-Double Belonging, Buddhist and Christian, 2007 -- 2012	box 4: 4	folder 4-5
ST/WR 436-Jesus and Buddha in Dialogue, 2012	box 4: 5	folder 1
Contracts, 2007 -- 2012	box 4: 5	folder 2

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Series 5: Lectures, 1974 -- 2013

Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet 1.25 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:
Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains lectures and notes related to lectures given by Knitter at different locations, including Union Theological Seminary.

Title/Description	Instances
Lectures, 1974 -- 2004	box 5: 1
Lectures, 2005 -- 2010	box 5: 2
Lectures, 2011 -- 2013	box 5: 3

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Series 6: Travel, 2003 -- 2011

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains travel materials from Knitter's travels in Japan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Colombia, South Korea, including lectures, pamphlets and flyers.

Title/Description	Instances
Travel materials, 2003 -- 2011	box 6: 1

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Series 7A: Personal, Correspondence, 1966 -- 2012

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence from friends, family, and colleagues of Knitter, including fellow theologians like Schubert Ogden and Raimon Panniker.

Title/Description	Instances	
Schubert Ogden, 1983 -- 1989	box 7A: 1	folder 1
Seiichi Yagi, 1986 -- 1989	box 7A: 1	folder 2
Michael Rodrigo, 1987 -- 1989	box 7A: 1	folder 3
Raimon Panniker, 1989 -- 2000	box 7A: 1	folder 4
General, 1966 -- 2012	box 7A: 1	folder 5-6

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Series 7B: Personal, Biographical Materials, 1962 -- 2010

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series contains notebooks, criticisms from the Vatican, publications, reviews, and other materials relating to Knitter's career.

Title/Description	Instances	
Notebooks, circa 1970 -- 1990	box 7B: 1	folder 1
Miscellaneous, 1962 -- 1995	box 7B: 1	folder 2
Books, circa 1973 -- 1995	box 7B: 1	folder 3
Vatican Problematta, 1975 -- 1998	box 7B: 1	folder 4
Publications, 1987 -- 2003	box 7B: 1	folder 5-7
Critiques and Reviews, 1986 -- 2004	box 7B: 1	folder 8
Critiques and Reviews, 1986 -- 2004	box 7B: 2	folder 1
Unpublished and Offprints, 1986 -- 2005	box 7B: 2	folder 2
UTS Inauguration and Symposium on Religions and World Poverty, 2008 -- 2010	box 7B: 2	folder 3

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Series 7C: Personal, Graphic and Audiovisual Materials, 1972 -- 2011

Physical Description: 7.5 linear feet 7.5 linear feet; 5 boxes including 2 OS

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

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

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs, circa 1980 -- 1990	box 7C: 1	folder 1
Indonesian Bark Picture, 2003	box 7C: 1	folder 2
Certificates, 1972 -- 2011	box 7C: 1	folder 3
Promotional Program Posters, 1989 -- 2007	box 7C: OS2	
Award Plaques, 1980 -- 2013	box 7C: OS3	
Floppy Disks, 1985 -- 1997	box 7C: 4	folder 1-33
Video Cassettes, circa 2003	box 7C: 4	folder 34-38
DVDs, 2005 -- 2009	box 7C: 5	folder 1-2
Compact Disks, 2005 -- 2011	box 7C: 5	folder 3

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Series 8: Accessions

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