MAIJU LEHMIJOKI WETZEL, Ph.D., B.S.N., R.N.

(previously Maiju Lehmijoki-Gardner)

Director of Pre-Health Programs, Affiliate Assistant Professor, Theology

Loyola University Maryland

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Director of Pre-Health Programs, Loyola University Maryland 2014–

* Advise, empower, motivate 600+ future health professionals at all stages of their studies
* Establish and administer program outcomes metrics and evaluation
* Build healthcare partnerships that contribute to the well-being of Baltimore residents
* Design pathways for sustained trajectories in student success
* Develop and monitor committee standards for medical school applicants
* Co-found, Health and Human Experience minor 2022 –
* Found and direct, Health Outreach Baltimore in partnership with Mercy Medical 2014–
* Found and direct Baltimore Health Immersion Summer Program 2014–2019

EDUCATION

**Education in History and Study of Religions**

“Privat-Dozent” Qualification, Church History, University of Helsinki, Finland 2002

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Department of History, University of Turku, Finland 1999

Doctoral dissertation: *“Worldly Saints: Social Interaction of Dominican*

*Penitent Women in Italy, 1200 –1500.”*

Visiting Graduate Scholar, Theology, Boston College (1996–1997)

Visiting Graduate Scholar, Religious Studies, U of Pennsylvania (1997–1998)

Graduate Research Fellowship, Theology, Academy of Finland (1995–1998)

Master of Arts, Department of History, University of Turku, Finland 1994

Visiting Student, History, University of Edinburgh (1990 –1991)

**Education in Nursing**

Active license to practice as registered nurse in Maryland and in Finland

Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Metropolia University, Helsinki, Finland 2010

TEACHING & PRESENTATIONS IN PRE-HEALTH AND MEDICAL HUMANITIES

2025 Recognized with Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring

2014 – Affiliate Assistant Professor, Theology, Loyola University Maryland. Design new course content, including *Religion, Poverty, and American Health Care*, *Religions and* *Health Care in Baltimore’s History*, and *Urban Health and Faith*

2022 Cassar, L. and M. Lehmijoki-Gardner, “Advising Students to Prepare for and Excel in Accelerated Nursing Programs.” In *Handbook of Research on Advising and Developing the Pre-Health Professional Student,* ed. L.S. Schwartz and R. Gajoo. IGI Global, pp. 68–80.

2019 “Pre-Health Advisors and the Future of Nursing Leadership.” *The National Association for the Advisors for the Health Professions NEAAHP Chapter,* Boston, MA, March.

2019 Lehmijoki-Gardner, M., Lewis, S., & McKenna, S. (2019). “How to Guide Your Pre-Nursing Students to Reach Their Optimal Career in Nursing.” *Advisor* (March 2019), 9–14.

2018 “Advising Success across Health Professions through Meaningful and Consistent Use of

Data.” Presentation at the national conference for *The National Association for the Advisors for the Health Professions,* Washington, D.C., June.

2016 “A Brief Historical Review of Specific Religious Denominations: How History Influences Current Medical-Religious Partnerships,” with Panagis Galiatsatos and Daniel Hale, *Journal of Religion and Health*, April 55 (2):587–592.

2014 “Charisma, Diversity, and Religion in the American City – A Reflection.” *Religions* 2014, 5, pp. 435 –443.

2014 “The Role of Religions in Shaping American Health Care.” A presentation at *Cultural*

*Factors in Health* Seminar, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, April 10.

2013 “An Invitation to Conversation: Perspectives from Health Care Professionals and Scholars of Spirituality.” I was the organizer of this experiential session in collaboration with the *University of Maryland Medical Center, The Society for Christian Spirituality/American Academy of Religion Annual Conference*, Nov. 22.

2013 “Obesity Prevention and Active Living Initiatives in Faith Communities: A Public Health Concern as a Religious and Cultural Leadership Challenge.” *Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, March 13–15.

2012 “Pyhä ruoka [Religious Dietary Ethics] ” *University of Helsinki Studia Generalia*, November 8 (live video lecture connection between Loyola University and University of Helsinki).

2012 “Obesity Prevention Initiatives in Churches – an Ethical Examination.” *The American Academy of Religion’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting*, March 15–16.

2011 “Food in Religions and Religious Ethical Practices – Contemporary Implications of Ancient Traditions.” *Bates Nursing History Seminar*, University of Pennsylvania, October 5.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY SERVICE AT LOYOLA \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program, Founding, Lead Writer 2022–2024
* Co-Found, Health and Human Experience minor by proposal writing 2022–
* National Fellowships, advising director 2015–2021
* Health Outreach Baltimore at Mercy Medical Center, faculty founder 2014–
* Baltimore Health Immersion Summer Program, faculty founder 2014–2019

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE THROUGH HEALTH PROMOTION

2022 Received Faith and Health course development grant from Interfaith America and led the Social Justice Cohort

2020–2021 Covid Community Service at Mercy Medical Center, Screener (2020) and Vaccinator (2021).

2015, 2016 Guided *Urban Public Health Bus Tour in Baltimore* for International Fulbright Scholars in the U.S., Fulbright Scholars’ Enrichment Seminar, Baltimore, April.

2013–2016 Assess health promotion outcomes and write several successful grants for Health Freedom, a 503-C non-profit promoting physical activity and cardiovascular screenings

2011 –2014 Founder and Co-chair, *Wellness Committee*, Roland Park Elementary and Middle School, Baltimore.

2012 –2014 Advisory Board Member, *Baltimore Food and Faith*, Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins University).

2013 Teaching Module design for the unit “The Role of Religions in Shaping American Views on Health.” *Heal the Sick: A Faith and Health Program at* Wesley Theological Seminary, D.C., March 1.

2013 Faculty member, Spring Break Outreach focusing on hunger and homelessness, *Steinbruck Center*, Washington, DC.

2012 *Faculty Fellows Seminar*: *Engaged Scholarship and Service-Learning*, Loyola University Maryland, spring.

2010 Clinical registered nurse in Hospice Center Terhokoti, Helsinki

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY

2005–2006 Post-doctoral fellowship, The Academy of Finland/Department of Church

History, University of Helsinki.

2001–2006 Project Director, “Gendered Practices in Medieval Mysticism, 1200–1500,” The Academy of Finland/Department of Church History, University of Helsinki.

2000–2002 Post-doctoral fellowship, Academy of Finland/Department of Systematic

Theology, University of Helsinki.

2001–2013 10+ one-year-long or shorter additional research grants, including University of Helsinki’s research fellowship (2004), Loyola University Maryland’s summer research grant for affiliate faculty (2003, 2006, 2011), and Loyola University Maryland’s Kolvenbach summer research grant (2013).

1995 –1998 Doctoral fellowship, The Academy of Finland/Department of Systematic Theology, University of Helsinki

TEACHING AND PRESENTATIONS IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY

2010–2014 Visiting Assistant Professor in Theology at Loyola University Maryland.

2001–2010 Affiliate Professor in Church History at University of Helsinki, Finland, with *Privat-Dozent* qualification

2000–2007 Affiliate Assistant Professor in Theology at Loyola University Maryland. My courses included *Theology of Eating*, *History and Theology of the Saints,* and *Introduction to Theology.*

1995–2012 50 + presentations and organized sessions concerning religious dietary traditions and medieval religious women at international conferences, including International Medieval Congress in Leeds (1995, 2001, 2002, 2005); International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo (1998, 1999, 2006, 2012); American Association of Italian Studies Conference (2001); and American Historical Association (2002, 2007).

PUBLICATIONS IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY

2010 BOOK: *Pyhän Benedictuksen luostarisääntö.* Basam Books. [Translation and critical edition of the monastric Rule of Saint Benedict in Finnish, edited with Tuija Ainonen and a team of student linguists.]

2009 BOOK: *Askeettien pidot. Uskonnot ja syömisen etiikka*. Kirjapaja. [Ascetic Feasts: Dietary Ethics within Judaism and Christianity.]

2007 BOOK: *Kristillinen mystiikka. Läntinen perinne antiikista uudelle ajalle.* Kirjapaja. [An Introduction to Christian Mysticism.]

2005 BOOK: *Dominican Penitent Women*. Edited, translated, and introduced by Maiju Lehmijoki-Gardner with contributions by Daniel Bornstein and E. Ann Matter. Paulist Press. In the series The Classics of Western Spirituality.

2002 BOOK: *Keskiajan kirkko. Uskontoelämän muotoja keskiajan läntisessä kristikunnassa, 300-1500*. Together with Tuomas M. Heikkilä. Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura. [The Varieties of Religious Life during the Middle Ages.]

1996–2011 ARTICLES: 20+ articles on food practices, medieval culture, and women’s spirituality published through publications such as *Speculum; Archivum Fratrum Praedicatorum*; *The Companion to Catherine of Siena* (Brill); and *Medieval Italy: An Encyclopedia* (Garland).

LANGUAGES AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

2015–2021 Direct national and international undergraduate fellowships, Loyola University Maryland

2016 – Advisory Board Member, Loyola Center at Newcastle University, United Kingdom

2009–10 Direct a graduate student translation seminar of the monastic rule of Saint Benedict from Latin into Finnish, published as *Pyhän Benedictuksen luostarisääntö* (Basam Books)

2000–2010 Consistent academic engagement in the United States and Finland with research funding from Finland, affiliate teaching in the United States, and active scholarly exchanges in both countries. Publish extensively both in Finnish and English, organize academic colloquia and create opportunities for international exchange in both countries, and frequently serve to establish international connections for junior scholars in Finland.

1993–2006 Engage in sustained archival research on Latin and Italian sources and creation of scholarly network in Italy. 10+ longer research trips in Siena, Florence, and Rome with full funding from the Academy of Finland.

1988– Consistently use English, Italian, French, German, Latin, and Swedish in undergraduate and graduate studies. Undergraduate minor in Italian studies.

1988, 1989 Fluently use Swedish in nurse assistant work in Beckomberga Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

1984–1985 High school exchange student from Finland in Flagstaff High School, Arizona.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A full list of all publications, classes, conference presentations and organized sessions, research scholarships, mentored doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate research projects available upon request.