

D&I Leadership Council

Kathleen Jenkins – Arts & Sciences



Kathleen Jenkins has served as the Chair of the Sociology Department at W&M for two terms. She regularly teaches Social Theory, Qualitative Methods, Sociology of Religion, and Families and Kinship, and was a Faculty Fellow for the Richard Bland College Promise Scholars program in the Spring of 2021. Kathleen has also served as co-chair of the Council of Chairs and Program Directors in Arts & Sciences; co-chair of the Committee on Faculty Awards, Prizes, and Professorships; vice-president and historian for the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; and as director and then co-director of the Institute for Pilgrimage Studies at W&M.

Recently, Kathleen has contributed to furthering Arts & Sciences goals in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion through service as co-director of the Spring 2019 A&S Task Force for DEI, as a member of the year-long Ad Hoc Committee on the COLL 350 Implementation, and as a member of the EPC subcommittee for COLL350. Professor Jenkins is currently working with W&M students, the Institute for Pilgrimage Studies, and the Social Justice Policy Initiative on the development of a local pilgrimage trail focused on sites of memory related to racial justice.

Kathleen received her Ph.D. in sociology from Brandeis University and her BA/MA in religious studies from Brown University. Her main areas of interest are sociology of religion, pilgrimage, families, and the relationship between therapeutic culture and religion. Her most recent ethnography, *Walking the Way Together: How Families Connect on the Camino de Santiago*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2021. Her book, *Sacred Divorce: Religion, Therapeutic Culture, and Ending Life Partnerships*, was published in 2014 with Rutgers University Press, and her first ethnography, *Awesome Families: The Promise of Healing Relationships in the International Churches of Christ*, was published with Rutgers University Press in 2005. Kathleen has published articles in *The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Teaching Sociology*, *Qualitative Sociology* and *Social Forces*.