



EFSR Board FAQs

1. What is the Feminist Studies in Religion?

Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc. (FSR, Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization whose goal is to foster feminist studies in religion in all of its variety and diversity. We understand “feminist studies in religion” to encompass global critical feminist work in religious studies, theology, and spirituality both inside and outside the academy and at the grassroots level. We seek to generate new feminist scholarship in religion that is intersectional and committed to social justice, and to create spaces for such scholarship to emerge. Founded in 1983, FSR, Inc. pioneered the development of feminist studies in religion as a field through its establishment and sponsorship of the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

2. What is the history of the FSR Blog?

The FSR Blog was imagined by a small group from the Teaching for Change conference in June 2005. The blog slowly grew thanks to a commitment by a variety of conference members to create a website that would not only host discussions about feminism in religion for a wider audience, but also be housed with and in partnership to the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion (JFSR) and Feminist Studies in Religion, Inc. (FSR) the organizing body of these projects.

3. What is the relationship between EFSR and FSR more broadly?

EFSR is the electronic arm of FSR. We manage the social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)) associated with FSR, advertise new TOCs for the Journal, and post new podcast episodes from the FSR Forum. Our primary responsibility, though, is hosting the Blog. The Blog will sometimes augment articles in the Journal, or feature conversations from the Forum. Mostly, though, the Blog is composed of independent blogs, some from among the E-FSR board and some from outside.

4. What are the benefits of being a board member of EFSR?

EFSR board members are part of a supportive and collaborative team of scholars and activists. Together the board works to foster innovative conversations on the blog in the fields of feminism and religion. Board members have the opportunity to further EFSR's commitment to mentorship by both offering mentorship to student and junior scholar writers, and receiving mentorship in their own writing from other board members and the co-editors. Lastly, EFSR Board Members can utilize the blog platform to share their scholarship with a wider audience, highlight the work of emerging scholars and activists, and amplify new ideas and pathways in important veins of feminist scholarship on religion.

5. How do I become a board member?

If you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to one of the board members [link] to express your interest. We invite new board members in August/September of every year.



6. How long are board terms and what are the terms of board member renewal?

Board member terms are a 4-year commitment. After serving their first term, board members have the option to renew their membership for another 4 years (which is negotiable on a case-by-case basis).

7. Who are the co-chairs and what is their job?

Co-Chairs serve as Board Members for at least one term before becoming co-chairs. They are involved in long term planning and visioning. Co-Chairs work closely with the intern to promote the platform, recruit new writers, plan *@the table* series, write CFP's, report to the larger FSR Board, organize and hold meetings. The Co-Chairs and the Intern meet monthly for planning and mentorship meetings. You can find the current co-chairs and their bios [here](#).

8. Who is the intern and what is their job?

The intern has historically been a graduate student in a relevant field who primarily facilitates the blog review process by helping match board members with blog submissions for review and subsequently serving as a liaison between bloggers and reviewers. The intern is responsible for publishing blogs and other content on the website, as well as promoting the blog on FSR's social media platforms. The intern works closely with the co-editors and meets with them monthly to do short and long-term planning and visioning. The intern also helps schedule and facilitate the quarterly Board Meetings. You can find the current intern and their bio [here](#).

9. Who else is on the E-FSR board?

You can see the list of current board members and their bios [here](#). The E-FSR is committed to maintaining a board that is diverse in terms of academic subject area, activist involvement, age, gender, race, and years of experience. Board members have an interest in sharing academic work with a wider public.

10. What are my responsibilities as a board member?

Board members have five main responsibilities:

1. Actively promote the EFSR website through blogging (at least 1-2 posts per year) and leading invited blog panel discussions on topics important to feminist studies in religion (*@theTable* series). The EFSR Submissions Editor will be happy to support you in this process, whether you are new to or experienced in blogging.
2. Actively share our links on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), etc. to your networks.
3. Participate in ongoing discussions (periodic email/conference calls) regarding web design and function in order to get valuable information on the intersections between feminism and religion out to both current and potential readership.
4. Periodic peer review of 2-4 board member and guest blog submissions throughout the year.
5. Attend the EFSR board meetings held quarterly each year. The Fall meeting is held (when possible) in person during the annual AAR/SBL meeting.



11. When are board meetings?

Board meetings take place Quarterly, with virtual meetings in the Winter, Spring, and Summer, and an in-person Fall meeting at Annual [AAR/SBL](#) Conference when possible.

12. How often should I blog?

Board members are asked to blog 1-2 times each year. At the beginning of each calendar year, each board member signs up for a monthly slot where they commit to writing a blog. In addition to that blog sign-up, board members are encouraged to submit additional blog posts, co-write blogs with colleagues or students, and organize [@theTable](#) roundtable blog series. Board members are also encouraged to recruit friends or colleagues to write blogs as well.

13. How often will I be reviewing a blog?

On average, each board member reviews approximately 2-4 blog submissions each year. Board members are asked to serve as primary reviewers for submissions sporadically based on the blog content and their areas of expertise. Board members always have the choice to decline reviewing a submission and volunteer to review a submission based on their availability and interest.

14. How do I review a blog?

When you have agreed to review a blog submission, you are expected to assess whether the blog should be accepted or rejected with minor or major revisions, and offer some sort of explanation for the decision you've made. As a reviewer, you are asked to evaluate submissions not only on the basis of their stylistic fit but also on their contribution to feminist discourses, their acquaintance with significant issues in the women's movement, and their vision of social and/or religious change. Writing that is in any way sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise discriminatory should not be accepted. Each open submission blog requires 2 reviewers, a primary and secondary reviewer, with the hope that the primary reviewer will be able to offer feedback that relates to a specialized field or discipline the blog engages. The secondary reviewer may not be as familiar with the subject/topic at hand, and are asked to offer more general and stylistic feedback on the blog.

You have the option to use the Blog Submission form to guide your review, or offer freehand comments. Board members are welcome to use whichever method they find most effective for reviewing, and are always welcome to include in-text comments on the blog itself. For blog submissions that require two reviewers, the blog submissions editor will synthesize both reviewer's comments to share with the author, and will be in touch with the reviewers if their reviews contain significant disagreement regarding the blog's publication status.

When the reviewer(s) conclude that a blog submission needs major revisions, they may request to review a revised version of the submission, or they may be asked by the submissions editor to do so. Student blog submissions that require additional mentorship will almost always require a second round of review.



15. How does FSR approach mentorship? What is expected of me if I am asked to mentor a student blogger?

When the FSR Blog receives submissions from student writers, we try our best to offer support and guidance to those authors by pairing them with a reviewer who can offer a small amount of mentorship throughout the blogging process. Typically student bloggers receive more one-on-one attention from one of the reviewers of their blog, are welcome to submit at least two versions of their blog for detailed review, and have the option to connect with their primary reviewer via Zoom or phone. All other writers can request this mentorship or extra engagement with one of their reviewers at any point in time.

Board members are asked on a case-by-case basis if they are willing to serve as a mentor and play a slightly more involved role as a reviewer for student submissions. Board members are typically asked to serve as a mentor for a piece they are already reviewing and/or are the primary reviewer for.

We also have a goal of expanding our mentorship within EFSR to include board members as well...stay tuned.

More questions? Contact us at blog@fsrinc.org