

Individual style choices are expressions of oneself to others. Realistically, professional dress, whether skirt or pants, is always dignified and should be comfortable. It may be festive and/or reflect one's heritage. The bottom line is to be comfortable in one's clothes and to dress in a way appropriate to the setting.

## Collaborative work

Collaborative work is not regarded as highly as the Lone Ranger approach in our field. The gender of the Lone Ranger may have something to do with it, but we will save that for another day. Just know that when it comes time for a tenure review, your joint publications, your collaborative efforts, will count less than your single-authored work. This flies in the face of all good sense, and passes over the fact that it is often harder, more of a stretch, and therefore more of a growth experience, not to mention often resulting in a better product, to work in collaboration. We recommend it nonetheless, especially when it comes to interdisciplinary teaching and writing. We encourage women to raise this issue with their colleagues and change this outmoded protocol. A caution: When submitting collaborative work for tenure review, be sure to state clearly *your* contribution.

If you are invited to a collaborative process, give it a whirl even if you are a reflector by learning style and prefer poring over a text to discussing an idea in a group. You may find that the stimulation of working collaboratively (and this includes team teaching) is well worth the occasional aggravation.

## Coming out

Among the real changes in religious studies is the matter of sexuality. Of course, in many institutions, especially in more conservative ones, it is still a major liability to be an out lesbian, bisexual, queer and/or a transgender person. The price is high. You may not be hired in the first place. If you are a graduate student, you may get clear and distinct signals that you might consider a career in another field that would be friendlier to you.