

Marla Frederick is the John Lord O'Brian Professor of Divinity and 18th Dean of Harvard Divinity School, the first woman to hold this position in the school's 207 year history. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Religion and Culture at Emory University's Candler School of Theology from 2019-2023. She returns to Harvard having served there as a professor of Religion and African and African American studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 2003-2019. A graduate of Spelman College with a BA in English, Dr. Frederick earned her PhD in cultural anthropology at Duke University. She continued her work as a post-doctoral fellow at Princeton University's Center for the Study of Religion and at the Interdenominational Theological Center's Office of Black Women in Church and Society.

Professor Frederick is the author and/or co-author of four books and several articles including, *Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith* and *Colored Television: American Religion Gone Global*, ethnographic studies that examine issues at the intersections of race, religion, activism and media. In 2007 she co-authored a book entitled *Local Democracy Under Siege: Activism, Public Interests and Private Politics*, which won the Best Book Award for the Society for the Anthropology of North America. Her co-authored text, *Televised Redemption: Black Religious Media and Racial Empowerment* (NYU Press 2016), examines how black Christians, Muslims and Hebrew Israelites use media for the "redemption" of the race. Dr. Frederick's ongoing research interests include the study of religion and media, religion and race and the sustainability of black institutions in a 'post-racial' world. She is currently curating, alongside five co-editors, an encyclopedia of the histories of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Professor Frederick has served in numerous capacities in her guilds, including as president of the Association of Black Anthropologists and most recently as president of the American Academy of Religion, the world's largest association of scholars in religious studies and related fields.