

ERIC BAIN-SELBO

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CURRENT POSITION

Head and Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Western Kentucky University, July 2007 to the present. Responsibilities include scheduling courses, managing the budget, hiring instructors and general oversight and supervision of department; teaching courses in religion and philosophy at the undergraduate level; advising Religion and Philosophy majors; serving as a member of the Popular Culture ad hoc committee. Courses taught:

PHIL 207: Philosophy and Popular Culture
PHL/REL 315: Philosophy of Religion
PHL/REL 323: Social Philosophy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chair (July 2000 to June 2007) and Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy (August 1997 to June 2007), Lebanon Valley College, Pennsylvania. Responsibilities included scheduling courses, managing the budget, hiring instructors and general oversight and supervision of department; teaching courses in religion and philosophy at the undergraduate level; advising selected undeclared majors as well as Religion and Philosophy majors; serving as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, Humanities Colloquium, Faculty Standards and Policies Committee, Study Abroad Committee, Curriculum Committee, and the General Education Advisory Group. Courses taught:

REL 110: Introduction to Religion
REL 115: World Religions I (Western Traditions)
REL 116: World Religions II (Eastern Traditions)
REL 140: Encountering World Religions
REL 190: Encountering Traditional Religions
REL/PHL 251: Chinese Philosophy and Religion
REL/PHL 252: Indian Religions and Philosophies
REL 253: Buddhism
REL 260: The Sacred and Society
REL/PHL 290: A Soul Controversy (team-taught)
REL/PHL 290: The Love Course (team-taught)
REL/PHL 290: Evil (team-taught)
REL/PHL 290: Terrorism: Thinking the Unthinkable
REL/PHL 290: God, Friends, and Nymphs: A Course on Love (team-taught)
REL/PHL 352: God
PHL 160: Ethics
PHL 215: Social Philosophy
PHL 349: The Holocaust: A Case Study in Social Ethics (juniors/seniors only; occasionally team-taught)
PHL 500: Contemporary Continental Philosophy and Literary Theory (independent study)
PHL 500: Sartre's *Being and Nothingness* (independent study)
PHL 500: Aesthetics and Hermeneutics (independent study)
DSP 390: European Colonialism and Literature (juniors/seniors only)
FYS 100: A Tale of Two Homers
FYS 100: They Killed Kenny! South Park as Social Criticism

Instructor in Religious Studies, St. Xavier University (Chicago), September 1995 to August 1997. Responsibilities included planning and teaching two courses -Religion and Society and Buddhist Tradition - and evaluating student papers and examinations.

Academic Adviser, The University of Chicago, The College, September 1996 to July 1997. Advised approximately 250 undergraduates in regard to their academic programs and goals; provided guidance concerning university procedures and services; member of the Fellowship and Scholarship committee and UC coordinator of the Beinecke scholarship program; provided research on a study of minority student retention at UC.

Instructor in Humanities, Wright College (Chicago), September to December 1993. Responsibilities included planning and teaching The Philosophy of World Religions; evaluating student papers and examinations.

Instructor in Religion, Hales Franciscan High School (Chicago), August 1989 to June 1990. Responsibilities included planning and teaching one freshmen introductory course, two sophomore courses in Christian morality, and two junior/senior courses in Old Testament and New Testament; being junior class moderator, overseeing the class fundraising and functions; acting as assistant baseball coach; serving on the Student Life Review Board.

Graduate Assistant, Miami University, August 1987 to May 1988. Responsibilities included leading discussion sections for introductory Religion classes, meeting with students, and grading examination.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ph.D., 1997, The University of Chicago, The Divinity School, Religious Ethics program.

Dissertation: Understanding Others Morally: Philosophical Hermeneutics and Comparative Religious Ethics. (primary adviser, William Schweiker)

Masters paper: an examination of Charles Long's approach to the study of religion in light of Hans-Georg Gadamer's hermeneutic philosophy.

Doctoral examinations (February/March 1993): 1) history of ethical theory; 2) religious ethics and the social order; 3) comparative religious ethics, focusing on Christianity and Buddhism; 4) History of Religions; 5) religious ethics and the human sciences.

M.A., 1988, Miami University (Oxford, Ohio), Religion.

Masters thesis: Camus and Epictetus: An Examination of Ancient and Modern Stoicism.

Other areas of study: History of Religions, Zen Buddhism, Jungian psychology, sociology of religion, and phenomenology.

B.A., 1987, The University of Tennessee (Knoxville), Religious Studies.

Areas of study: History of Religions, Chinese philosophy and religion, Buddhism, philosophy of religion, Existentialism, Marxism, psychology of religion, and history of Christianity.

PUBLICATIONS/BOOKS

Game Day and God: Football, Religion, and Politics in the South. Forthcoming (September 2009) from Mercer University Press.

Judge and Be Judged: Moral Reflection in an Age of Relativism and Fundamentalism. Lexington Books, 2006.

Mediating the Culture Wars: Dialogical Virtues in Multicultural Education. Hampton Press, 2003.

PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

“From Lost Cause to Third-and-Long: College Football and the Civil Religion of the South.” Forthcoming in *The Journal of Southern Religion*.

“Ecstasy, Joy, and Sorrow: The Religious Experience of Southern College Football.” In *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, vol. XX (Fall 2008). Peer reviewed.

“From Pride to Cowardice: Obstacles to the Dialogical Classroom.” In *Teaching Theology & Religion*, vol. 6, no. 1, February 2003. Peer reviewed.

“Understanding the Other: The Challenge of Post-Colonial Theory to the Comparative Study of Religion.” In *Religious Studies and Theology*, vol. 18, no. 1 (June 1999). Peer reviewed.

“Freedom and Commitment: Religious Colleges and Universities in a Multicultural Society.” In *the Journal of Religion & Society*, Volume 2 (2000), <http://www.creighton.edu/JRS>.

PUBLICATIONS/REVIEW ESSAYS

“*Democracy and Tradition: Finding Common Ground Between Hauerwas’ Traditionalism and Rorty’s Liberalism*.” In *the Journal of Religion & Society*, Volume 7 (2005), <http://www.creighton.edu/JRS>.

“Awareness, Appropriation, and Loathing in Histories of Comparative Religion: Review and Assessment.” In *the Journal of Religion & Society*, Volume 5 (2003), <http://www.creighton.edu/JRS>.

PUBLICATIONS/REVIEWS

Review of Alasdair MacIntyre’s *The Tasks of Philosophy: Selected Essays, Volume 1* and *Ethics and Politics: Selected Essays, Volume 2*. Forthcoming in *the Journal of Cultural and Religious Theory*.

Review of David Chidester's *Authentic Fakes: Religion and American Popular Culture*. In the Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory, Issue 7:2 (2006), <http://www.jcrt.org>.

Review of Michael P. Lynch's *True to Life: Why Truth Matters*. In the Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory, Issue 6:3 (2005), <http://www.jcrt.org>.

Review of Bernard Faure's *Double Exposure: Cutting Across Buddhist and Western Discourses*. In the Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory, Issue 6:2 (2005), <http://www.jcrt.org>.

Review of Jurgen Habermas's *Religion and Rationality: Essays on Reason, God, and Modernity*. In the Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory, Issue 5.1 (2003), <http://www.jcrt.org>.

Review of Carl Olson's *Zen and the Art of Postmodern Philosophy: Two Paths of Liberation from the Representational Mode of Thinking*. The Journal of Religion, vol. 83, no. 3 (2003).

Review of Stephen Pattison's *Shame: Theory, Therapy, Theology*. In the Journal of Religion & Society, Volume 4 (2002), <http://www.creighton.edu/JRS>.

Review of Johannes Fabian's *Out of Our Minds: Reason and Madness in the Exploration of Central Africa*. In The Journal of Religion, vol. 82, no. 1 (2002).

Review of *Sexual Orientation and Human Rights in American Religious Discourse* (edited by Saul M. Olyan and Martha Nussbaum). The Journal of Religion, vol. 81, no. 1 (2001).

Review of Heup Young Kim's *Wang Yang-ming and Karl Barth: A Confucian-Christian Dialogue*. Review of Religious Research, vol. 38, no. 4 (1997).

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS/INTERVIEWS

Interview with WBKO television regarding the forthcoming publication of *Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the American South*, appearing in November 2008.

Interview with WKCT-FM regarding the forthcoming publication of *Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the American South*, July 28, 2008.

Interview with WKYU-FM regarding the forthcoming publication of *Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the American South*, July 22, 2008.

"Game day and God: WKU professor pens book comparing football, religion." Interview in the Daily News (Bowling Green, KY), June 20, 2008.

"Searching for a way to find 'THE TRUTH.'" Sunday Patriot-News (Harrisburg, Penn.), April 2, 2006.

INVITED LECTURES

“Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the South,” Society for Values in Higher Education, Baltimore, Maryland, July 26, 2008.

“Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the South,” Dickinson College (Penn.)/Department of Religious Studies, February 15, 2007.

“Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the South,” Louisiana State University/Department of Religious Studies, November 9, 2006.

Lecture, “An Introduction to Islam,” PEO monthly meeting, October 24, 2006.

“Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the South,” The University of Alabama/Departments of Religious Studies and American Studies, October 11, 2006.

“Game Day and God: Football, Faith, and Politics in the South,” The University of Tennessee/Religious Studies Department, August 31, 2006.

Lecture, “The Holocaust and Violence in the Abrahamic Traditions,” Beth Israel Temple, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, May 8, 2004.

Lecture, “Islam: An Historical Overview,” Salem Lutheran Church in Lebanon, Penn., November 4, 2001.

Lecture, “Islam,” Rotary Club of Annville-Cleona (Pennsylvania), October 11, 2001.

PAPERS PRESENTED

“Sacrifice in a Post-Moral Society.” Fifth Biennial Symposium on Religion and Politics, Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics (Calvin College), Grand Rapids, MI, April 23-25, 2009.

“Popular Culture and the Denigration of the Self.” Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, New Orleans, April 8-11, 2009.

“Sport as the New ‘Opiate of the Masses.’” Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, San Francisco, March 19-22, 2008.

“Structure and Communitas: The Affirmation and Negation of Race, Class, and Social Status in Southern College Football.” Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Boston, April 4-7, 2007.

“Game Day and God: Research and Reflections on College Football in the South.” Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Atlanta, April 12-15, 2006.

“Truth and Virtue in Spiritual Eclecticism.” Annual meeting of the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education, Selinsgrove, Penn., April 15-16, 2005.

“Truth and Virtue in Spiritual Eclecticism.” Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, N.J., March 3-4, 2005.

“A Moral Analysis of the Goldhagen-Browning Debate, or, Why So Many Germans Were Bad People.” The 33rd Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, March 1-4, 2003.

“The Moral Agency of Perpetrators and Bystanders During the Holocaust: A Challenge to Christian Theological Ethics.” The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, November 18-21, 2000.

“Freedom and Commitment: Religious Colleges and Universities in a Multicultural Society.” The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 20-23, 1999.

“Understanding the Other: The Challenge of Post-Colonial Theory to the Comparative Study of Religion.” The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, Florida, November 20-23, 1998.

“Joachim Wach’s Category of the Classical: Negotiating Religious Pluralism and the Pursuit of Truth.” The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Orlando, Florida, November 20-23, 1998.

“Multicultural Education: Pride and Cowardice Among Today’s Collegians.” Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference, University of Nebraska at Omaha, March 5-7, 1998.

“Dialogical Virtues: A Hermeneutic Analysis of Paulo Freire’s Pedagogy of the Oppressed.” Pedagogy of the Oppressed Conference, University of Nebraska at Omaha, April 17-19, 1997.

“Finding the Family in the Male Spiritual Quest: A Buddhist-Christian Comparison.” The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 23-26, 1996.

“Humility, Charity and Courage: Hermeneutic Virtues in Comparative Religious Ethics.” AAR Midwest Regional Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, March 23-24, 1996.

“Familial Flight: Forsaken Women and Children in the Male Spiritual Quest.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, Missouri, October 27-29, 1995.

“Humility and Charity: The Requisite Virtues for Comparative Religious Ethics.” AAR/SBL Upper Midwest Regional Meeting, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 21, 1995.

“Is Comparative Religious Ethics a Form of Practical Philosophy?” University of Chicago Student Ethics Conference, The Divinity School, April 16, 1994.

“Poverty and Utopia: The Political and Religious Implications of Anti-Necessitarian Social Theory.” The Spring Institute, Department of Sociology, The University of Chicago, May 1989.

EDITORIAL WORK

Member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Religion and Sport*, July 2006 to the present.

Peer reviewer for the *Journal of Religion*, 2007.

Peer reviewer for *Teaching Theology and Religion*, 2003.

Peer reviewer for Longmans Publishing, April 2001.

Peer reviewer for Bucknell University Press, February 2000.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Organizer and moderator of sports and religion forum, The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2008, Chicago.

Organizer and moderator of sports and religion forum, The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2007, San Diego, California.

Co-convener of a core seminar (entitled “Theorizing Values: Levinas’s Ethics of Infinity”) at the annual meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 25-29, 2007, Baltimore, Maryland.

Organizer and moderator of sports and religion forum, The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2006, Washington, D.C.

Co-convener of a morning group (entitled “Rawls Reconsidered”) at the annual meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 21-24, 2006, Naperville, Illinois.

Presenter in the Lebanon Valley College Book Review Series, June 26, 2006 (Robert J. Higgs and Michael C. Braswell’s *An Unholy Alliance: The Sacred and Modern Sports*).

Presenter in the Lebanon Valley College Book Review Series, August 22, 2005 (Bruce Lincoln’s *Holy Terrors: Thinking about Religion after September 11*).

Co-convener of a morning group (entitled “Terrorism: Thinking the Unthinkable”) at the annual meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 29 – August 2, 2005, Portland, Oregon.

Organizer of two sessions (moderator of one) of the Art(s) of Interpretation Group, The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19-20, 2004, San Antonio.

Presenter in the Lebanon Valley College Book Review Series, August 9, 2004 (Fergus M. Bordewich's *Killing the White Man's Indian: Reinventing Native Americans at the End of the Twentieth Century*).

Organizer and moderator, panel discussion entitled "Manipulating the Human Then and Now: Lessons of Nazi Eugenics." Lebanon Valley College, April 19, 2004.

Organizer of two sessions (moderator of one) of the Art(s) of Interpretation Group, The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21-25, 2003, Atlanta.

Presenter in the Lebanon Valley College Book Review Series, June 30, 2003 (Rodger Kamenetz's *The Jew in the Lotus: A Poet's Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India*).

Organizer and moderator, two sessions of the Art(s) of Interpretation Group, The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 22-26, 2002, Toronto.

Recipient of research grant from Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. This grant helped fund research about the teaching of Maori culture and religion in New Zealand. Research done in Hamilton and Auckland, NZ, February to July 2002.

On-site director of the 2002 Lebanon Valley College study abroad program in New Zealand (University of Waikato).

Peer reviewer for Messiah College, Distinguished Professor selection process, November-December 2001.

Organizer and moderator, two sessions of the Art(s) of Interpretation Group, The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 16-17, 2001, Denver.

Organizer and moderator, panel discussion entitled "Love Thy Neighbor? The Successes and Failures of Christian Love During the Nazi Period." Lebanon Valley College, April 19, 2001.

Participant, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: "Individual, State, and Law in Ancient Greece, Rome, and China." June 12 - July 21, 2000, Berkeley, Calif. Directors: David J. Cohen and David Johnson.

Nominated for and accepted into the Society for Values in Higher Education.

Organizer and moderator, panel discussion entitled "Never Again? What We Learn from the Holocaust." Lebanon Valley College, May 1, 2000.

Participant, September 1997 to present, the Philosophy of Religion Group of the Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

“Encountering Indian Scripture” Discussion Group. Unity Church of Palmyra (Pa.), September-October 2006.

Member of the Ethics Committee, Lebanon Valley Home (Annville, PA), 2003-4.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Attendee, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Civic Agency Initiative (American Democracy Project), November 5-7, 2008, Minneapolis.

Attendee in Leadership Workshop, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, October 31, 2008, Chicago.

Attendee at Fellows Meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 2008, College of Notre Dame, Baltimore.

Attendee, Association of American Colleges and Universities conference, “Intentional Learning, Unscripted Challenges: Knowledge and Imagination for an Interdependent World,” January 23-26, 2008, Washington, D.C.

Attendee at Fellows Meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 2007, College of Notre Dame, Baltimore.

Attendee at Fellows Meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 2006, North Central College, Naperville, Ill.

Attendee at Fellows Meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 2005, Portland State University.

Chair, Diversity and Curriculum Task Force, Lebanon Valley College, July-November 2004

Attendee at Fellows Meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 2004, Hampton University.

Attendee in Chairs Workshop, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2003, Atlanta.

Attendee at Fellows Meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 2003, University of Maine at Farmington.

Attendee, Association of American Colleges and Universities conference, “General Education: Goals, Strategies, and Assessments for Powerful Learning,” February 27-March 1, 2003, Philadelphia.

Attendee at Fellows Meeting of the Society for Values in Higher Education, July 2001, Alfred University.

Co-chair of the Administration and Governance Task Force as part of Lebanon Valley College's accreditation review, 2001-2002.

Attendee in Chairs Workshop, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 16, 2001, Denver.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

Popular Culture Association

Society for Values in Higher Education (Member of the Board of Directors, August 2007 to the present)