

COLBY HEATH DICKINSON

EDUCATION

Doctor's Degree in Theology (Ph.D.)

Sacrae Theologiae Doctor (S.T.D.)

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, 11 May 2012

summa cum laude, with congratulations (felicitations) from the jury

- Dissertation: 'Religious Categories in-between Philosophy and Theology: A Fundamental-Theological Investigation into the "Messianic" and the "Canonical" in Contemporary Continental Thought'
- Member of research group 'Theology in a Postmodern Context', the 'Centre for Women's Studies (in Theology)' and the 'Louvain-American Society of Theology'

Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatus (S.T.L.)

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 6 July 2011

Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus (S.T.B.)

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 30 June 2010

Master of Advanced Studies in Theology (M.A.S.)

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, 2 July 2008

summa cum laude

- Thesis: 'The Processes of Canonicity and their Relation to the Canonical: A Further Freudian Impression'

Master of Arts in Theology, Religious Education (M.A.)

Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri, 6 January 2006

summa cum laude

Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.)

Duke Divinity School, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 14 May 2000

magna cum laude

- Thesis: 'Søren Kierkegaard and the Politics of Poetics: Recovering Poetry as a Theological Discourse'

Bachelor of Arts, Literature (B.A.)

Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri, 29 May 1998

summa cum laude

- 1st Minor in Classical Studies
- 2nd Minor in Philosophy and Religion

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Between the Canon and the Messiah: The Structure of Faith in Contemporary Continental Thought, 'Bloomsbury Studies in Continental Philosophy', London: Bloomsbury, 2013.

Agamben and Theology, 'Philosophy and Theology', London: T&T Clark, 2011.

Edited volumes

Walter Benjamin and Theology, with Stéphane Symons (under review with University of Chicago Press).

Tradition and the Normativity of History, collaborator with Lieven Boeve and Terrence Merrigan, 'Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium', Leuven: Peeters, 2013 (forthcoming).

The Shaping of Tradition: Context and Normativity, with the collaboration of Lieven Boeve and Terrence Merrigan, 'Annua Nuntia Lovaniensia' LXX, Leuven: Peeters, 2013.

The Postmodern Saints of France: Refiguring 'The Holy' in Contemporary French Philosophy, London: T&T Clark, 2013.

International journal articles

'The Notion of Salvation in Contemporary Religious Dialectics: *Intra Ecclesiam Salus?*', with John Friday, *Louvain Studies* (accepted).

'The profanation of revelation: On language and immanence in the work of Giorgio Agamben', in Charlie Blake and Patrice Haynes, eds., 'Immanent Materialisms', *Angelaki* 18:4 (2013) (accepted).

Invited article, 'Citing 'whatever' authority: The ethics of quotation in the work of Giorgio Agamben', *Educational Philosophy and Theory* (2013) 1-15.

'The "violence" of the canon: revisiting contemporary notions of the canonical', *Horizons* 40:1 (2013) 1-27.

Invited article, 'Waarom werd God Homo Sacer? Giorgio Agamben op het druispunt tussen theologie en filosofie' ['*Cur Deus Homo Sacer?* Giorgio Agamben on the intersection of theology and philosophy'], trans. Huub Stegeman, *Tijdschrift voor Theologie* 53:1 (2013) 44-62.

Invited article, "'The divisions of sovereignty": Political theology caught between immanence and transcendence', *Political Theology* 14:1 (2013) 88-99.

'A new sense of responsibility? Exploring a Levinasian ecology', *Tattva: Journal of Philosophy* 4:2 (2012) 55-67.

'The poetic atheology of Giorgio Agamben: Defining the scission between poetry and philosophy', *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature* 45:1 (2012) 203-217.

'Beyond violence, beyond the text: The role of gesture in Walter Benjamin and Giorgio Agamben, and its affinity with the work of René Girard', *The Heythrop Journal* 52 (2011) 952-961.

'Biopolitics and the theological body: On the apparent absence of gender in the work of Giorgio Agamben', *Annali d'Italianistica* 29 (2011) 189-203.

'Beyond Objects, Beyond Subjects: Giorgio Agamben on Animality, Particularity and the End of Onto-theology', *Cosmos & History: The Journal of Natural and Social Philosophy* 7:1 (2011) 86-102.

'The logic of the 'as if' and the existence of God: An inquiry into the nature of belief in the work of Jacques Derrida', *Derrida Today* 4:1 (2011) 86-106.

'The Relationship of Canon and Messiah: The Convergence of Jan Assmann and Walter Benjamin on a Theory of Monotheistic Canon', *The Bible and Critical Theory* 7:1 (2011) 1-15.

'Canon as an act of creation: Giorgio Agamben and the extended logic of the messianic', *Bijdragen: International Journal in Philosophy and Theology* 71:2 (2010) 132-158.

Book chapters

'The philosophy still to come: Benjamin and Agamben on the future of philosophy and theology' in Tom Frost, ed., *Agamben and the Future of Law, Politics and Philosophy*, London: Routledge, 2013, pp. 189-206.

'Diverted from nature: Contemporary approaches to ecological and philosophical problems' in Jacques Haers and Frederiek Depoortere, eds., *To Discern Creation in a Scattering World*, Leuven: Peeters, 2013, pp. 221-31.

'Confronting God "As Such": Between Poetry and Phenomenology in the "Mysticism" of Jacques Derrida' in Kurian Kachappilly, ed., *Mystic Musings in Art and Poetry*, New Delhi: Christian World Imprints, 2013, pp. 49-65.

'Jean Genet versus *Saint Genet*: Searching for Redemption among the "Unredeemable"' in Colby Dickinson, ed., *The Postmodern 'Saints' of France: Refiguring 'The Holy' in Contemporary French Philosophy*, London: T&T Clark, 2013, pp. 13-24.

'The guises of violence: Paul Ricoeur on the difficulties of constructing an ontotheological bridge between metaphor and politics', in Greg Johnson and Dan Stiver, eds., *Paul Ricoeur and the Task of Political Philosophy*, Lanham, MD: Lexington, 2012, pp. 125-143.

'Examining the theopolitical dimensions of representation: The 'exception' in Ricoeur's hermeneutics' in Todd S. Mei and David Lewin, eds., *From Ricoeur to Action: The Socio-Political Significance of Ricoeur's Thinking*, London: Continuum, 2012, pp. 229-245.

'The Absent Notion of Canonicity in Paul Ricoeur's Memory, History, Forgetting' in J. Verheyden, T.L. Hettema and P. Vandecasteele, eds., *Paul Ricoeur: Poetics and Religion*, Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium 240, Leuven: Peeters, 2011, pp. 487-501.

Book reviews

Ulrich G. Leinsle, *Introduction to Scholastic Theology* in *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* 89/1 (2013) 187-9.

George Pattison, *God & Being: An Enquiry* in *The Heythrop Journal* 54 (2013) 318-319.

Chris Boesel, *Risking Proclamation, Respecting Difference: Christian Faith, Imperialistic Discourse, and Abraham* in *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* 88/1 (2012) 208-9.

J. Denny Weaver, *The Nonviolent Atonement* in *Louvain Studies* 36 (2012) 103-4.

Georges De Schrijver, *The Political Ethics of Jean-François Lyotard and Jacques Derrida* in *Louvain Studies* 36 (2012) 106-7.

Troels Nørager, *Taking Leave of Abraham: An Essay on Religion and Democracy* in *International Journal of Public Theology* 6:2 (2012) 5-6.

Johan De Tavernier, Joseph Selling, Johan Verstraeten and Paul Schotsmans, eds., *Responsibility, God and Society: Theological Ethics in Dialogue. Festschrift Roger Burggraeve* in *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* 87/4 (2011) 482-3.

Randi L. Rashkover and Martin Kavka, eds., *Tradition in the Public Square: A David Novak Reader* in *International Journal of Public Theology* 5 (2011) 375-6.

Mario I. Aguilar, *Contemplating God, Changing the World* in *International Journal of Public Theology* 5 (2011) 370.

Bruce Ellis Benson and Norman Wirzba, eds., *Words of Life: New Theological Turns in French Phenomenology* in *Louvain Studies* 34 (2010) 411-12.

Norman Wirzba and Bruce Ellis Benson, eds., *Transforming Philosophy and Religion: Love's Wisdom* in *Louvain Studies* 34 (2010) 409-10.

Daniel A. Dombrowski, *A Platonic Philosophy of Religion: A Process Perspective* in *Louvain Studies* 34 (2010) 408-9.

Thomas G. Guarino, *Vattimo and Theology* in *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* 86/1 (2010) 504-506.

Arvind Sharma and Katherine K. Young, eds., *Fundamentalism and Women in World Religions*, in *International Journal of Public Theology* 4 (2010) 119–127.

Additionally, I have served as a journal article reviewer for *Modern Theology*, *Journal of Religion*, *Critical Research on Religion* and *Horizons*.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations at conferences, symposia and colloquia by invitation

Workshop on the writing of Peter Fennes, Center for Global Culture and Communication, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, 15 November 2012
Response to Peter Fennes

Derrida Today Conference, Irvine, California, 11-13 July 2012
Moderator and respondent to a panel session on 'Derrida, Freud, and the Logic of the "As If"' with Stella Gaon, Karyn Ball and Bettino Bergo

Faculty of Theology, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 24 November 2011
'On the relationship between Agamben's early and more recent theological work'

Symposium on Giorgio Agamben, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, 9 March 2011
'The philosophy still to come: Benjamin and Agamben on the future of philosophy and theology'

Presentations at international conferences, symposia and colloquia

Society for Textual Scholarship, 17th Biennial Conference, 6-8 March 2013, Chicago, Illinois
'Transforming scripture into a fetish-object: Late modern reflections on cultural and religious canonical texts'

Derrida Today Conference, Irvine, California, 11-13 July 2012

Moderator and Respondent to a panel session on 'Derrida, Freud, and the Logic of the "As If"' with Stella Gaon, Karyn Ball and Bettino Bergo; Also to present: 'Suspended dialectics: Searching for a middle ground between Marx and Benjamin' in a separate session

Catholic Theological Society of America, Saint Louis, Missouri, 7-10 June 2012

'Sacrament as Fetish? The Irreducible Singularity of Sacramental Presence from a Postcolonial Perspective'

Dutch Association of Aesthetics, Leuven, Belgium, 2-3 March 2012

'Aesthetics among the metaphysical ruins: A consideration of the fragmentary nature of modern thought in the works of Paul Celan and Fernando Pessoa'

Latin American Congress on Paul Ricoeur's Thought, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 28-30 November 2011

'The Levinasian core: On an ethical affinity between Judith Butler and Paul Ricoeur'

Catholic Theological Society of America, San Jose, California, 9-12 June 2011

Convened special session on 'The Postmodern Saints of France', presented paper, 'Jean Genet versus *Saint Genet*: Seeking redemption on the edges' in the same session

Mysticism without Bounds conference, Dharmaram College/Christ University, Bangalore, India, 5-8 January 2011

'Confronting God "As Such": Between poetry and phenomenology in the "mysticism" of Jacques Derrida'

Freud After Derrida: An International Interdisciplinary Conference, Winnipeg, Canada, 6-9 October 2010

'Beyond the Archive, Toward the Canon: The unstated debt to Derrida in the work of Giorgio Agamben'

Derrida Today Conference, London, England, 19-21 July 2010

'Deconstruction as a "thwarted messianism": Giorgio Agamben's reading of Jacques Derrida'

Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Notre Dame, Indiana, 30 June - 4 July 2010

'The end of representation: The figure of the *homo sacer* in Giorgio Agamben and its affinity with the work of René Girard'

Catholic Theological Society of America, Cleveland, USA, 10-13 June 2010

'Biopolitics and the theological body: Examining Giorgio Agamben's anthropological claims'

Conference on Continental Metaphysics, Dundee, Scotland, 27-28 March 2010

'Materialism as pantheistic animality: Giorgio Agamben and the silence of transcendence'

Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology, Leuven, Belgium, 28-31 October 2009

'The canon as a working model of creation: Benjamin and Derrida on the possibility of justice in history'

International Conference, International Walter Benjamin Association, Antwerp, Belgium, 14-17 September 2009

'The relationship of messianicity and canonicity: Benjamin's contribution to a theory of monotheistic canon'

Continental Philosophy of Religion Conference, Liverpool, England, 26-28 June 2009

'Canon as an act of creation: Giorgio Agamben and the extended logic of the messianic'

UK-Ireland Society for Ricoeur Studies Conference, Canterbury, England, 23-24 June 2009

'The tensions of representation: Ricoeur on the theopolitical dimensions of hermeneutics'

European Feminist Research Conference, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 4-7 June 2009

'Recognizing masculine domination in the Catholic Church: Engaging a contemporary cultural understanding of the self' and 'The position of the Centre for Women's Studies Theology ad intra and ad extra'

American Academy of Religion conference, Chicago, USA, 1-3 November 2008

'How Theological Remains the "Psycho-politico-theological"?: A Christian response to Jewish thought in the works of Eric L. Santner and Judith Butler'

Paul Ricoeur: Poetics and Religion, Leuven, Belgium, 28-31 October 2008
'The Absent Notion of Canonicity in Paul Ricoeur's *Memory, History, Forgetting*'

Presentations (Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Loyola University Chicago)

2nd International McCormick Ethics Colloquium, 18 March 2013
'Longing for enchantment: Theology as a fetishistic exercise'

Phenomenology Research Group, 16 March 2013
'Queering phenomenology: Recent engagements with phenomenological methods'

Marquette University-Loyola University Chicago Graduate Theological Colloquium, 16 February 2013
'The Future of Christian Theology'

Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Majors and Minors Meeting, 24 October 2012
'Ghosts, Holy or Otherwise'

Theology Department Graduate Caucus, 15 October 2012
'Strategies and suggestions for effective guest lecturing in a classroom setting'

Presentations at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

GOA Symposium: 'Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus', Gent, Belgium, 10 May 2012
'The Notion of Salvation in Contemporary Religious Dialectics', with John Friday

Louvain-American Society of Theology (L.A.S.T.), Leuven, Belgium, 17 April 2012
'Entering into the job market: From making your CV to negotiating contracts and most everything in-between'

Thesis Writing Seminar, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Leuven, Belgium, 5 March 2012
'Methodological approaches to Systematic Theology'

Louvain-American Society of Theology (L.A.S.T.), Leuven, Belgium, 13 February 2012
'Navigating the world of publications from a student perspective'

Research group Anthropos reading group, Leuven, Belgium, 14 October 2011
'On Agamben's *Homo Sacer* series in relation to theology'

Research group: Theology in a Postmodern Context, Leuven, Belgium, 22 November 2010
'On the work of Quentin Meillassoux'

Research unit: Systematic Theology, Leuven, Belgium, 12 October 2010
'On the role of diversity in my theology'

Research group: Theology in a Postmodern Context, Gent, Belgium, 25 May 2010
'On Poetry: The Attempt to Present life "as such"'

Research group: Theology in a Postmodern Context, Leuven, Belgium, 22 February 2010
'Giorgio Agamben on Regression: Applying Freudian methods to theological tasks'

Centre for Liberation Theology forum, Leuven, Belgium, 10 December 2009
'Giorgio Agamben in the context of liberation theology'

Research group: Theology in a Postmodern Context, Leuven, Belgium, 9 November 2009
'Carl Schmitt, Sovereignty and Philip Goodchild's *Theology of Money*'

Center for Women's Studies Theology, Leuven, Belgium, 27 March 2009

'Recognizing masculine domination in the Catholic Church: Engaging a contemporary cultural understanding of the self'

Research group: Theology in a Postmodern Context, Leuven, Belgium, March 2009

'The "violence" of the canon: revisiting contemporary notions of the canonical'

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, Loyola University Chicago, fall 2012-present

- Courses taught include 'History of Christian Thought II: Reformation to Modern Church', and 'Introduction to Christian Theology'
- Undergraduate Programs Committee member, Theology Department
- Loyola University Chicago Open House representative, Theology Department

Research Assistant (Prof. dr. Lieven Boeve), Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, fall 2008-spring 2012

- Co-taught and designed undergraduate course on 'Fundamental theology' (with Dr. Frederiek Depoortere), Spring semester 2011, covering the history of systematic theology and methodologies. Selected readings, texts, conducted discussion groups and administered final oral examinations
- Collaborated on Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology (LEST) VIII, 26-28 October 2011 [<http://theo.kuleuven.be/page/lest8/>]. Responsible for all practical organizational details, budget management, website layout, newsletter management, arranging travel and accommodations, registration coordination and publication of the proceedings (Peeters Press, Leuven)
- Founded the Louvain-American Society of Theology (L.A.S.T.) in order to foster relations between American students studying theology in Leuven, including the chairing of meetings, coordination of events and social media (Facebook) as well as advertising
- Editing of various academic monographs, articles, theses and dissertations

Adjunct Professor, Aquinas Institute of Theology, Saint Louis, Missouri, summer 2012

- 'Introduction to Theology and Theological Method', covering a broad history of systematic theology and its various methodologies, taught as a hybrid online, video and intensive seminar course

Adjunct Professor, Maryville University, Saint Louis, Missouri, fall 2006

- Developed and taught undergraduate course on 'World Religions' as part of the adult continuing education program

Adjunct Professor, Lake Land College, Mattoon, Illinois, fall 2000- spring 2001

- Developed and taught undergraduate courses on 'The Bible as Literature' (twice) and 'Apocalyptic Literature', the former included a distance learning component for certain students enrolled

Department of Theology, Incarnate Word Academy, Saint Louis, Missouri, fall 2001-spring 2007

- Full-time instructor of 'Old Testament', 'New Testament', 'Social Justice', 'World Religions', and 'Practical Ministry' courses in a secondary school context for six years [www.iwacademy.org]
- Designed all courses and lectures, as well as composed the primary text for both Old and New Testament courses
- Began an independent studies program for senior students, developing and teaching courses on 'Globalization', 'Science and Religion', 'Introduction to Philosophy', and 'Domestic economics', all within a theological framework
- Led and participated in a variety of spiritual retreat, liturgical and campus ministry programs
- Moderator of the Senior Class, including the organization and coordination of all major activities, events, retreats and budgets associated with the class

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion, 2008-present
- Catholic Theological Society of America, 2010-present
- UK-Ireland Society for Ricoeur Studies, 2009-present
- International Walter Benjamin Society, 2009-present

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Grant awarded for Manuscript Publication Assistance, Graduate School, Loyola University, Chicago, 2012
- Awarded Scholarship of the Research Council (DBOF), K.U. Leuven, 2008-2012
- Awarded 'Duke Scholar', Duke University, 1998- 2000
- Awarded travel grants by the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO) Research Foundation, Flanders for the conference 'Mysticism without Bounds', Bangalore, India (2011), the 'Latin American Congress on Paul Ricoeur's Thought', Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2011) and the Catholic Theological Society of America, annual conference, Saint Louis, Missouri (2012).
- Awarded travel grant by Academische Stichting Leuven for the 'Latin American Congress on Paul Ricoeur's Thought', Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2011).
- Awarded travel grants by the 'Colloquium on Violence and Religion', Notre Dame, Indiana (2010), 'Freud After Derrida: An International Interdisciplinary Conference', Winnipeg, Canada (2010) and the Catholic Theological Society of America, annual conference, San Jose, California (2011).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Past and present research interests

- S. Freud and M. de Certeau on the writing of history and scripture
- R. Girard on canonical forms and messianic impulses, exploring an 'unconscious' textual dimension
- E. Santner and J. Butler on the formations of religious identity in relation to gender and social norms
- Conceptions of the 'messianic', scripture/canon and theology in W. Benjamin, J. Derrida and G. Agamben
- The role of scripture and representation in the hermeneutics of P. Ricoeur
- S. Kierkegaard on poetic re/presentations and their role in a cultural context from a theological perspective
- P. Bourdieu on self-reflexivity and masculine domination within a theological context
- Exploring a theology of immanence as a form of political theology: Historical and philosophical implications, from B. Spinoza to today

Prospective areas of research

- An exploration of the canonical in relation to the messianic, a genealogical and phenomenological inquiry
- M. Foucault on philosophical/theological methodology in light of contemporary biopolitical disciplines, specifically concerning implications for pastoral theology
- Exploring Trinitarian and Christological economies in light of political theological writings (G. Agamben)
- The pursuit of a theory of religious and poetic language (J. Derrida) as it presents the task of formulating a 'phenomenology of homiletics'
- Confessional poetry and its role in the religious imagination: An exploration of divinity in Mary Oliver, Jane Kenyon, Anne Sexton and Adrienne Rich
- M. Heidegger on Saint Paul and ontotheology in light of recent philosophical writings on Pauline thought