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Rita and William H. Bell Professor of Anglican and Ecumenical Studies
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Teaching Experience

Rita and William H. Bell Professor of Anglican and Ecumenical Studies (Fall 2020-present). University of Tulsa
Associate Professor of Religion (Fall 2014-Spring 2020). University of Tulsa
Assistant Professor of Religion (Fall 08-Spring 2014). University of Tulsa
Lecturer in the humanities (Fall 06). University of Chicago.
Writing instructor in the humanities (9/03-6/06). University of Chicago.

Education

Ph.D. theology, University of Chicago Divinity School, August 2008.
Qualifying Exams: History of Christian theology, Patristics through the Reformation; History of Christian theology, Enlightenment through the Modern Period; Western Philosophy of Religion; Hermeneutics.
Dissertation Title: "Created in the Image of God: The Formation of the Augustinian Self". Defended in August 2008.
Dissertation Committee: Kathryn Tanner (Chair); David Tracy (reader); Jean-Luc Marion (reader).
Graduate Theological Union, 2000-2002.
Two years of Ph.D. coursework in theology.
M.T.S., Vanderbilt Divinity School, May 2000.
Concentration: Theology.
B.A., Sonoma State University, May 1998
Majors: Philosophy, History.

Books

Image, Identity, and the Forming of the Augustinian Soul. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Articles

"Augustine, Luther, and the Narratives of Modernity," in *The Pelagian Controversy and its Aftermath: From Ancient Heresiology to Modern Scholarship*. Raúl Villegas Marín, ed. Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium, Peeters, 2023.
"Self-Knowledge in Augustine," in *'Know Yourself' from Paul to Augustine: Exploring the Delphic Maxim in Christian and Non-Christian Sources from the First Centuries*. Ole Jakob Filtvedt and Jens Schröter, eds. Walter de Gruyter, 2023.

- “Immigration, Migration, and Personhood in the Body of Christ,” in Paul Allen, ed. *Augustine and Contemporary Social Issues* (Routledge, 2023).
- “Augustine on Hope in Times of Suffering,” *Vox Patrum* 82 (2022) 405-426.
- “*De Genesi ad litteram* 12: Paul and the Vision of God,” in *Augustinus: De Genesi ad litteram. Ein kooperativer Kommentar*. Johannes Brachtendorf and Volker Henning Drecol, eds. Series: *Augustinus—Werk und Wirkung*, Band 13. Brill, Schöningh, 2021. 313-329.
- “Creation and Recreation,” in *Cambridge Companion to Augustine’s Confessions*. Tarmo Toom, ed. Cambridge University Press, 2020. 75-91.
- “La Trinidad, el amor al prójimo y el Cuerpo de Cristo,” *Revista AVGVSTINVS* (2019).
- “An Augustinian Meditation on the Saeculum,” *Religions*, 10:8 (August, 2019).
- “The Soul in Pieces and Its Quest for Peace in Christ,” *Augustine as ‘Doctor Pacis’: Inquiries on Peace for People Living Today*, vol. 2 (Uniagustiniana, 2019).
- “Reimagining Human Personhood within the Body of Christ,” *Augustinian Studies* 48:1-2 (2017) 73-91.
- “Speaking from the Depths: Augustine and Luther’s Christological Reading of *Substantia* in Psalm 69,” *Studia Patristica* XCVIII, vol. 24 (2017) 629-640.
- “The Image of God in Augustine and Kierkegaard,” in *Augustine and Kierkegaard*. Kim Paffenroth, Helene Russell, and John Doody, eds. New York: Lexington Books, 2017. 27-42.
- “Loving God in and through the Self: Trinitarian Love in St. Augustine,” *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, 78:1-2 (2017) 7-22.
- “Prayer, Self-Examination, and Christian Catechesis in Augustine and Luther,” in *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* 55:2 (June, 2016) 147-157.
- “Augustine, Luther, and Modernity,” *Proceedings of the 2014 ISSEI Conference* (November, 2015).
- “Deification in Augustine: Plotinian or Trinitarian?” in *The Holy Trinity in the Life of the Church*. Khaled Anatolios, ed. Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Academic, 2014. 101-112.
- “Redeeming Creation: *Creatio ex nihilo* and the *Imago Dei* in Augustine,” *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 15:2 (2013) 135-153.
- “Entertaining Violence: Augustine on the Cross of Christ and the Commercialization of Suffering,” *Journal of Religion* 92:3 (2012) 331-361.
- “Images of Suffering in Augustine and Luther,” *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* 51:1 (Spring 2012) 71-82.
- “Image, Identity, and Embodiment: Augustine’s Interpretation of the Human Person in Genesis 1-2,” in *Genesis and Christian Theology*. Nathan MacDonald, Mark W. Elliott, Grant Macaskill, eds. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012. 117-128.
- “The Self Before God? Rethinking Augustine’s Trinitarian Thought,” *Harvard Theological Review* 100:2 (April 2007) 233-42.
- “Dorner’s Critique of Divine Immutability,” *Process Studies* 31:1 (Spring-Summer 2002) 77-92.

Book Reviews

- Matthew W. Knotts, *On Creation, Science, Disenchantment and the Contours of Being and Knowing* (Bloomsbury, New York 2020) *Augustiniana* 70:2 (2020) 421-423.

- Gerald P. Boersma. *Augustine's Early Theology of Image: A Study in the Development of Pro-Nicene Theology*. Oxford Studies in Historical Theology (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016). *Church History* 86:2 (June, 2017) 472-474.
- Rowan Williams. *On Augustine* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2016). *Augustiniana* 67: 3-4 (2017) 401-6.
- Sarah Catherine Byers. *Perception, Sensibility, and Moral Motivation in Augustine* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013). *Journal of Religion* 96:2 (2016) 263-265.
- Jesse Couenhoven. *Stricken by Sin, Cured by Christ: Agency, Necessity, and Culpability in Augustinian Theology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013). *Notre Dame Philosophical Review* (January 13, 2014).
- Brian Harding. *Augustine and Roman Virtue* (New York: Continuum, 2008). *Augustinian Studies* 44:1 (2013) 171-175.
- Richard C. Taylor, David Twetten, and Michael Wreen, eds. *Tolle Lege: Essays on Augustine & on Medieval Philosophy in Honor of Roland J. Teske, SJ*. (Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 2011). *Augustinian Studies* 42:2 (2011) 311-315.
- Lewis Ayres. *Augustine and the Trinity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010). *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 79:4 (December 2011) 1075-1078.
- James K. A. Smith. *Speech and Theology: Language and the Logic of Incarnation* (New York: Routledge, 2002) *Journal of Religion* 87:4 (October 2007) 638-640.
- Michael Hanby. *Augustine and Modernity* (New York: Routledge, 2003). *Anglican Theological Review* 88:4 (Fall 2006) 637-638.
- Richard Dawkins. *River out of Eden* (New York: Basic Books, 1995). *Zygon Journal of Religion and Science* 35:3 (September 2000) 713-715.

Conference Presentations

- "Augustine and Modern Narratives on the Limits of the Self," International Conference on Patristic Studies. Oxford University (Aug. 5-9, 2024).
- "Re-entangling Augustine: Augustine and Calvin on the Divine Image," invited lecture at the conference "*What do you have that you have not received?*" *Approaches to the Relationship between Faith and Grace in Early Christianity and Early Modern Theology and Philosophy*. Károli Gáspár University. Budapest, Hungary (April 5-6, 2024).
- Review Panel for Kristy Nabhan-Warren's *Meatpacking America: How Migration, Work, and Faith Unite and Divide the Heartland* (UNC Press, 2021), Southwest Commission on Religious Studies. Dallas (March 1-3, 2024).
- "Augustine, Luther, and the Narratives of Modernity," invited lecture at the conference *The Pelagian Controversy and Its Aftermath: From Ancient Heresiology to Modern Scholarship*. International Conference sponsored by The University of Barcelona. Barcelona, Spain (October 27-29, 2021).
- "Augustine and the Quest for Self-Knowledge," North American Patristics Society (virtual). Chicago, IL. (May 24-28, 2021).
- "Augustine on Hope in Times of Suffering," invited lecture at the virtual conference *The*

- Passions in the Platonic Tradition, Patristics and Late Antiquity*. Co-Sponsored by McGill University (Canada), KU Leuven (Belgium), and Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland). (April 19-20, 2021).
- “The Oracle of Delphi & the Quest for Self-Knowledge in Augustine,” invited lecture at the virtual conference *‘Know Yourself’ from Paul to Augustine: Exploring the Delphic Maxim in Christian and Non-Christian Sources from the First Centuries*. Sponsored by MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society. Oslo, Norway (February 11-12, 2021).
- “Augustine and Scripture,” keynote speaker for the Gilhousen Lectures, Yellowstone Theological Institute (July 7, 2020).
- “Selfhood and the Place of Religion,” invited lecture at the conference *The Place of Religion in the Enlightenment*. Martin Luther Universität. Halle, Germany (June 5-7, 2019).
- “The Body of Christ and the Body Politic in Augustine,” invited lecture at the conference *Political Theology: Promise and Prospects*. University of Chicago, Divinity School. Chicago, IL (November 7-9, 2018).
- “Loving the Neighbor in Christ in the Late Augustine,” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL (May 24-26, 2018).
- “Letters 11-12: Augustine on the Trinity and the Doctrine of Inseparable Operation,” invited lecture at the conference *Augustine’s Correspondence with Nebridius (Ep. 3-14)*. Centre Jean Pepin, CNRS. International conference in Paris, France (May 17-18, 2018).
- “Augustine’s *De Genesi ad Litteram*, Book 12,” invited lecture at the conference *Augustine’s De Genesi ad Litteram*. International Conference sponsored by the University of Tübingen. Tübingen, Germany (October 9-12, 2017).
- “The Image of God in Augustine and Kierkegaard,” Kierkegaard, Augustine, and the Catholic Tradition. Villanova University (October 26-28, 2016).
- “Finding our Home in God: Reimagining Human Personhood within the Life of the Spirit,” invited lecture at *Reconsiderations V*, Villanova University (September 15-17, 2016).
- “Human Life in the Spirit: Augustine on the Predestination of Christ,” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. (May 26-28, 2016).
- “Augustine on Love,” invited panelist for a discussion on love in the history of Christian thought. Anthropos Group and department of systematic theology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. Leuven, Belgium (December 10-12, 2015).
- “From the Inside Out: Interiority of the Soul in Augustine,” invited lecture by the department of historical theology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. Leuven, Belgium (December 9, 2015).
- “Augustine and Luther’s Christological Reading of *Substantia* in Psalm 68,” International Conference on Patristic Studies. Oxford University (Aug. 10-14, 2015).
- “Augustine, Luther, and Modernity,” ISSEI Conference. Porto, Portugal (Aug. 4-8, 2014).
- “‘And you will be like gods’: Deification in Augustine,” North American Patristics Society. Chicago, IL. (May 22-24, 2014).
- Review Panel for Michael Cameron’s *Christ Meets Me Everywhere: Augustine’s Early*

- Figurative Exegesis* (Oxford: 2012), American Academy of Religion annual meeting. Baltimore (Nov. 23-26, 2013).
- “Reassessing Augustine’s anthropology in light of recent scholarly trends,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting. San Francisco. (Nov. 19-22, 2011).
- “Imitating the example of the divine: exemplum and the imago dei in Augustine’s *De Trinitate*,” International Conference on Patristic Studies. Oxford University (August 8-13, 2011).
- “The Forming of the Augustinian Soul,” Winter Honors Lecture, University of Tulsa. Tulsa, Ok. (January 25, 2011).
- Review Panel for Lewis Ayres’ *Augustine and the Trinity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. Atlanta (Nov. 19-22, 2010).
- “The Consolation of the Cross: Suffering and Visibility in Augustine and Luther,” Reformation Studies Colloquium. University of St. Andrews, Scotland (Sept. 7-9, 2010).
- “Image, Identity, and Embodiment: Augustine’s Interpretation of the Human Person in Genesis 1-2,” North American Patristics Society annual meeting. Chicago, Il. (May 27-29, 2010).
- “An Overview of Current Augustine Scholarship,” panel discussion at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. New Orleans, La. (Nov. 21-24, 2009).
- “Image, Imagination, and Truth in the Augustinian Quest for God,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting. Montréal, Canada (Nov. 7-10, 2009).
- “On the Origin of the Soul: Augustine’s Exegesis of Genesis 1-2,” Genesis and Christian Theology Conference. University of St. Andrews, Scotland (July 14-18, 2009).
- “The Augustinian Person and the Worship of God,” North American Patristics Society annual meeting. Chicago, Il. (May 21-23, 2009).
- “Being Conformed to the Image of the Trinity in the Body of Christ: Reflections on Augustine’s *On the Trinity*,” The Holy Trinity in the Life of the Church Conference. Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (October, 2008).
- “The *imago dei* and the suffering Christ in Augustine: What an age of imperialism can teach an age of pluralism,” Images of the Divine and Cultural Orientations Conference. Universität Heidelberg (February, 2008).
- Conference participant in *The Self in Modern Philosophy*. Paris-Sorbonne University/ University of Chicago, Paris Center (June 4-8, 2007).
- “The *Imago Dei* in Genesis Chapter One,” Graduate Student Conference in Patristic Studies. Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (March, 2007).
- “Augustine’s Trinitarian Thought in Light of the Doctrine of *Creatio ex Nihilo*,” Trinitarianism and Anti-trinitarianism: the New Historiography of the Trinity Conference. Harvard Divinity School (May 5, 2006).

Academic Awards and Scholarships

- Faculty Internationalization Grant (2018). Grant awarded to co-sponsor an international conference “The Place of Religion in the Enlightenment” with Martin Luther University, Halle—Wittenberg. University of Tulsa.
- Faculty Internationalization Grant (2015). Grant awarded to host an international speaker on prayer literature in the early modern period. University of Tulsa.

Faculty Internationalization Grant (2013). Grant awarded to run an interdisciplinary, international colloquium on prayer literature in the early modern period. University of Tulsa.

Faculty Development Summer Fellowship Grant (2010). Grant awarded for research toward manuscript publication. University of Tulsa.

Faculty Development Summer Fellowship Grant (2009). Grant awarded for research toward manuscript publication. University of Tulsa.

Fulbright IIE Research Grant (2007-2008). Dissertation research at the Universität Tübingen supervised by Prof. Johannes Brachtendorf.

DAAD Research Grant (2007-2008). Declined.

Martin Marty Dissertation Fellowship (2006-2007). Dissertation fellowship awarded for outstanding dissertation proposal and potential academic contribution.

DAAD Scholarship (2004). Scholarship awarded for intensive language instruction in Germany (Goethe Institute, Göttingen).

Academic Scholarship covering full tuition with stipend, awarded for academic Excellence (2002-2005). University of Chicago, Divinity School.

Presidential Honor Scholarship (2000-2002). Highest academic scholarship, granting full tuition and stipend, awarded for Ph.D. studies. Graduate Theological Union.

Founder's Medal (2000). Highest academic honor, awarded to top graduating student. Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Brandon Honor Scholarship (1998-2000). Full tuition scholarship awarded for outstanding potential in academic scholarship. Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Tillet Prize in Theology (2000). Awarded for the most outstanding work in theology to a graduating student. Vanderbilt Divinity School.

With Distinction in Philosophy (1998). Awarded for excellent work in philosophy at the undergraduate level. Sonoma State University.

Magna Cum Laude (1998). Sonoma State University.

Teaching Awards and Fellowships

Finalist for the University of Tulsa teaching award (2013-2014). This is the highest recognition the university awards for teaching.

Wabash Fellowship (2006). Award from the Divinity School, University of Chicago for research and colloquia concerning the teaching of religious studies to undergraduates.

Karen Dinal Award for Excellence in Teaching (2003-2004). Award from the University of Chicago given to the top writing intern for the humanities core sequence.

Professional Experience

Honors Faculty Fellow, University of Tulsa (2023-present).

Advisory Board, Oklahoma Center for the Humanities (2022-present).

Lead Faculty Fellow, Research Seminar on the Theme of Courage, Oklahoma Center for the Humanities (2020-2021).

Chair of the Philosophy and Religion Department, University of Tulsa (2015-2021).

Advisory Board for the Classics Certificate Program at the University of Tulsa (2015-present).

Advisory Board for the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Certificate Program at the

University of Tulsa (2015-2019).
Coordinator for the “Rita and William H. Bell Distinguished Lectureship in Anglican and Ecumenical Studies” at the University of Tulsa (2015-present).
Chair, Augustine and Augustinianism Group in the American Academy of Religion (2015-2021).
Steering committee member for the Augustine and Augustinianism Group in the American Academy of Religion (2013-2015, 2022-present).
Steering committee member for the Early Trinitarian Theology unit in the Society of Biblical Literature (2008-2014).
Led the theology group at the University of Chicago Divinity School (2005-2006).
Chair of the Vanderbilt Divinity School Honor Council (1999-2000).

Courses Taught

FS 1973. Spiritual Autobiographies. This course surveys spiritual autobiographies within the Christian tradition, beginning with Augustine and moving through the contemporary period.

HON 1003. Ancient Greed & Rome. This course is part of the Honors curriculum and surveys Greco-Roman philosophical, religious, political, and literary thought.

HON 1013. Medieval Culture. This course is part of the Honors curriculum and surveys Medieval political, philosophical, religious, political, and literary thought.

REL 2203. Jesus: Contemporary Perspectives. This course surveys portraits of Jesus from the 2nd through the 20th century.

REL 2343. Christian Faith and Thought. This course introduces the major tenets of the Christian religion by surveying how Christian thought developed in its ancient, medieval, and modern contexts.

REL 2383. Religion and Science. This course examines religion through its intersection with science.

REL 2503. God and Human Suffering. This course surveys responses to human suffering in both the Western philosophical and religious tradition from ancient to modern times.

PHIL/ REL 2453. Great Conversation II. This course offers an historical survey of the intersection between philosophy and religion from 1500 through the present.

REL 3363. Introduction to Early Christian Thought. This course examines the history, theology, and philosophy of the early Christian church from the 2nd-5th century.

REL 3973. Calvin and his Legacy. This course examines the thought of John Calvin and the Calvinist legacy from the 17th-20th century.

PHIL/ REL 3973. Reason, Romance, and the Rise of Modernity. This course examines Protestant thought and philosophy of religion from the 17th-19th centuries.

REL 3383. Protestant Reformation. This course examines the movements leading up to the Reformation, the major figures of the Reformation in continental Europe (e.g., Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Anabaptists), and the Catholic counter-Reformation.

REL 4503. Contemporary Christian Thought. This course surveys major movements in 20th century Catholic and Protestant thought.

PHIL/ REL 4543. Philosophy of Religion. This course surveys philosophical constructions and critiques of religion within the Western tradition.

PHIL 3283/ REL 4863. Religion and the Structure of Meaning. This is a course on

religious and philosophical hermeneutics.

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion

North American Patristics Society

American Association of University Professors