

ERIC J. BUGYIS

Program of Liberal Studies
University of Notre Dame
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Notre Dame, IN 46556
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EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Doctor of Philosophy, Religious Studies, December 2013

- *Subfield*: Philosophy of Religion
- *Dissertation*: "Postmetaphysical Madness: A Critique of the Postsecular Return of Religion in the Thought of Jürgen Habermas."
- *Committee*: Denys Turner, advisor (Religious Studies and Divinity, Yale); Karsten Harries (Philosophy, Yale); Cyril O'Regan (Theology, Notre Dame); and Ludger Viefhues-Bailey (Philosophy, Le Moyne College)

Yale Divinity School (YDS), New Haven, CT

Master of Arts, Religion, *summa cum laude*, May 2006

- *Concentration*: Philosophical Theology and Philosophy of Religion

Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Cleveland, OH

Bachelor of Arts, Religion, *summa cum laude*, May 2003

Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry, *summa cum laude*, May 2003

CURRENT POSITION

2019-Present Director of Undergraduate Studies and Assistant Teaching Professor, Program of Liberal Studies, University of Notre Dame

PAST POSITIONS

2014-2019 Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of Washington Tacoma

2013-2014 Undergraduate Research Coordinator, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study

2009-2014 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Theology and Program of Liberal Studies, University of Notre Dame

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Notre Dame (2019-Present)

THEO 10001: Foundations of Theology: Biblical and Historical

PLS 13183: Theology University Seminar

PLS 33102: Great Books Seminar IV

PLS 40601: Intellectual and Cultural History

PLS 43102: Great Books Seminar VI

University of Washington Tacoma (2014-2019)

TRELIG 105: Introduction to Religious Studies (online)

TCORE 124: Introduction to Humanities: The American Religious Imagination

TRELIG 205: Introduction to Religious Studies

TRELIG 210: Modern Theories of Religion (online)

TRELIG 305: Modern Theories of Religion

TRELIG 321: Comparative Religion

TRELIG 345: Christian Thought and Ethical Practice

TPHIL 359: Themes in Existentialism

TRELIG 467: Philosophy of Religion

TPOLS 480: Capstone Seminar for PPPA Majors: Christianity and Radical Politics
 TIAS 498: Directed Readings: Immanuel Kant
 TIAS 498: Directed Readings: Queer Theory, Performance, and Religion
 TIAS 498: Directed Readings: Jane Addams
 TIAS 598: Directed Readings: Michel Foucault (Graduate Course)

University of Notre Dame (2009-2014)

PLS 20302: The Bible and Its Interpretation

PLS 33102: Great Books Seminar IV

PLS 40301: Christian Theological Traditions

THEO 20002: Honors Foundations of Theology: Biblical and Historical

THEO 40840: How to be an A/Theist: The God Debate in Philosophy and Theology

PUBLICATIONS

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| Edited Volume
(peer-reviewed) | Eric Bugyis and David Newheiser, eds., <i>Desire, Faith, and the Darkness of God: Essays in Honor of Denys Turner</i> (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed the essay entitled “As We Were Saying: Marxism and Christianity Revisited” |
| Journal Article
(peer-reviewed) | “Postsecularism as Colonialism by Other Means,” <i>Critical Research on Religion</i> 3 (2015): 25-40. |
| Magazine Articles | “Faith in Globalization: God and Blair at Yale,” <i>Commonweal Magazine</i> , Volume CXXXVI, Number 7, April 10, 2009. |

BOOK REVIEWS AND REVIEW ESSAYS

- Review of *Apocalyptic Political Theology: Hegel, Taubes and Malibou*, by Thomas Lynch, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 26 (2019): 664-666.
- “God, Grant #MeToo Chastity?,” a review essay on *College Hookup Culture and Christian Ethics: The Lives and Longings of Emerging Adults*, by Jennifer Beste, and *Faith with Benefits: Hookup Culture on Catholic Campuses*, by Jason King, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 26 (2019): 369-376
- “Still People of the Book,” a review essay on *A History of the Church in 100 Objects*, by Mike and Grace Aquilina, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 26 (2019): 12-17.
- Review of *Karl Rahner’s Theological Aesthetics*, by Peter Joseph Fritz, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 22 (2015): 330-34.
- Review of *Rejoicing: Or the Torments of Religious Speech*, by Bruno Latour, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 22 (2015): 166-70.
- Review of *The Architecture of Theology: Structure, System, and Ratio*, by A. N. Williams, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 21 (2014): 269-273.
- Review of *Religion on the Edge: De-Centering and Re-Centering the Sociology of Religion*, edited by Courtney Bender, Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt, and David Smilde, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 21 (2014): 14-18.
- Review of *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars: Critical Explorations in the History of Religions*, by Bruce Lincoln, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 20 (2013): 450-454.

Review of *The Social Mission of the U.S. Catholic Church: A Theological Perspective*, by Charles E. Curran, in *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 20 (2013): 190-193.

“Silence, Please,” *Commonweal Magazine*, Volume LXXXIX, Number 20, Nov. 23, 2012. Review of *Saints: Faith without Borders*, edited by Françoise Meltzer and Jas Elsner.

“A Battle of Wills,” *Commonweal Magazine*, Volume CXXXV, Number 18, Oct. 24, 2008. Review of *Sovereignty: God, State, and Self*, by Jean Bethke Elshtain.

“Junk Thought,” *Commonweal Magazine*, Volume CXXXV, Number 9, May 9, 2008. Review of *The Age of American Unreason*, by Susan Jacoby.

DISSERTATION

My dissertation was an intervention into contemporary debates concerning the “postsecular” character of the contemporary public sphere with a particular focus on Jürgen Habermas’s recently articulated theory of religion. The persistence of politically potent forms of religious belief and practice in modern societies has challenged the “secularization thesis” as both an empirical claim concerning the continued relevance of religion and a philosophical claim concerning the foundations of normative validity after the collapse of metaphysics. I argue that in order to understand and analyze properly the obvious empirical influence of religion on public life, Habermas and other would-be “postsecularists” must revisit and revise the antimetaphysical assumptions of the philosophical discourse of modernity in order to rationally engage with critical religious discourses that appeal to norms beyond the bounds of both the instrumentally defined values of economy and the deliberatively derived values of politics. The constructive part of this project uses Immanuel Kant to develop an account of the “aesthetic validity” of modern politics and religion as co-emergent discourses of hope, which seek to articulate universal utopian desires that cannot be fulfilled within the bounds of Habermas’s merely procedural rationality.

IN PROGRESS

Books

Silence before Empire: A Liberation Theology for the Precariat

“Precarious” has become a nearly ubiquitous adjective for describing the state of labor in contemporary society, and it has been applied to traditional “blue collar” work, “white collar” office jobs, and the professional classes alike. Across all of these sectors, part-time, temporary, under- and un-employment are on the rise, and some analysts are predicting that in two decades nearly 50% of the global workforce will have been displaced by labor saving automation. In this new situation, where workers are unable to find buyers for their labor, classical Marxian theories of exploitation have become problematic, and this, in turn, challenges the way that theologians inspired by this critical tradition are able to conceive of liberation, which has tended to focus on bolstering the agency of those alienated by capitalist wage slavery. In this project, I mine an alternative lineage of radical Christian politics rooted in anarchist socialism and personalist philosophy and represented by movements like Dorothy Day’s Catholic Worker and Daniel and Philip Berrigan’s Plowshares, to develop a liberation theology for this new “precariat.” This is a liberation that makes a virtue of precarity over stability, celebrates weakness and failure as more properly human than strength and success, and calls for the formation of subversive communities able to resist the atomism of capitalism by rejecting traditional markers of middle-class success—e.g., nuclear families, private property, and secure employment.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Lecture Series
(invited)

“Silence Before Empire: A Liberation Theology for the Precariat.” Spiritual Life Institute. Saint Martin’s University, Lacey, WA. July 4-8, 2016.

PRESENTED PAPERS

“Marriage as Vocation and Sacrament.” Harvard Catholic Center. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. November 29, 2018.

“The Work of the University.” Pacific Northwest Social Action Speaker Series. Saint Martin’s University, Lacey, WA, September 14, 2016.

“Pope Francis’s Dirty Wars.” Scholarly Selections Lecture Series. Washington State History Museum. Tacoma, WA. January 21, 2016.

“Catholic Communism in the 20th Century.” Faculty Brown Bag Lecture Series. University of Washington Tacoma. Tacoma, WA. October 21, 2015.

“Partha Chatterjee and the Postsecular as the Self-Colonization of Religion in the Ratzinger-Habermas Debate.” *Is the Post-Colonial Post-Secular?* Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. September 20-21, 2013.

“Beyond the Post-Secular: The Aesthetic Validity of Kant’s *Religion*.” *Postmodernism, Culture, and Religion 4: The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion*. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. April 7-9, 2011.

“Overcoming Post-Secular Oscillations: The Aesthetic Validity of Kant’s *Religion*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting: Philosophy of Religion Section. Atlanta, GA. October 30-November 1, 2010.

“Toward a Rational Critique of Violence: Beyond Habermas’ Semantic Genealogy and Girard’s Mimetic Anthropology.” Meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion. University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. June 30-July 4, 2010.

“The Ethics of Defining ‘Religion’ in a Globalized World.” 21st Annual U.S. Coast Guard Academy Ethics Forum. New London, CT. March 25-26, 2010.

“A New Kind of Settlement: Toward an Aesthetic Understanding of Democratic Solidarity.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting: Philosophy of Religion Section. Montréal, Quebec, Canada. November 7-10, 2009.

“From Augustinian *Appetitus* to Kantian *Urteilkraft* in the Political Thought of Hannah Arendt.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting: Augustine and Augustinianisms Group. Chicago, IL. November 1-3, 2008.

TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

Teaching & Research	Christianity and Radical Politics, Historical and Contemporary Philosophy of Religion (Analytic and Continental), Historical and Contemporary Christian Theology, Kant and Post-Kantian Continental Philosophy, Habermas and Frankfurt School Critical Theory, Methods and Theories for Religious Studies, Political and Cultural Theory (including Marxist, Postcolonial, and Gender Theoretic approaches), Roman Catholic Thought
Languages	Reading knowledge of French and German, some proficiency in Latin

SERVICE TO ACADEMY

Peer Reviewer	<i>Studies in Christian Ethics</i> <i>Muslim World Journal of Human Rights</i> <i>Critical Research on Religion</i> <i>Political Theology</i> Yale University Press Columbia University Press
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Awards, Fellowships, and Memberships

American Academy of Religion, 2005-present

Graduate Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, Fall 2010
Yale University Dissertation Fellowship, Calendar Year 2011
CWRU Ratner Family Prize for Excellence in Religious Studies, 2002, 2003
CWRU Harland G. Wood Prize for Excellence in Biochemistry, 2003
Phi Beta Kappa, CWRU, 2002