

ERIC J. BUGYIS

Program of Liberal Studies
University of Notre Dame
320 O'Shaughnessy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
ebugyis@nd.edu

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

THEO 20683: Joy & Hope: The Sermon on the Mount and Christian Practice

CSEM 23101: Liberal Arts as Liberation

PLS 13183: Theology University Seminar

PLS 20302: The Bible and Its Interpretations

PLS 30101: Junior Reading Course: James Baldwin, *Collected Essays*

PLS 30251: Liberal Arts as Liberation (New Course; Core Integration; Community Engaged)

PLS 30301: Ethics

PLS 33102: Great Books Seminar IV

PLS 40301: Christian Theological Traditions

PLS 40601: Intellectual and Cultural History

PLS 43101: Great Books Seminar V

PLS 43102: Great Books Seminar VI

PLS 46000: Directed Readings: Friedrich Nietzsche

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

Senior Theses

2019-2020

Thomas Weiss, “Psychical Crisis and Catholic Community: The Relationship of Human Nature and Politics in Freud and Vanier”

Anthony Ramirez, “*Evangelii Gaudium* and Its Influences”

Emma Bosch, “Solidarity and Sacrament: The Relationship between Community and Institution in L’Arche”

2020-21

Jacob Neiswander, “The Lonely Players: An Exploration of Inspiration and Finding Home”

Molly Queal, “Love Was Her Meaning: A Symbolic of Natality in Julian of Norwich’s *Showings*”

Isabella Schmitz, “Unpacking *Gulliver’s Travels*: An Exploration of Jonathan Swift’s Life, Works, and Satirical Style”

Felipe Segura, “The Solutions of Thomas Carlyle and Karl Marx to a Decadent Society and the Need for Christian Redemptive Grace”

2021-22

Connor Loesch, “Chains without Links and Bonds that Free: Relational Precarity in the Catholic Worker Movement”

Sarah Kikel, “‘Cursed Be the Fiend’: Reanimating the Socially Dead with *Frankenstein* as a Historical Slave Narrative and Afropessimist Text”

2022-23

Rachel Colligan, “Wendell Berry’s Agrarian Vision for Humanity”

Eva Massey, “Nietzsche’s Socrates as a Mask of Dionysus”

2023-24

Sarah Wells, Kierkegaard and Merton on Contemplation and Social Action

Elijah Mustillo, The Aesthetics of Peacemaking

David Henry, The New Philosopher in Nietzsche’s *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volume
(peer-reviewed)

Eric Bugyis and David Newheiser, eds., *Desire, Faith, and the Darkness of God: Essays in Honor of Denys Turner* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015).

- Contributed the essay entitled “As We Were Saying: Marxism and Christianity Revisited”

Journal Article
(peer-reviewed)

“Postsecularism as Colonialism by Other Means,” *Critical Research on Religion* 3 (2015): 25-40.

Magazine Articles

“Faith in Globalization: God and Blair at Yale,” *Commonweal Magazine*, Volume CXXXVI, Number 7, April 10, 2009.

BOOK REVIEWS AND REVIEW ESSAYS

Review of *Apocalyptic Theopolitics: Essays and Sermons on Eschatology, Ethics, and Politics*, by Elizabeth Phillips, in *Studies in Christian Ethics* 37 (2024): 741-744.

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

I am currently working on a research project tentatively titled, “Looking for Love in America: Dorothy Day, Howard Thurman, and the Religion of Jesus,” which engages Dorothy Day (1897-1980) and Howard Thurman (1899-1981) on the possibility of following the teachings of Jesus in America in the 20th century and the lessons that their attempts to practice love in a country that seems hostile to it can teach us today.

I am also in the early stages of developing a project based on my PLS Ethics course tentatively titled, “A Defense of Moral Mediocrity: Living Humanly Between Angel and Beast.” It is a book-length essay guided by four moral philosophers—Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Benedict de Spinoza, and Søren Kierkegaard with a literary interlude of sorts on the novels of George Eliot—to defend a view of “moral mediocrity” that charts a course between what I take to be a contemporary obsession with either refusing to use moral language at all or insisting that moral perfection is the only kind of morality worth the name.

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.
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PRESENTED PAPERS

“Work Will Not Save Us.” Writers@Work Workshop. Higgins Labor Program. University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. November 18, 2020.

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Spring-Fall 2024	Mentor, ND Bridge, Center for Social Concerns (served as a mentor for four first-year/sophomore students who spent the summer living and working at a L’Arche community in Florida as well as mentoring a sophomore/junior who spent the summer at a sustainability ashram in India).
March 2024	Teachers as Scholars, Instructor. (Continuing education for secondary school teachers.) Topic: Looking for Love in America: Dorothy Day, Howard Thurman, and the Religion of Jesus.
June 2021	Community Engagement Faculty Institute, Center for Social Concerns, University of Notre Dame.

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 DEPARTMENT

2024-25	Intellectual Life Committee (Chair, Fall)
	75 th Anniversary Committee
2023-24	Summer Symposium Committee
	Summer Symposium Instructor: Howard Thurman, <i>Jesus and the Disinherited</i> (2 sessions)
	Recruitment Committee (Chair)
	75 th Anniversary Committee
	Senior Thesis Committee
2022-23	Summer Symposium Committee
	Summer Symposium Instructor: Fyodor Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> (4 sessions)
	Intellectual Life Committee

2021-22	Black Theology Reading Group Summer Symposium Committee Summer Symposium Instructor: Søren Kierkegaard, <i>Works of Love</i> (4 sessions) Website Maintenance
2020-21	Summer Symposium Committee Summer Symposium Instructor: Dorothy Day, <i>The Long Loneliness</i> (2 sessions) Intellectual Life Committee Website Composition, Design, and Maintenance
2019-20	Summer Symposium Instructor: Josef Pieper, <i>Leisure: The Basis of Culture</i> (2 sessions)

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
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