

J. Aaron Simmons

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
Furman University
3300 Poinsett Hwy.
Greenville, SC 29613

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Education

Ph.D. – Vanderbilt University, 2006, Philosophy

Dissertation: *Violence and Singularity: Thinking Politics Otherwise with Rorty, Kierkegaard, and Levinas*

Dissertation Committee: David Wood (director), Diane Perpich (director), John Lachs, Merold Westphal

M.A. – Vanderbilt University, 2005, Philosophy

M.A. – Florida State University, 2001, Humanities

Emphasis in Intellectual History with special focus on Romanticism

B.A. – Lee University, *Magna Cum Laude*, 1999, History with a Minor in Religion

Areas of Specialization

19th and 20th Century European Philosophy (esp. Existentialism and Phenomenology), Philosophy of Religion

Areas of Competence

Political Philosophy, Environmental Philosophy, Ethics

Academic Positions

Fall 2011-Present

Assistant Professor of Philosophy – Furman University

Fall 2010 – 2011

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Distinguished Scholarships Advisor –
Hendrix College

2007- Spring 2010

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy – Hendrix College

2006-2007

Lecturer in Philosophy – Vanderbilt University

Fall 2006

Teaching Supervisor – Vanderbilt University Center for Ethics

Oversaw four graduate students from the Vanderbilt Law School and Divinity School who taught discussion sections for the Introduction to Ethics course in the Philosophy Department

2005-2006

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy – The University of the South
(Sewanee)

Publications

Books

- (1) *God and the Other: Ethics and Politics After the Theological Turn*, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2011.

Reviews:

- Endorsements on the book cover from John Davenport and Bruce Ellis Benson.
- *Sophia* (2013). Reviewed by Jason A. Mahn.
- “Facing Rortian Ethics with Levinas and Kierkegaard: A Review of J. Aaron Simmons’s *God and the Other*,” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 41, no.3 (2012): 36-9. Reviewed by Jim Kanaris.
- *The Journal of Religion* 92, no.3 (July 2012): 441-42. Reviewed by Michael Sohn.
- *Choice Magazine* (2012). Reviewed by James K. A. Smith.
- *Review Symposium* (featuring reviews by Stephen Minister, N.N. Trakakis, and Christina Smerick) – <http://theotherjournal.com/churchandpomo/> (Summer 2011)
- *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy*, forthcoming. Reviewed by Drew M. Dalton
- *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, forthcoming.
- *Religious Studies Review*, forthcoming.

- (2) *New Phenomenology: A Philosophical Introduction* (co-authored with Bruce Ellis Benson), London: Bloomsbury Press, 2013.

Reviews:

- Endorsements on the book cover by Merold Westphal, Jeffrey Bloechl, and Joeri Schrijvers.

Edited Books and Journal Issues

- (3) *Reexamining Deconstruction and Determinate Religion: Toward a Religion with Religion* (co-edited with Stephen Minister), Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2012.

Reviews:

- Endorsements from Kevin Hart and Richard Kearney.
- *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2013). Reviewed by Neal DeRoo.

- (4) *Levinas and Kierkegaard: Ethics, Politics, and Religion*, (co-edited with David Wood), Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2008.

Reviews:

- *Jewish Book World* (Summer 2009): 42-43.
- *Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter* 55 (October 2009): 27-28 (review by Jeffrey Hansen)

- (5) *The Virtue of Justice* – A Special Issue of *Philosophia* 41, no.2 (May 2013) (co-edited with John Sanders). This special issue features invited essays by Nicholas Wolterstorff, Jean Porter, Michael Slote, and Christopher Eberle as well as essays that were selected through a blind review process.

- (6) *Mashup Philosophy of Religion* – A Special Issue of *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* dealing with constructive philosophy of religion that draws on both analytic and continental resources. I am currently inviting contributors and receiving submissions. The issue is scheduled to be published in the Spring of 2015.

Journal Articles (* indicates peer reviewed)

- (1) “A Goldilocks God,” (with John Sanders), *Element* (special issue on Open and Process theism), forthcoming.
- (2) * “On Shared Hopes for (Mashup) Philosophy of Religion: A Reply to Trakakis,” *Heythrop Journal*, forthcoming. (To be published with responses from Nick Trakakis and Merold Westphal)
- (3) “Postmodern Kataphaticism? A Constructive Proposal,” *Analecta Hermeneutica* 4 (2012), in a special issue edited by Michelle Rebidoux entitled “Refiguring Divinity: Continental Philosophy of Religion.”
- (4) * “Prospects for a Levinasian Epistemic Infinitism,” (with Scott F. Aikin), *International Journal for Philosophical Studies* 20, no.3 (July 2012): 437-60.
- (5) “Helping More than ‘A Little’: Recent Books on Kierkegaard and Philosophy of Religion,” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 72, no.3 (2012): 227-42.
- (6) “In Whom, Then, Do We Put Our Trust?—Thinking About Levinas with Drew Dalton,” *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 11, no.3 (Fall 2011): 37-45. I also wrote the introduction to the review symposium in which my essay appeared: “Reading with Drew M. Dalton: A Constructive Review Symposium,” *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 11, no.3 (Fall 2011): 20-21.
- (7) * “Levinas and Whitehead: Notes toward a Conversation to come” (with Jay McDaniel), *Process Studies* 40, no.1 (2011): 26-53. (A revised version—peer reviewed in China—has also been published in Chinese in *World Philosophy* 4, (2011): 92-107).
- (8) * “Gabriel Biel and Occasionalism: Overcoming an Apparent Tension” (with Fred Ablondi), *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 28, no.2 (April 2011): 159-74.
- (9) * “Heretics Everywhere: On the Continuing Relevance of Galileo for Philosophy of Religion” (with Fred Ablondi), *Philosophy and Theology* 22, no.1-2 (2010): 49-76
- (10) “‘A Faith Without Triumph’: Emmanuel Levinas and Prophetic Pragmatism,” *Reflections on Levinas: Mono Kurgusuz Labirent* 4, no.8-9 (Fall 2010):467-84. (Also published in Turkish as: “Zaferden Yoksun İnanç: Emmanuel Levinas ve Kahin Pragmatizmi”). A revised version is being published in *Rorty and Common Faith: Jewish Engagements with a Secular Philosopher*, ed. Jacob Goodson.
- (11) * “Revisiting Gender Inclusive God-Talk: A New, Wesleyan Argument” (with Mason Marshall). *Philosophy and Theology* 20, no.1 (Fall 2009): 241-61.

- (12) * “Teaching Plato with Emoticons” (with Scott F. Aikin), *APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy* 9, no.1 (Fall 2009): 5-7.
- (13) * “‘Vision Without Image’: A Levinasian Topology,” *Southwest Philosophy Review* 25, no.1 (2009): 23-31.
- (14) * “From Necessity to Hope: A Continental Perspective on Eschatology Without *Telos*” (with Nathan R. Kerr), *Heythrop Journal* 50, no.6 (Fall 2009): 948-65.
- (15) * “Levinasian Otherism, Skepticism, and the Problem of Self-Refutation” (with Scott F. Aikin), *Philosophical Forum* 40, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 29-54.
- (16) * “Evangelical Environmentalism: Oxymoron or Opportunity?” *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology* 13, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 37-68.
- (17) * “God in Recent French Phenomenology,” *Philosophy Compass* 3, no.5 (Fall 2008): 910-32.
- (18) * “Is Continental Philosophy Just Catholicism for Atheists? On The Political Relevance of *Kenosis*,” *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* 15, no.1 (Spring 2008): 94-111.
- (19) * “What About Isaac? Re-Reading *Fear and Trembling* and Re-Thinking Kierkegaardian Ethics,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 35, no.2 (Spring 2007): 319-45.
- (20) * “Politics as an Ethico-Religious Task: Kierkegaard and Levinas on Religion in the Public Square,” *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 89, no.1-2 (Spring/Summer 2006): 1001-1018.
- (21) A Review Essay of, David F. Wells, *Above All Earthly Powers: Christ in a Postmodern World* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005). *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 8, no.1 (Winter 2006).
- (22) * “Finding Uses for Used-Up Words: Thinking *Weltanschauung* ‘After’ Heidegger,” *Philosophy Today* 50, no. 2 (Summer 2006): 156-169.
- (23) * “Making Tomorrow Better than Today: Rorty’s Dismissal of Levinasian Ethics” (with Diane Perpich), *Symposium* 9, no. 2 (Fall 2005): 241-266.

Book Chapters

- (24) “The Relevance of Philosophy of Religion to the Academic Study of Religion.” In *Philosophy of Religion for Religious Studies*, ed. Timothy Knepper. To be completed by Fall 2013.
- (25) “Continental Philosophy,” in *The Oxford Handbook to the Epistemology of Theology*, eds. William J. Abraham and Frederick Aquino (Oxford University Press), under contract. To be completed by Fall 2013.
- (26) “Malebranche and Suarez on the Power of Secondary Causes: A Contemporary Consideration,” (with Fred Ablondi), in *Occasionalism: East and West*, ed. Nazif Muhtaroglu (currently being considered by Springer Press).
- (27) “A Pentecostal Kierkegaard?” in *Kierkegaard on Revelation, Divine Knowledge, and Ethics*, ed. Aaron E. Hinkley (Springer Press, forthcoming).
- (28) “So Many Faces: God, Humans, and Animals,” (with Jay McDaniel), in *Divinanimality: Animal Theory, Creaturely Theology*, ed. Stephen Moore (Fordham University Press, forthcoming).
- (29) “Apologetics After Objectivity,” in *Reexamining Deconstruction and Determinate Religion: Toward a Religion With Religion*, eds. J. Aaron Simmons and Stephen Minister (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2012).
- (30) “Introduction: On Necessary Interruptions” in *Reexamining Deconstruction and Determinate Religion: Toward A Religion With Religion*, eds. J. Aaron Simmons and Stephen Minister (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press).

- (31) "Richard Rorty: Kierkegaard in the Context of Neo-Pragmatism," in *Kierkegaard Research: Sources, Reception, and Resources: Vol.11, Kierkegaard's Influence on Philosophy: Tome III: Anglophone Philosophy*, ed. Jon Stewart (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2012), 177-202.
- (32) "Toward a Relational Model of Anthropocentrism: A Levinasian Approach to the Ethics of Climate Change," in *Faces of Nature: Levinasian Ethics and Environmental Thought*, eds. William Edelglass, Chris Diehm, and Jim Hatley (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2012), 229-252.
- (33) "Continuing to Look for *God in France*: On the Relationship Between Phenomenology and Theology," *Words of Life: New Theological Turns in French Phenomenology*, ed. Bruce Ellis Benson and Norman Wirzba (New York: Fordham University Press, 2010), 15-29.
- My essay is discussed in some detail in the following review of the book: Sergiu Sava, "From Phenomenology to Theology: You Spin Me Round," *Meta: Research in Hermeneutics, Phenomenology, and Practical Philosophy* 3, no.1 (June 2011: 216-20).
- (34) "Existential Appropriations: Jean Wahl's Influence on Levinas's Reading of Kierkegaard," in *Kierkegaard and Levinas: Ethics, Politics, and Religion*, ed. J. Aaron Simmons and David Wood, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008), 41-66.
- (35) "Good Fences May Not Make Good Neighbors After All" (with David Wood), in *Kierkegaard and Levinas: Ethics, Politics, and Religion*, ed. J. Aaron Simmons and David Wood (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008), 1-17.

Interviews, Commentaries, and Replies

- (36) "On the Future of Futurity: An Engagement with DeRoo," *The Other Journal: the Church and Postmodernism* (forthcoming: October 2013), www.theotherjournal.org/churchandpomo.
- (37) "Philosophy and Theology . . . Analytic or Not," *The Other Journal: The Church and Postmodernism* (June 2013). www.theotherjournal.org/churchandpomo.
- (38) "Justice, Luck, and Equality: A Response to Cervantez," *Southwest Philosophy Review* 27, no.2 (July, 2011): 9-14.
- (39) "On Postmodern Epistemology: A Rejoinder to Hackett" *The Other Journal: The Church and Postmodernism* (January 2012). www.theotherjournal.org/churchandpomo
- (40) "Religion in the Postmodern Public Square: Thinking After Stephen Minister," in *Reexamining Deconstruction and Determinate Religion: Towards a Religion with Religion*, eds., J. Aaron Simmons and Stephen Minister (Duquesne University Press, 2012).
- (41) "Perhaps Still A Bit Farther Off Than We Think: Engaging Bruce Ellis Benson," in *Reexamining Deconstruction and Determinate Religion: Towards a Religion with Religion*, eds., J. Aaron Simmons and Stephen Minister (Duquesne University Press, 2012).
- (42) "On the Relevance of Philosophy of Religion to Religious Studies: Of Gaps and Gratitude. *The Other Journal: The Church and Postmodernism* (May 2012). www.theotherjournal.org/churchandpomo
- (43) "On Being Inspired by Levinas: An Interview with J. Aaron Simmons" (Interviewed by Volkan Çelebi), *Reflections on Levinas: Mono Kurgusuz Labirent* 4, no.8-9 (Fall 2010): 646-56.
- (44) "On Risks Worth Taking: A Reply to Minister and Smerick," *The Church and Postmodernism: A Conversation* (www.theotherjournal.org/churchandpomo) (July 2011).
- (45) "Perhaps Marion and Plantinga are Both Right: A Reply to Trakakis," *The Church and Postmodernism: A Conversation* (www.theotherjournal.org/churchandpomo) (August 2011).
- (46) "Moments of Intense Presence: An Interview with David Wood," *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 10, no.1 (Winter 2009): 81-101.
- This interview is being reprinted in a book of interviews that appeared in the *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 2001-2012, ed. Victor Taylor (Davies Group Publishers, forthcoming).

- (47) "Become Joyful, Become Active, But Do Not Forget About Being Responsible: A Commentary on Anupa Batra's 'Deleuze's Ethics: An Interpretation Through His Reading of Spinoza'," *Southwest Philosophy Review* 23, no.2 (2007): 21-6.

Translations

- (48) Pierre Hadot, "There are Nowadays Professors of Philosophy, but not Philosophers," *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 19, no. 3 (Fall 2005): 229-37. (Translated from French)

Book Reviews

In Academic Journals:

- (49) Calvin O. Schrag, *Reflections on the Religious, the Ethical, and the Political*, ed. Michael R. Paradiso-Michau (Lexington Books, 2013). In *Sophia*, forthcoming.
- (50) Nick Trakakis, *The End of Philosophy of Religion* (Continuum: 2009). In *Sophia* 51, no.3 (2012): 407-10.
- (51) Nimi Wariboko, *The Pentecostal Principle: Ethical Methodology in New Spirit* (Eerdmans, 2012). In *Religious Studies Review* 38, no.3 (2012): 155.
- (52) James K.A. Smith, *Thinking in Tongues: Pentecostal Contributions to Christian Philosophy* (Eerdmans, 2010). In *Theology Today* 68, no.4 (2012): 492-93.
- (53) Paul Marcus, *Being for the Other: Emmanuel Levinas, Ethical Living, and Psychoanalysis* (Marquette University Press, 2008). In *Heythrop Journal* (May 2010): 504-06.
- (54) David Michael Kleinberg-Levin, *Before the Voice of Reason: Echoes of Responsibility in Merleau-Ponty's Ecology and Levinas's Ethics* (Albany: State University of New York Press), 2008. In *Environmental Philosophy* 6, no.2 (Fall 2009): 4-7.
- (55) Merold Westphal, *Levinas and Kierkegaard in Dialogue*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press). In *Søren Kierkegaard Society Newsletter* no. 54 (March 2009): 28-30.
- (56) Kirsteen Kim, *The Holy Spirit in the World: A Global Conversation*, (Maryknoll: Orbis Books). In *Pneuma* 30 (Fall 2008): 359-60.
- (57) Michael Purcell, *Levinas and Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006). In *Philosophy In Review* 27, no.3 (June 2007): 227-29.
- (58) L. Gregory Jones, Reinhard Hütter, and C. Rosalee Velloso Ewell, eds., *God, Truth, and Witness: Engaging Stanley Hauerwas* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2005). In *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* (Fall 2007): 146-52.
- (59) Peter Jonkers and Ruud Welten, eds., *God in France: Eight Contemporary French Thinkers on God* (Leuven: Peeters, 2005). In *Bulletin de la Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française* 15, no.2 (Spring 2007): 99-105.
- (60) Judith Butler, *Giving An Account of Oneself* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2005). In *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 7, no.2 (Spring 2006).
- (61) Richard Rorty and Gianni Vattimo, *The Future of Religion*, ed. Santiago Zabala (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005). In *Philosophia Christi* 7, no.2 (Winter 2005): 524-528.
- (62) Elsebet Jegstrup, ed., *The New Kierkegaard* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004). In *Teaching Philosophy* 28, no. 2 (June 2005): 191-94.

In Choice Magazine

- (63) Neal DeRoo, *Futurity in Phenomenology: Promise and Method in Husserl, Levinas, and Derrida* (New York, NY: Fordham University Press, 2013). In *Choice Magazine* (forthcoming).
- (64) Dan Zahavi, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Epistemology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012). In *Choice Magazine* (forthcoming).
- (65) R. Keith Loftin, ed. *God and Morality: Four Views* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012). In *Choice Magazine* (May 2013).

- (66) Chris L. Firestone and Nathan A. Jacobs, eds. *The Persistence of the Sacred in Modern Thought* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2012). In *Choice Magazine* (February 2013).
- (67) Gavin Flood, *The Importance of Religion: Meaning and Action in Our Strange World* (Malden and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012). In *Choice Magazine* (January 2013).
- (68) Shaun Gallagher and Dan Zahavi, *The Phenomenological Mind*, 2nd Ed., (New York and London: Routledge, 2012). In *Choice Magazine* (December 2012).
- (69) Scott Davidson and Diane Perpich, eds. *Totality and Infinity at 50* (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2012). In *Choice Magazine* (October 2012).
- (70) Samuel Fleischacker, *Divine Teaching and The Way of The World: A Defense of Revealed Religion*. (Oxford University Press, 2011). In *Choice Magazine* (September 2012).
- (71) Hugo Strandberg, *Love of a God of Love: Towards a Transformation of the Philosophy of Religion* (Continuum, 2011), *Choice Magazine* (July 2012).
- (72) John Witte Jr. and Christian Green, eds., *Religion and Human Rights: An Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2011), *Choice Magazine* (May 2012).

Popular Audience Essays and Other Publications

- (73) “We Are Still Them: Non-Denominationalism and the Hermeneutics of Silence,” *The Other Journal: Church and Postmodern Culture* (December 2011). www.theotherjournal.org/churchandpomo
- (74) “On Fecundity, Fidelity, and Expectation: Reflections on Philosophy and Fatherhood,” in *Papa, Ph.D.: Essays on Fatherhood by Men in the Academy*, ed. Mary Ruth Marotte and Paige Martin Reynolds (New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2011), 59-65.
- (75) “Between Tonight and Tomorrow: On Obama’s Election,” *Log Cabin Democrat* (Conway, AR), November 6, 2008.
- (76) “Index,” for David Wood, *The Step Back: Ethics and Politics After Deconstruction*, (Albany: SUNY Press, 2005).
- (77) “Index” (with Chad Maxson), for *Truth: A Dialogue Between Philosophical Traditions*, eds. David Wood and Jose Medina, (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005).

Works in Progress/Under Review

- *A New Phenomenology Reader* – co-edited with Bruce Ellis Benson. This will be the first reader dealing with new phenomenology. It also will feature new essays by some of the leading scholars working in the field. Currently we are finishing the proposal and Bloomsbury has expressed initial interest.
- *New Waves in Phenomenology* – co-edited with Ed Hackett. We are currently finishing the proposal for Palgrave’s “New Waves in Philosophy” series.
- *Deconstructive Epistemology* – This will be my next single-authored monograph. It will bring continental philosophy of religion into conversation with analytic epistemology. The focus will be on theories of justification and evidence in postmodernism. I am still in the early stages of writing, but I have been exploring this general topic in a series of journal articles and book chapters over the last couple years.
- *Heavenly Minded and Earthly Good: Evangelical Political Culture and Environmentalism* (a book manuscript that is done except for the final chapter).
- “Is Levinas A Liberal Democrat?”, currently in progress.
- “A Process Phenomenology,” currently in progress.
- “Continental Philosophy of Religion: A Future,” currently in progress.
- “On the Continued Relevance of Impossible Ethical Ideals: Niebuhr and Levinas” (with Kevin Carnahan), currently in progress.

Scholarly Engagements with My Work:

- Nick Trakakis, “New Phenomenology and Analytic Philosophy of Religion,” *Heythrop Journal*, forthcoming.

- Merold Westphal, “Must Phenomenology and Theology Make Two? A Response to Trakakis and Simmons,” *Heythrop Journal*, forthcoming.
- John D. Caputo, “On Not Settling for an Abridged Version of Postmodernism,” in *Reexamining Deconstruction and Determinate Religion: Toward a Religion with Religion*, eds. J. Aaron Simmons and Stephen Minister (Duchesne University Press, forthcoming).
- Stephen Minister, “The Optics of Responsibility,” *Southwest Philosophy Review* 25, no.2 (July 2009): 1-5.

Courses Taught

Philosophy Courses

Freshman Seminars

The Nature of the Political; God and Justice

Introductory Level

Logic; Introduction to Philosophical Questioning; Environmental Philosophy; Self and Society; The Self, The World, and the Other; God, Self, and Rationality; Environmental Ethics (discussion section); The Ethics of Forgiveness (discussion section); Introduction to Philosophy and Moral Choices

Intermediate Level

Ethics and Society; Philosophy and Literature; Existentialism; Humans and their Others; Philosophy and Popular Culture; Environmental Philosophy; Philosophy of Religion; Ethical Theory; 19th Century Philosophy

Advanced Level

Postmodernism: Heidegger, Levinas, and Derrida; The Postmodern God; Kierkegaard; Political Ontology in Heidegger and Arendt, 20th Century Philosophy; Rawls and His Critics

Graduate Seminars

Phenomenology

Directed Independent Studies

Radical Political Theory; Sartre and De Beauvoir; Contemporary Feminist Ethics; Richard Rorty; The Ethics of Non-Profit Organizations; The Postmodern God; Emmanuel Levinas

Interdisciplinary Humanities Courses

Modern Humanities: The Enlightenment to Postmodernism; Multicultural Dimensions of Film in Twentieth Century American Culture; Renaissance Intellectual History and Philosophy, Journeys (a core humanities class required of all freshman at Hendrix College)

Senior Theses Directed:

- Jacob Zimmerman—“Wittgenstein and Contextualism” (Furman 2014 – in process)
 Matthew Burchanoski—“Postmodern or Postmodern? Ethical Hermeneutics After the Death of the Author” (Furman, 2013)
 Zora McBride—“Subjectivity After the Death of the Subject” (Hendrix, 2010)
 Elliott Machin—“Kant and Schiller on the Transformation of the Struggle Between Objectivity and Subjectivity” (Hendrix, 2010)
 Liza Poris—“A New Argument for Rationality: The Conversion of C.S. Lewis and Antony Flew” (Hendrix, 2010)
 Houston Hughes—“Between Plantinga and Dawkins: A Critical Reply to the New Atheism” (Hendrix, 2009)
 Johnathan Boswell—“The Contemporary Relevance of the Ontological Argument” (Hendrix, 2009)
 Chad Owens—“Cass Sunstein’s Critique of Liberal Democracy” (Hendrix, 2008)
 James Murray—“I and I: Rastafari Ontology” (Hendrix, 2008)

Committee Member for Independent Interdisciplinary Majors at Hendrix College:

- Lana Allen—“Political Theory” (Director)
 Jennifer Baker—“Social Justice and Sustainability” (Director)
 Emily Mitchell—“Organizational Leadership” (Director)
 Laura Langley—“Medieval and Renaissance Studies”

Professional Service

Member of National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Selection Committee (Washington, D.C., July 2013)
Referee for Oxford University Press
Referee for *Humanities* (Special issue on Richard Rorty)
Referee for Routledge Press
Referee for Wadsworth/Thompson Learning Inc.
Referee for *History of Philosophy Quarterly*
Referee for *Journal of Religious Ethics*
Referee for *Sophia*
Referee for *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society of Pentecostal Studies*
Referee for *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*
Referee for *Philosophia Christi*
Referee for *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*
Referee for *Southwest Philosophy Review*
Referee for the *Journal of the National Conference for Undergraduate Research*
Referee for North Texas Philosophical Association
Referee for South Carolina Philosophical Association
Invited Regular Reviewer for *Choice Magazine*
Invited Regular Contributor to *The Church and Postmodernism: A Conversation*
(<http://theotherjournal.com/churchandpomo/>)

University Service

Furman University:

Lilly Partners Program (2012-2013)

Furman University Guest Coach Program Co-Facilitator (with Rob Carson) (2012-present)

- I also was responsible for proposing the program and getting it adopted by Furman University during the 2011-2012 school year.

Faculty Guest Coach for Furman Football (2012-2013)

Individualized Curriculum Committee (2012-present)

Presidential Task Force for Civil Discourse (2011-2013)

Sponsor of Furman University Animal Rights Club (2011-present)

Sports Marketing Committee (2011-2012)

Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Committee (2011-present)

Hendrix College:

Odyssey Categories Advisory Committee (2010-2011)

Hendrix Honors Committee (Fall 2010-2011)

Diversity Concerns Committee, Chair (2008-2010)

Maymester Evaluation Committee (2009-2010)

Working Group on Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum (2008-2009)

Faculty Fellow for Hendrix Varsity Baseball Team (2008-2011)

Departmental Service

Furman University:

Host of weekly Philosophy Lunches in the Furman Dining Hall

Sponsor of the Furman University Philosophy Club (2011-present)

Editor of the Annual Furman Philosophy Department Newsletter (2011-present)

SACS Department Review team for PHL-101 (with Carl Ehrett) (Summer 2012)

Furman University Philosophy Department Webmaster (2011-present)

Hendrix College:

Hendrix Philosophy Department Webmaster (Hendrix 2007-2011)

Sponsor of Hendrix University Philosophy Club (Hendrix 2007-2011)

Community Service

- Ex-Officio Board Member for “Sustaining Way” (a non-profit in Greenville, SC working on issues of sustainability and social justice) (2012-present)
- Bridges to a Brighter Future Buddy Program (I mentor an underprivileged, first-generation college student from Greenville who is going to the University of South Carolina) (2012-present)

Reading Languages

French – Passed departmental translation requirement, Fall 2003

German – Passed reading exam, Spring 2004

Danish – Intensive study at St. Olaf College, Summer 2004

Academic Experience (Non-teaching)

- 2010-2011 *Undergraduate Research Coordinator* (Hendrix College)
- 2007-2011 *Board Member* – Marshall T. Steel Center for the Study of Philosophy and Religion (Hendrix)
- 2009 *Session Chair* – Søren Kierkegaard Society Meeting as part of the American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), New York, NY.
- 2007 *Session Chair* – Metaphysical Society of America, Nashville, TN
- 2006-2007 *Research Fellow* – for an interdisciplinary faculty research group focused on the issue of *Eco-Spirituality*. The group is funded by a grant from the Vanderbilt University Center for the Study of Religion and Culture and is organized by David Wood and Beth Conklin.
- 2004-2006 *Research Assistant* – Vanderbilt University, for John Stuhr
- 2004 *Research Assistant* – Vanderbilt University, for Diane Perpich
- 2004 *Editorial Assistant* – *Bulletin de la Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française*
- 2003 *Editorial Assistant* – David Wood and Jose Medina, eds., *Truth: A Dialogue Between Philosophical Traditions*, (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005)
- 2002 *Session Chair* – “International Conference of Romanticism,” Tallahassee, FL
- 2001 *Session Chair* – “Conference on Film and Literature,” Florida State University

Academic Presentations (Selected)

2013

- (1) *Upcoming* - “A Kierkegaardian Contribution to Debates About Divine Personalism,” Søren Kierkegaard Society (at the national American Academy of Religion), Baltimore, MD.
- (2) “Continental Approaches to Religious Epistemology,” University of South Carolina (invited).
- (3) “Risk, Prayer, and Persons,” Society for Christian Philosophers (Midwest Regional Meeting), Georgetown College, KY.
- (4) “Malebranche and Suarez on the Power of Secondary Causes: A Contemporary Consideration” (with Fred Ablondi), “Occasionalism: East and West,” Harvard University. [Paper presented in absentia by Fred Ablondi]
- (5) “Toward a Postmodern Kataphaticism: A Constructive Proposal for Contemporary Continental Philosophy of Religion,” South Carolina Society of Philosophy, Charleston, SC.
- (6) “Not So Markedly Different: A Critique of John Caputo’s Account of Analytic Philosophy of Religion,” Society for Philosophy of Religion, Hilton Head, SC.
- (7) “Inhabiting an Open Future: The Practical Relevance of an Open Model of God,” Open Theism Symposium, Western Carolina University (invited).

2012

- (8) “Heidegger, Onto-theology, and Persons,” Joint session with the International Institute for Field-Being and the Michael Polyani Society at the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association.
- (9) “John Caputo’s Problematic Account of Philosophy of Religion: A Critical Response,” Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN.
- (10) “If God is Dead, then What Are Philosophers of Religion Talking About?,” Florida Southern College (invited)
- (11) “Arendt on Identity Politics: Rescuing Heidegger?” (with Kim Maslin-Wicks), Association for Political Theory, Columbia, SC.
- (12) “What Remains of God Today?” University of Alabama, Department of Religious Studies Endowed Lecture Series on Religion and Culture (invited).
- (13) “On the Continued Relevance of Impossible Ethical Ideals: Niebuhr and Levinas” (with Kevin Carnahan), *The Personalist Seminar IX: Dewey and Niebuhr*.
- (14) “Continental Philosophy of Religion: A Primer,” Marlboro College (virtual lecture).
- (15) “On the Importance of Philosophy of Religion to the Academic Study of Religion,” Western Carolina University (invited).
- (16) “A Goldilocks God: A Comment on Contemporary Philosophy of Religion,” Western Carolina University (invited).
- (17) “Evangelical Christianity and Environmental Activism,” Wingate University (invited).

2011

- (18) "Listening to Animals: Continental Philosophy and Process Thought in Conversation," (with Jay McDaniel), presented by Jay McDaniel at *Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium XI: Divinanimality: Creaturely Theology*, Drew University.
- (19) "Continental Philosophy of Religion: A Future," Western Carolina University (invited).
- (20) "On Postmodern Apologetics," The Carolina Continental Symposium, Asheville, NC (invited).
- (21) "Levinasian Approaches to Epistemology," North American Levinas Society, College Station, TX.
- (22) "In Whom, Then, Should We Trust," North American Levinas Society, College Station, TX.

2010

- (23) "A Goldilocks God?" (with John Sanders). National American Academy of Religion Meeting – Philosophy of Religion Section, Atlanta, GA.
- (24) "Justice than Which None Greater Can be Conceived: Defending An Open Approach to Alterity and Responding to John Caputo" (with John Sanders). National American Academy of Religion Meeting – Open and Relational Theology Group, Atlanta, GA.
- (25) "Reconsidering Luck." Southwestern Philosophical Society, Memphis, TN.
- (26) "Environmentalism and Evangelical Politics." University of Central Arkansas (invited).
- (27) "Social Justice in an Environmental Age," Rhodes College (invited).
- (28) "Reading Levinas and Derrida After Audi: An Argument for the Viability of Foundationalism in New Phenomenology," MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (29) "So Now What: A Commentary on Carlson's Rule-Circularity and the Justification of Deduction," MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (30) "Levinasian Otherism and Modest Foundationalism," North Texas Philosophical Association, Denton, TX.

2009

- (31) "Between Walzer and Levinas: Political Viability as a Regulative Constraint on Environmental Philosophy," Society for Social and Political Philosophy (in conjunction with the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association), New York, NY.
- (32) Commentary on Kierkegaard Panel, Søren Kierkegaard Society (in conjunction with the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association), New York, NY.
- (33) "Fecundity, Fidelity, and Expectation: Reflections on Philosophy and Fatherhood," Arkansas Philological Association, Eureka Springs, AR.
- (34) "Heavenly Minded and Earthly Good: Evangelical Christianity and Environmental Ethics," Central Methodist University (invited).
- (35) "Climate Change as Meta-Ethical Emergency: An Argument for a Relational Anthropocentrism," MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (36) "A Not So Impotent Rights Theory: A Response to Merriam," MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (37) "Is Anthropocentrism the Best Model for Contemporary Environmental Ethics?" Co-presented with Steven Smith, Tri-State Liberal Arts Philosophy Symposium, Conway, AR
- (38) "Widows, Orphans, Strangers, and Swamp-Marshes," Harding University (invited).

2008

- (39) "Existential Appropriations: The Influence of Jean Wahl on Levinas's Reading of Kierkegaard," Søren Kierkegaard Society (in conjunction with the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion), Chicago, IL (invited).
- (40) "Vision Without Image: A Levinasian Topology," Southwestern Philosophical Society, Kansas City, MO.
- (41) "Reconstructive Separatism: What Has Phenomenology to do with Theology?" University of Mississippi (invited).
- (42) "*Simul Justus et Peccator*: Dissociative Identity, Deconstructive Selfhood, and the Religion of DMX," (with Jonathan Stadler), Popular and American Culture Association of the South, Louisville, KY.
- (43) "What Does 'Ethics' Mean in Postmodernism?" Harding University (invited).
- (44) "Levinasian Otherism, Skepticism, and the Problem of Self-Refutation," (with Scott F. Aikin), MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (45) "On Giving and Receiving Accounts: Justification in a Deconstructive Democracy," American Academy of Religion Southwestern Regional Conference, Dallas, TX.
- (46) "Opposition or Interlocutor? New Possibilities for Contemporary Continental Philosophy of Religion," Mississippi Philosophical Association, Memphis, TN.
- (47) "Five Themes in New Phenomenology," North Texas Philosophical Association, Denton, TX.
- (48) "If I Came Naked Thus . . . GeoCultural Constraints on Deliberation and an Appeal for Environmental Theo-Praxy," *Climate Change and Consumption: An Interdisciplinary Conference*, Nashville, TN.
- (49) "Eschatology Without a *Telos*" (with Nathan R. Kerr), Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Duke University.

- (50) "Is Caring for People the Key to Caring for the Environment?" Vanderbilt University Berry Lecture (invited keynote address).

2007

- (51) "Politics, Religion, and The Environment," Vanderbilt University (invited).
(52) "Ecotheology and Christian Environmentalism," Hendrix College (invited).
(53) "Joy and Desire in Postmodernity" (with John Simmons), C.S. Lewis Foundation Southeastern Regional Conference, Nashville, TN.
(54) "Vision Without Image: Levinas's Challenge to Philosophical Sight," as part of a panel entitled *Time, Image, and the Other: Levinas and Cinema*; The North American Levinas Society, Purdue, IL
(55) "Theology as Practice: A Wesleyan Response to a Feminist Version of the Problem of Evil" (with Mason Marshall), Wesleyan Theological Society, Bourbonnais, IL
(56) "The Ontological Stakes of the Political," Wheaton College (invited)
(57) "I Believe that I Believe': Postmodern Catholic Resources for Contemporary Evangelicalism," Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Bourbonnais, IL
(58) "Is Continental Philosophy Just Catholicism for Atheists? On the Political Relevance of Kenosis," The University of Dayton (invited)

2006

- (59) Commentary on Anupa Batra's "Deleuze's Ethics: An Interpretation through his Reading of Spinoza," Southwestern Philosophical Society, Nashville, TN
(60) "From Wyschogrod to Bonhoeffer: Is Postmodern Prescriptivity Possible?" Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
(61) "Is Levinas a Liberal Democrat?" North American Levinas Society, West Lafayette, IN
(62) "Standing Before God By Standing Next To Others: Kierkegaard on Ethics and Ontology," The Society of Christian Philosophers, Notre Dame, IN
(63) "Continuing to Look for *God in France*: On the Relationship Between Phenomenology and Theology," Society of Continental Philosophy and Theology, Birmingham, AL
(64) "Politics as an Ethico-Religious Task: Re-thinking Religion and the Nation with Kierkegaard and Levinas," *Religion and the Nation*: University of Tennessee Nexus Conference
(65) "Kenosis and Political Critique – Or, Why So Much God-Talk in Continental Philosophy?" Colby College (invited)

2005

- (66) "Kierkegaardian Transparency and Ethical Selfhood," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
(67) Commentary on Kristie Dotson's "Emmanuel Levinas on Husserl's 'Fifth Cartesian Meditation'," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
(68) "Missing the Other and Missing the Point: Richard Rorty's Formalist Critique of Emmanuel Levinas," *Encounters with the Other Conference*, Loyola University Chicago
(69) "Making Tomorrow Better Than Today: Rorty's Dismissal of Levinasian Ethics," (with Diane Perpich), *Philosophical Collaborations Conference*, Southern Illinois University

2004

- (70) "Traces of Transcendence: A Possible Account of Platonic Forms," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
(71) Commentary on Mason Marshall's paper, "The Doctrine of Recollection and Psychagogical Paradox in Plato's *Meno*," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
(72) "Finding Uses for Used-up Words: Thinking *Weltanschauung* 'After' Heidegger," *After Worldview Civitas Conference*, Cornerstone University
(73) "What About Isaac? God and Politics in Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*," The University of the South (invited)
(74) "Maintaining the Paradox: Wittgenstein, Kierkegaard and the Possibility of the Religious Life," Covenant College (invited)
(75) "The Alterity of Testimony: Trauma and Truth in Levinas and Heidegger," Address to the Lee University Philosophical and Psychological Societies (invited)

2003

- (76) "The Conversation of Freedom: Indirect Communication in Kierkegaard and Emerson," *Emerson Bicentennial Conference*, Vanderbilt University
(77) "Substituting-Ahead: Levinas Beyond Heidegger Towards Heidegger," Emory University Graduate Conference
(78) "Encountering the Other: An Introduction to the thought of Emmanuel Levinas," Address to the Lee University Philosophical Society (invited)

2002

- (79) “Why Not Take All of Me: The Role of Passion in the Hegelian Dialectic,” Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
- (80) “The Trembling Approach: Towards a Kierkegaardian Sublime,” *International Conference of Romanticism*, Tallahassee, FL

2001

- (81) “Kant’s Sublime and Foucault’s Pipe: Pleasurable Pain in Aesthetic Dissimilitude,” *Conference on Film and Literature*, Florida State University

Invited Public Lectures (Non-academic)

2012

- Panelist for “Morality in Modern Art” – Warehouse Theater, Greenville, SC.
- Panelist for “Staging the Minefield: Context, Controversy, and the Artist” – Warehouse Theater, Greenville, SC.

2010

- “Justice as a Way of Life,” Harding University Forum on Peace and Justice

2009

- “Navigating the Postmodern World: A Discussion of *Kierkegaard and Levinas: Ethics, Politics, and Religion*,” Faulkner County Public Library
- “Why Every Christian Should Read Nietzsche,” First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR

2008

- “On Postmodern Apologetics,” First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR

2006

- “Four Theses on the Future of Christian Environmentalism,” Nashville Forum on Christianity and the Environment

Conferences and Events Organized

- 2014 South Carolina Society of Philosophy Annual Conference – to be held at Furman University (co-organized with Erik Anderson). Featuring a keynote lecture by Robert Talisse.
- 2013 “Kierkegaard and Judaism” – Session of the Søren Kierkegaard Society at the American Academy of Religion national meeting.
- 2013 Philosophy of Religion sessions for the American Academy of Religion (Southeast Region – SECSOR): (1) Jewish Philosophy of Religion (jointly sponsored with the Judaism Section); (2) Public Theology 2.0: Philosophy of Religion and Theology in a Digital Age (jointly sponsored with the Constructive Theology Section); (3) Gendered Readings of Religion: Postmodern Engagements.
- 2012 “The Virtue of Justice,” *Society of Christian Philosophers – Central Regional Meeting* (at Hendrix College). Featuring Plenary Sessions with Nicholas Wolterstorff, Robert Audi, and Jean Porter
- 2012 Three Philosophy of Religion sessions for the American Academy of Religion (Southeast Region – SECSOR): (1) Cognitive Science and the Philosophy of Religion, (2) Open Theism and Postmodernism, (3) Beauty, Power, and the Paranormal
- 2010 *Symposium on Medical Humanities* (Hendrix College)
- 2009 *Tri-State Liberal Arts Philosophy Symposium* (featuring Hendrix College, Rhodes College, and Millsaps College)
- I was one of the founders of this event, which has now occurred annually for the past four years.
- 2009 *For the Least of These Our Brethren: Faith, Justice and the Environment* (with Scharmél Roussel and Leo Hauser). Little Rock, Arkansas
- 2007-2010 Organizer of the *Central Arkansas Gatherings on Philosophy* (monthly discussion group for Philosophy faculty from several local colleges and universities)
- 2006 *Nashville Forum on Christianity and The Environment* (with Beth Conklin and Jonathan Gilligan)
- 2004 *God and Politics*, Vanderbilt University
- 2003 *Emerson Bicentennial Conference* (with Michael Broderick), Vanderbilt University

Academic Honors, Grants, and Awards

- 2011-present Faculty Affiliate for the Furman University Shi Center for Sustainability
- 2012 Furman University RPG Grant to attend the Society for Philosophy of Religion meeting in Savannah, GA.
- 2010 Nominated by Hendrix College Provost for Franklin and Marshall Junior Scholars Fellowship

- 2009 Award in Recognition of Service – Hendrix College Students for Black Culture
- 2006 Vanderbilt University Berry Award for Departmental Service
- 2005 Vanderbilt University Center for the Study of Religion and Culture Summer Graduate Fellowship
- 2005 Vanderbilt University Robert Penn Warren Humanities Center Summer Graduate Fellowship (Declined)
- 2005 Vanderbilt University Summer Research Grant in Arts and Science (Declined)
- 2005 The Chancellor’s List
- 2004 *Summer Fellow* – Howard V. and Edna H. Hong Kierkegaard Library
- 2004 Vanderbilt University Summer Research Grant in Arts and Science
- 2003-2004 Philosophy Departmental Fellowship – Vanderbilt University
- 2003 *Invited Participant* – Vanderbilt University Summer Institute for Social and Political Thought
- 2003 Philosophy Department Travel Grant – Vanderbilt University
- 2003 Graduate School Travel Grant – Vanderbilt University
- 2001 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award – Florida State University
- 2001 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
- 1999 U.S.A.A. Academic All-American
- 1999 Who’s Who in American Universities and Colleges
- 1999 National Honor Roll
- 1999 Excellence in History Award – Lee University
- 1998-1999 Alpha Chi National Honors Scholarship Society
- 1996-1999 Honors Scholarship – Lee University
- 1998-1999 Kappa Lambda Iota History Honors Society – Lee University.
- 1997 Semester in Europe: Cambridge, England – Lee University
One of twenty students chosen by an extensive application and interview process to spend a semester in England studying British history and culture. Semester thesis: *Form and Function in Gothic Cathedrals*
- 1995 Presidential Scholarship – Lee University

Professional Organizations

Positions Held:

- South Carolina Society of Philosophy – *Vice President* (2013-present)
- Society of Continental Philosophy and Theology – *Executive Board Member* (2013-present)
- American Academy of Religion (Southeast Region) – *Philosophy of Religion Section Chair* (2011-present)
- Society of Christian Philosophers (Central Region) – *Committee Member* (2010-present)
- North Texas Philosophical Association – *Member at Large* (2010)

Memberships:

- Society for Philosophy of Religion (invited member since 2012)
- Levinas Research Seminar (invited member since 2008)
- American Philosophical Association
- American Academy of Religion
- Society of Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
- Society of Continental Philosophy and Theology
- Society of Christian Philosophers
- North American Levinas Society
- Søren Kierkegaard Society

References

Available Upon Request