

Peder Jothen

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Education:

Ph.D	<i>Religious Ethics</i> , University of Chicago Divinity School	2009
M.Div	University of Chicago Divinity School	2002
B.A.	St. Olaf College, <i>cum laude</i> , Northfield, MN	1994

Majors: *History* and *Political Science*

Dissertation: *Moral Moments: Søren Kierkegaard and Christian Aesthetics*

My dissertation examines Søren Kierkegaard's aesthetic in relationship to Christian ethics and Lutheran theology by focusing on Kierkegaard's theological anthropology. For Kierkegaard, God gave each human a degree of responsibility to become a true self through the capacities of the imagination, will and passion. Normatively, a true self exists through the imitation of Christ, with Christ being the redeeming, paradoxical truth of being revealed by God and a suffering servant. This true existence requires the willful, imaginative envisioning of Christ's loving actions towards others put into practice through a self's passion. This envisioning is only possible through God's graceful actions, revealed through Christ and the Bible. All actions are then moral moments, as every moment falls under the demand of becoming a true self. Such self-formation is the highest aesthetic project, and art genres such as music, poetry and sculpture can enable a self to move towards true selfhood when understood as a part of Christian self-formation.

Advisor: William Schweiker (Theology/Ethics)

Readers: Kathryn Tanner (Theology) and Berthold Hoeckner (Musicology)

Exams: Theological Ethics, Moral Philosophy, Religion & Social Science, Religion and Literature

Teaching Experience:

St. Olaf College: *Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion* (2005-)

On-Campus Courses:

- Bioethics: God and Human Life
- Bible, Community and Culture: Mirrors of Gender and Sexuality
- Bible, Community and Culture: The Good Life
- Christian Aesthetics and Ethics
- The (Theological) Greats?
- Kierkegaard as Theologian

Service Learning Courses

- Christianity and Social Power

Off-Campus Courses:

- Term in the Middle East (Fall, 2006), Assistant Field Supervisor
 - Co-led 25 students to Turkey, Morocco, Egypt and Greece
 - Lectured on Islamic and Christian ethics
- Living Faith: Theology and Practice in Holden Village (January, 2009)

Independent Studies:

- Christ and Culture* and Post-Modern Christologies
- Philosophies and Theologies of the Aesthetic
- Religion, Psychology and Human Experience
- Unintended Ethics
- Liberation and Contemporary Theological Ethics
- Science and Religion

Teaching Interests: Bioethics; Christianity and Culture; Ethics and Service Learning; Moral Formation; Philosophical & Religious Ethics; Aesthetics; History of Christian Thought; Black/Liberation Theology; Christianity and Politics.

Academic Honors and Fellowships:

Kierkegaard House Foundation Fellow Spring-Summer, 2011 – Hong Kierkegaard Library, St. Olaf College
Kierkegaard Summer Fellow 2005-2007 – Hong Kierkegaard Library, St. Olaf College
ELCA Educational Grantee 2002-2007 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Wabash Fellow 2003-2004 – The Chicago Forum on Pedagogy the Study of Religion
Virginia Romberger Reber Pettijohn Fellow 2000-2002 - St. Johns Lutheran Church, Phoenix, MD
Rolland Walter Schloerb Fellow 1999-2002 - University of Chicago Divinity School

Publications:

Chapters:

“Kierkegaard and the Crisis of Righteousness: A Theological, Epistemological and Civic Thematic” in *Acta Kierkegaardiana*, Vol. IV, edited by Andrew Burgess, et. al. (Toronto: Kierkegaard Circle, Trinity College, 2009)

Articles: “Mandylion,” and “Coptic Christianity” in *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*, edited by George Kurian (Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2010)
“To Be A Christian,” *Soren Kierkegaard Newsletter*, No. 53 (August, 2008)
“Congregational Lamentation: Both and Yet Not Enough,” *The Chorister*, Vol. 57, No. 5 (Feb/Mar, 2006)
“The New Reformation of You,” *Sightings* (3/24/05)
“An Ethical Duty to Present Contentious Data with Care,” (With Enriquez, R; Fortunato, P; Persky, VW), *Annals of Epidemiology*, 14 (2004:8)

Reviews:

Young Woon Ko, *The Beauty of Balance* (University Press, 2010) in *Religious Studies Review* (Forthcoming)
M. Jaime Ferreira, *Kierkegaard* (Blackwell, 2008) and C. Stephen Evans, *Kierkegaard: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2009) in *Faith and Philosophy* (Forthcoming)
Keith Ward, *Religion and Human Fulfillment* (SCM Press, 2008) in *Religious Studies Review* (Vol. 36. No.2, 2010)
Oswald Beyer, *Martin Luther's Theology: A Contemporary Interpretation* (Eerdmans, 2008) in *Religious Studies Review* (Vol. 36. No. 1, 2010)
William Schweiker, *Theological Ethics and Global Dynamics* (Blackwell, 2004) and David Torevell, *Liturgy and the Beauty of the Unknown* (Ashgate, 2007) in *American Theological Inquiry* (Vol. 2. No. 2, 2009)

Works in Process/Under Review

Book Manuscript: *The Art of Christian Existence: Kierkegaard, Theological Ethics and Visual Images*
Articles: “Visual Images, Moral Exemplars and Self-Formation: Kierkegaard as Theological Ethicist”
Presentations: “Aesthetics and Self Formation: Kierkegaard’s Ambivalent Aesthetic” (AAR 2011)

Scholarly Presentations:

Christianity and Citizenship. Holden Village Summer Weeklong Teaching Series (July, 2011)
Radical Christian Ethics: The Acts of the Apostles. Holden Village Summer Teaching Session (July, 2010)
Christian Bioethics. Holden Village Summer Weeklong Teaching Series (August, 2009)
Ethics as an Art. St. Olaf Hong Kierkegaard Summer Scholars Seminar (July, 2009)
Don Juan, Moses & Aron: The Possibility of a Kierkegaardian Affirmation of Music. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL (November, 2008)
What Does “Piss Christ” have to do with Christianity?: Kierkegaard, Serrano & the Art of Theological Provocation. University of Iowa - Religion, Literature & the Arts: Theology and Critique (March, 2008)
Harry Frankfurt and The Reasons of Love. (Moderator) St. Olaf - Hong Kierkegaard Scholars Conference (March, 2006)
Aesthetics and Ethical Inwardness: A Kierkegaardian Exposition. University of Chicago Divinity School – Aesthetics and the Moral Life Conference (March, 2006)
Why Not Christian, Why Not Buddhist?. University of Chicago Divinity School – Ethics and the Other

Conference (April, 2003)

Without Music, Liturgy would be an Error: Music and the Worship Experience. University of Chicago Divinity School – Senior Ministry Project Presentation (May, 2002)

Social Justice Issues in the Inner City. Augustana College (SD) – Noble Peace Prize Forum (March, 1997)

Related Presentations:

The Wonder of Love. First United Church of Christ Northfield, MN (December, 2010)

Religion and Liberal Learning: Religion and Music. St. Olaf Chapel Talk (October, 2010)

Vocation. Bethel Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN (November, 2009)

Christian Environmental Ethics. Bethel Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN (April, 2008)

Related Developmental and Professional Experience:

Does Life have a Future?. St. Olaf College Martin Marty Faculty Seminar participant (Fall, 2009)

Oregon Extension. St. Olaf Off-Campus Program Director (2009-)

Civic Engagement Institute. St. Olaf Center for Experiential Learning participant (Summer, 2009)

Wabash Young Scholars Mentoring Workshop. St. Olaf Religion Department (2008-9)

Interim Curator. Hong Kierkegaard Library, St. Olaf College (January, 2008)

Creative Writing Across the Curriculum. St. Olaf Center for Innovation in the Liberal Arts learning community participant (2008-9)

Departmental Life. Chair, St. Olaf Religion Department (2007-8, 2009-10)

Ethics Club Coordinator. University of Chicago Divinity School (2002-3)

Other Leadership Experiences:

Parish Assistant (2001-5), *Choir Director* (2002-5). Wicker Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL. (E.L.C.A.)

Bond Chapel Choir Director. University of Chicago Divinity School (2000-04)

Lutheran Volunteer Corps. Short Term Recruiter – Washington, D.C. (August – November, 1996)

Lutheran Volunteer Corps. Habitat for Humanity Project Coordinator - Milwaukee, WI (1995-6)

Professional Affiliations:

Memberships: Society of Christian Ethics, American Academy of Religion, Søren Kierkegaard Society

Participant: *Institute of Liturgical Studies-Theology, Music, Practice* (2002-5); *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting* (2002, 2004, 2005-9); *Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Midwest Conference* (2004); *Sophia: Re-Imagining Spirituality Conference* (1996, 1998)

Languages:

Reading competency in Danish, French, German, and Koine Greek

References:

St. Olaf College

Dr. L. DeAne Lagerquist, Professor, Past Chair, Religion Department

Dr. Anantanand Rambachan, Professor, Current Chair, Religion Department

Dr. Gordon Marino, Philosophy Professor and Curator, Hong Kierkegaard Library

Nate Jacobi, Associate Director for Civic Engagement, Center for Experiential Learning

University of Chicago Divinity School

Dr. Rev. William Schweiker, Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics

Dr. Kathryn Tanner, Professor of Theology (now at *Yale Divinity School*)