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Education

University of Chicago Divinity School

PhD - Christian Studies - 2011

Dissertation:

Horror and Its Aftermaths: A Fresh Perspective on Theological Appropriations of Psychology

Kathryn Tanner (advisor), Dwight Hopkins, Joshua Kellman, Richard Rosengarten

In this project, I develop a fresh treatment of divinity in relationship to human suffering, offering an account of human suffering and redemption that is both theologically sound and psychologically nuanced. I interrogate two resources that are underutilized by theology—early childhood studies grounded in object relations theory and critical readings of literature addressed to young children—and in that context, I propose a conversation that centers on the work of psychoanalyst-philosopher Jonathan Lear (“radical hope”) and of philosopher-theologian Marilyn McCord Adams (human suffering as “horror-participation”). In a manner more integrative of theology and psychology than has historically been the case, this preliminary eschatology incorporates divine commitment to healing the human capacity to make meaning, while acknowledging the defining force of the psychic and physical scars that remain from experiences that shatter those capacities.

Qualifying Exams:

- History of Christian Thought (Early, Medieval, Reformation) - Bernard McGinn, Susan Schreiner
- History of Christian Thought (Modern and Contemporary) - Kathryn Tanner, David Tracy
- Systematic Theology (Karl Barth) - Kathryn Tanner
- Religion and Literature - Richard Rosengarten

Languages (reading): French * German * Hebrew

Honors:

- Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, Dissertation Fellowship (2008-2009)
- Brauer Seminar Fellowship, Biblical Theology with Tikva Frymer-Kensky and David Tracy (2002)
- Divinity School Fellowship (2001-2003)
- Higgins Scholarship (for graduate work in Theology)

MA - Religious Studies - 2001

Additional Coursework

Ethics * Hebrew Bible * Religious Anthropology * Psychoanalytic Theory

The Family Institute at Northwestern University

Two-Year Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy - 1997

University of Illinois (Chicago)

MSW - clinical research concentration - 1984

Thesis: “Interdependence of Separation-Individuation and Language in the First Year” - an empirical study aimed at elaborating upon and standardizing assessment of the relationships among different areas of infant development

Clinical Internships: community mental health; child protective services and counseling; individual therapy for profoundly autistic and developmentally delayed children in the Loyola University Day School

Agnes Scott College

BA - with honor - Phi Beta Kappa - English and Psychology - 1978

Institut d'etudes françaises d'Avignon, Bryn Mawr College - Summer 1976

Publications

“Donum superadditum,” “Martyrdom,” “Merit,” “Pelagianism,” “Regeneration” - *New Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology* (forthcoming)

Response to Mark Scott’s “Theorizing Theodicy in the Study of Religion” (invited) - Religion and Culture Web Forum - November 2009

Book Reviews

Letty Russell, et al, *Just Hospitality: God’s Welcome in a World of Difference* (2009) - *Anglican Theological Review*, Winter 2010

Jonathan Lear, *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation* (2008) - *Anglican Theological Review*, Summer 2009

Catherine Keller, *On the Mystery: Discerning God in Process* (2008) - *Anglican Theological Review*, Winter 2009

Marilyn McCord Adams, *Christ and Horrors* (2006) - *Anglican Theological Review*, Summer 2007

Presentations

“When the Heathen Rage: Introducing Religion to the Skeptical and Misinformed,” Wabash Center roundtable discussion at the American Academy of Religion, Montreal, QU - November 2009

“A Rock and Roll Theology,” University of Chicago Public Theology Workshop - Spring 2003

“The Hidden God,” University of Chicago Divinity School Student Ethics Conference - April 2002

“The Theology of Romans” and “Just War Theology,” Winnetka [IL] Presbyterian Church - 2000-2003

Clinical presentation, American Academy for Psychoanalysis, Chicago, IL - May 2000

“Infertility and Faith,” Annual Conference of Illinois RESOLVE, Chicago, IL - April 2000

“Transference Issues in Family Treatment,” Illinois Society for Clinical Social Work - February 2000

Clinical presentation, International Conference on the Psychology of the Self, San Diego - October 1998

Invited Guest Lectures

“Medieval Women Mystics,” Norbertine Center for Spirituality, De Pere, WI (forthcoming January 2012)

“The Chicago Heatwave: Participant Observations,” for Health, Illness, and Society (SOCI 289), Dr. Jamie Lynch, St. Norbert College - Fall 2011

“Transforming Hope: The Joseph Narrative,” Norbertine Center for Spirituality, De Pere, WI - Fall 2011

“Protestantism in Contemporary Cuba,” for Cuba: Colony to Castro (HIST 333), Dr. Marti Lamar, St. Norbert College - Spring 2011

“Hope in the Face of Devastation,” Norbertine Center for Spirituality, De Pere, WI - Winter 2011

“Lyric Poetry: Emily Dickenson’s Death Poems,” for Human Being and Citizen (HUMA 125), Dr. Herman Sinaiko, University of Chicago - Spring 2009

Teaching Experience and Courses Taught

St. Norbert College - 2010-2012 - Instructor in Religious Studies

Introduction to Theology (RELS 114) - uses primary texts to introduce key concepts, sources, and methods in Christian theology - incorporated field trips and group projects, including video production

Judaism and Christianity: The Holocaust (RELS 331) - fundamentals of Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations, focusing on the Holocaust from religious, theological, historical, and socio-political perspectives - incorporated experiential and research-focused group projects

War (PEAC 389) - developed as an interdisciplinary general studies course for the Peace and Justice Minor, using literature, film, and historical sources to engage combatant and related non-combatant experiences in the Trojan War, biblical Armageddon, the American Civil War, the 19th century Chechen-Russian war, World War I, and the Vietnam War

Honors Tutorial: Roy Orbison’s Black and White Night Concert - developed this three-week seminar using Orbison’s 1988 concert to engage the history of rock and roll and its place in American popular culture

Independent Study advisor: Psychology and the Christian Mind - advised a senior Psychology major studying the ways in which psychological constructs illuminate individual Christian belief and practice

Philosophy and Gender (WMGS 389) - developed as a general studies course for the Women’s and Gender Studies minor, to question western treatments of gender, how questions about gender were shaped

in twentieth-century thought, and how gender and gendered discourse inform exemplar topics: human sexuality, body image, civil rights, and politics [course proposal accepted, not yet scheduled]

Medieval Women Mystics and Theologians (WMGS 389) - developed as a general studies course for the Women's and Gender Studies minor, using religious, theological, literary, and historical sources and methods to consider the roles and influence of European women mystics and theologians in the 12th through the 14th centuries - incorporated a week in residence at St. Norbert Abbey as participant-observers [course proposal approved, not yet scheduled]

Lake Forest College - 2008-2009 - Lecturer in Religion and Philosophy

Philosophy and Gender (PHIL 200/WOMN 200) - adapted a syllabus engaging questions related to the theoretical and practical effects of gender identity on human existence and human goods (Plato, Sophocles, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley, Freud, de Beauvoir, Cixous, *et al*)

Faculty advisor (invited) - senior project in Religion - declined to accept full-time appointment

Self and Salvation [Introduction to Abrahamic Religions] (RELG 114) - adapted as one of two inaugural introductory survey offerings in the new Religion major (2009) - multiple students who declared a religion major or minor identified this class as the basis for their interest - survey considering the human self in relation to the divine and to salvation - interdisciplinary sources: philosophy, history, anthropology, ethics, literature

Religious Values in Cultural Context [Introduction to World Religion] (RELG 112) - adapted as one of two inaugural introductory survey offerings in the new Religion major (2009) - a variety of in-class strategies and field trips, focused on the intersection of culture and values - interdisciplinary sources: history, literature, anthropology, philosophy (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, Magic, syncretism)

Senior thesis committee member - Sociology and Anthropology thesis on nationalism and the Olympic movement - 2008-2009

University of Chicago - 2007-2010

Teaching Consultant - invited - Center for Teaching and Learning - 2010-2011 - hired to conduct teaching consultations and midcourse reviews for junior faculty (deferred to accept full-time appointment at St. Norbert College)

Lecturer in Humanities - Autumn-Winter, 2009-2010 - Human Being and Citizen (HUMA 123-124) two-quarter sequence in the Humanities Core using a standard reading list - strategized to accommodate diverse learning styles and facilitate students' development of close reading and other critical skills - classic texts from the Western intellectual tradition (Genesis, Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Dante)

Writing Instructor - 2007-2009 - Writing Seminar for Humanities Core (HUM 191-192-193) full responsibility for writing instruction, including prompts and grading, and TA for **Human Being and Citizen** (HUMA 123-124-125), Professor Herman Sinaiko; teaching responsibility for four weeks on Augustine's *Confessions* (2008)

Midland University - 2009 - Lecturer in Religion (online course)

Development of Christian Thought (REL 120) - online format with written lectures, weekly office hours chats, and structured student discussion forum - adapted a syllabus covering key doctrines and their historical contexts, using sources from sacred literature, theology, popular culture, and philosophy

Additional Relevant Professional Experience

Research Assistant, University of Chicago Divinity School - Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Professor of Hebrew Bible and Jewish Studies: final preparation year for *Reading the Women of the Bible* - 2001-2002

Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist - private practice - individual and family therapy with children, adolescents, and adults - consultant - educator - 1989-2008

Representative Training in Pedagogy

St. Norbert College

THATCamp LAC Digital Humanities Conference participant - June 2011

Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Program Workshops

“Little Red Schoolhouse” (August 2011)

“Preventing Plagiarism” (Spring 2011)

“Writing Pedagogy: Assignment Design” (Fall 2010)

University of Chicago

Writing Pedagogy (Little Red Schoolhouse) - HUMA 5000 (Summer 2007)

Thinking through Teaching Conference participant (June, 2010):

“Teaching Introductory Humanities Courses at a Liberal Arts College,” “Changing Course Midstream: Identifying and Solving Problems in a Workshop Course,” “Making a Class a Team: Successfully Incorporating Group Work into the Classroom,” “Religion in America: Theology in the Classroom”

Center for Teaching and Learning:

Teaching in the College - two-day conference (September, 2009); Leading Productive Discussions; Lecturing for Learning

Lake Forest College

Teaching Students to Read for Writing (Winter, 2009); Mid-course reviews of every course with feedback from master teachers; Small group peer consultation (2008-2009)

Representative Service - 1999-2011

St. Norbert College

Coordinator, Three Things at Three O’Clock - 2011-2012 - convened an ad hoc faculty group to propose and implement this new program that brings a faculty or staff member to a residence hall each week for afternoon tea and to share with students three things that s/he thinks are “worth knowing”

First Year Experience Advisor - Fall 2011

Informal student advisement - 2010-2011, 2011-2012

University of Chicago Divinity School

Student Interview Participant - Theology Searches

Divinity Student Association: Board Secretary - two years; Manager, Annual Used Book Sale (10,000 books) - two years

Ethics Review Board - Illinois Society for Clinical Social Work - one-year term

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion - American Psychoanalytic Association (Research Associate)
Academy of Certified Social Workers - National Association of Social Workers

References - Scholarship

Kathryn Tanner, Professor of Theology, Yale Divinity School (advisor) - kathryn.tanner@yale.edu

Dwight Hopkins, Professor of Theology, University of Chicago Divinity School (PhD dissertation reader) - dhopkins@uchicago.edu

Joshua Kellman, Clinical Associate, Department of Psychiatry, University of Chicago (PhD dissertation reader) - joshkellman@sbcglobal.net

Richard Rosengarten, Associate Professor of Religion and Literature, University of Chicago Divinity School (PhD dissertation reader) - raroseng@uchicago.edu

References - Teaching

David Duquette, Assistant Dean for Humanities and Fine Arts, Professor of Philosophy, St. Norbert College - david.duquette@snc.edu

Ryan Cordell, Director of Writing-Across-the-Curriculum and Assistant Professor of English, St. Norbert College - ryan.cordell@snc.edu

Louis Lombardi, Professor of Philosophy and Chair, Department of Philosophy (formerly Department of Philosophy and Religion), Lake Forest College - lombardi@lakeforest.edu

Herman Sinaiko, Professor Emeritus of Humanities and in the College, University of Chicago - available upon request