

WILLIAM SCHWEIKER

Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics; also in the College

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

William Schweiker continues to serve as Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics and in the College. He also holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden. Schweiker's scholarship and teaching engage theological and ethical questions attentive to global dynamics, comparative religious ethics, history of ethics, and hermeneutical philosophy. He is especially known internationally for his work in Theological Humanism and Responsibility Ethics.

Schweiker is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church and Theologian-in-Residence at the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple in Chicago.

Schweiker has published numerous articles and award-winning essays, as well as edited and contributed to several volumes. In 2022, he became editor-in-chief contributor to the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, and he published two chapters in the encyclopedia. The chapter "Value Theory" explores value theory, or axiology, as a key element of every moral theory. After defining the task and purpose of value theory, Schweiker examines types of value and crucial distinctions between price and worth, intrinsic and instrumental value, hypothetical and categorical value, and contributory value. The second chapter, "Hermeneutics," examines that domain of knowledge concerned with the act of interpretation and, relatedly, human understanding through interpretation. Beginning with basic concepts in hermeneutics, the chapter then moves to types of hermeneutical theories and to major modern hermeneutical thinkers.

Schweiker along with David Clairmont published *Religious Ethics: Meaning and Method* in 2020. An innovative work, the book develops a multidimensional moral theory from the resources of the religion. Each chapter draws on comparative study to isolate and clarify a dimension of ethics. National scholarly academic societies have held sessions on the work. Likewise, in 2021, Schweiker edited along with Myriam Renault *Multi-Religious Perspectives on a Global Ethic*.

Also in 2022, Schweiker and his co-editors published the volume *Ethics and Advocacy: Bridges and Boundaries*. *Ethics and Advocacy* considers the connections and differences between critical reflection or moral arguments or narratives and advocacy for particular issues regarding justice and moral behavior and dispositions. The shared goal of the book's authors is to avoid academic withdrawal and to speak relevantly to the important issues of our day while halting the disruptive discourse that characterizes our polarized current society.

In praise for *Ethics and Advocacy*, Emilie M. Townes, dean of Vanderbilt University Divinity School, said, "The authors of this probing volume lead us through the debate between ethics and advocacy as . . . an opportunity for us to see how integrating the two may give us productive and much-needed ways in which we can bridge the polarizations that often divide us and engage in the necessary conversations we must have to build and maintain a vibrant democracy."

In addition to writing and teaching, Schweiker continues to serve as a principal investigator for the Enhancing Life Project, an interdisciplinary and international group of scholars that explores an essential aspiration of human beings that moves persons and communities into the future. In 2021, The Project held an Enhancing Life Project Laboratory on "orientational distress" among physicians during the

pandemic. The Enhancing Life Laboratory proved to be a great success for the physicians involved. The program eventuated in a forthcoming publication in *Academic Medicine: The Journal of American Medical Colleges*, and a presentation at the Conference on Medicine and Religion in March 2023.

Schweiker was also an expert consultant and contributor to the Field Museum's "Death: Life's Greatest Mystery" which is now showing at the Field. His contribution on Death in Christianity and Judaism is found in the book published for the exhibit.

2021–22 COURSES

- Justice in History (fall)
- Brauer Seminar: Theology of Nature and Nature of Theology (winter)
- Moral Theory and Philosophical Ethics (Winter 2021)
- Christian and Anti-Christian: Kierkegaard and Nietzsche on Religion and Morality (spring)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, American Academy of Religion
- Member, The Society of Christian Ethics
- Theologian in Residence, The First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple
- Editorial Board, *Ethik in Antike und Christentum*, Gutenberg Universität Mainz

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *The Impact of Academic Research: On Character Formation, Ethical Education, and the Communication of Values in Late Modern Pluralistic Societies*, edited by William Schweiker, Michael Welker, John Witte, and Stephen Pickard. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2022.
- *Ethics and Advocacy: Bridges and Boundaries*, edited by Harlan Beckley, Douglas F. Ottati, Matthew R. Petrussek, and William Schweiker. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2022.
- Childress, James F., Lisa Sowle Cahill, Douglas F. Ottati, William Schweiker, and Theo A. Boer. "Theologian, Teacher, and Friend: Tributes to James M. Gustafson." *Journal of Religious Ethics* 50, no. 1 (2022): 7-19.
- Schweiker, William. "Value Theory." In *Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, edited by William Schweiker, Maria Antonaccio, Elizabeth Bucar, and David A. Clairmont: 195-203. Wiley, 2022.
- Schweiker, William. "Hermeneutics." In *Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, edited by William Schweiker, Maria Antonaccio, Elizabeth Bucar, and David A. Clairmont: 227-236. Wiley, 2022.

LECTURES AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Reflections On Religious Ethics: Meaning And Method," Chicago Writers Group, Society of Christian Ethics (Jan 2021).
- "The Ethics of Radical Life Extension: A Protestant Perspective," The Society of Christian Ethics (Jan. 2021).
- "Analogies Of The Highest Good: Maximus, Kant, and MacIntyre," Society of Christian Ethics (Jan. 2021)
- "Response to Responses: *Religious Ethics: Meaning and Method*, American Academy of Religion (Nov 2021), Society of Christian Ethics (Jan 2022).

- **"GENEROSITY IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION"** for "What Happened to Virtue: the Common Good, and Pluralism? Teachings from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam" *The University of Chicago* (May 2021)
- **"HOW NATURAL IS GOODNESS?"** for "The Theology of Nature and the Nature of Theology" *The University of Chicago* March 2022)
- **"GLOBAL ETHICS AND COMMON GOOD"** Institute of Sino-Christian Studies (ISCS) Hong Kong, (October 2022.)
- **"FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD: A PROTESTANT RESPONSE"** for "For the Life of the World: Towards A Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church" The Lumen Christi Institute, Martin Marty Center & The Fordham Center for Orthodox Christian Studies (Feb 2022)
- **"REVELATION OF THE GOOD?"** for The Contribution of Theology to Rationality: In Honor of Jean-Luc Marion, *The University of Chicago* (Nov 2022)
- **KIERKEGAARD'S FEAR AND TREMBLING** for "Why This Text Matters" *The University of Chicago* Divinity School Martin Marty Center Podcast Video (March 2022)
- **"CONCLUDING REFLECTION"** for "International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Theology," University of Heidelberg, Germany (Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (November 2022).

PHD DISSERTATIONS

- Andrew Packman, "Theology And The Atmospheric Of Race: Schleiermacher, Affectivity, And The Tenacity Of Racism." (Aug 2021), awarded with Distinction.
- Sara-Jo Swiatek, "Religion with the Boundaries of Technicity: Returning to Kant on the Question of Technics." (Aug 2022).