

JONATHAN TRAN

**Associate Professor of Religion (Theology & Ethics)
Graduate Faculty, Department of Religion
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EDUCATION

Duke University, The Graduate School, Department of Religion, Durham, NC

Ph. D. Theology & Ethics, Spring 2006

Minors: Political Theory (external), Early Church History (internal)

Dissertation: "In the Far Country: Time, Eternity, and Memory after the Vietnam War"

Director: Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics

Duke University, Divinity School, Durham, NC

M.Div. summa cum laude, 2002

University of California at Riverside

B.A. Phi Beta Kappa, Political Science, 1994

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Systematic theology, ethics, political theory, ordinary language philosophy, bioethics, race and identity theory.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. *The Vietnam War and Theologies of Memory: Time and Eternity in the Far Country* in the monograph series "Challenges in Contemporary Theology" (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).
 2. *Foucault and Theology* in the monograph series "Philosophy and Theology" (Edinburgh: T & T Clark International, 2011).
 3. Co-Editor, with Myles Werntz, *Corners in the City of God: Theology, Philosophy, and The Wire* (Eugene: Cascade, 2013).
 4. *Yellow Christianity: Migrating Between and Beyond Black and White* (Eerdmans, Under Contract).
- Co-Editor: "Encountering Traditions" Series (Stanford: Stanford University Press).

Articles in Academic Journals

1. "The Vietnam War as Theo-Drama: Balthasar, Kenosis, and the Cold War's Temporal Desperation," *Political Theology* (8:3, 2007), 319-340.
2. "The Limits of Franz Boas' Multiculturalism: An Augustinian Critique," *Polygraph 19: An International Journal of Culture and Politics* (No. 19/20, 2008), 55-77.
3. "Dying with Others: Reflections on Ataxia, Suffering, and Ken's Mom," *Theology Today* (65:4, 2008), 458-468.
4. "Transgressing Borders: Genetic Research, Immigration, and Discourses of Sacrifice," *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (28:2, 2008), 97-116.
5. "The Otherness of Children as a Hint of an Outside: Michel Foucault, Richard Yates, and Karl Barth on Suburban Life," *Theology & Sexuality* (15:2, 2009), 191-211.
6. "Emplotting Forgiveness: Narrative, Forgetting, and Memory," *Literature & Theology* (23:2, 2009), 220-233.
7. "Identity as Missiology," *Annual of the Society of Asian North American Christian Studies* (Vol. 1, 2009), 29-40.
8. "Living Out the Gospel: Asian American Perspectives and Contributions," *Annual of the Society of Asian North American Christian Studies* (Vol. 2, 2010), 13-56; 69-73.
9. "Response: The Possibility of an Asian-American Christian Ethics" *Annual of the Society of Asian North American Christian Studies*, Vol. 3, Summer 2010), 103-110.
10. "Obama, War, and Christianity: The Audacity of Hope and the Violence of Peace," *Christian Ethics Today* (20:86, Spring 2012), 2-7.
11. "Two Kinds of Christian Charity" with Natalie Carnes, *Christian Ethics Today* (21:1, Spring 2013), 6-12.
12. "Scandalizing John Howard Yoder" with David Cramer, Jenny Howell, and Paul Martens, *The Other Journal* (July 7, 2014).
13. "An Atheistic Sense to Stanley Hauerwas' Theology," *Review & Expositor* (112:1, 2015), 119-132.
14. "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration Lectures," *Annual of the Society of Asian North American Christian Studies*, (2014-2015 Special Edition), 55-84.
15. "Drone Dreaming Along the Border: Trump, Immigration, And Rhetorics Of Nostalgia," *Christian Ethics Today* (23:4, Fall 2015), 26-31.

16. "Linguistic Theology: Completing Postliberalism's Linguistic Task," *Modern Theology* (33:1, 2017), 47-68.
17. "Assessing the Augustinian Democrats," *Journal of Religious Ethics* (forthcoming).
18. "Moral Ambiguity and Innovation in Asian American Christianity" submitted for review.

Articles in Edited Academic Volumes

1. "Laughing with the World: Possibilities of Hope in John Howard Yoder and Jeffrey Stout," *The New Yoder*, eds. Peter Dula and Chris Huebner (Wipf & Stock, 2009), 253-270.
2. "A Few Things I want from Asian-American Evangelicalism," *Asian-American Christianity: A Reader*, eds. Viji Nakka-Cammauf and Timothy Tseng (PAACCE and ISAAC, 2009), 243-251.
3. Articles (with Dana Benesh) on "Secularization," "Tolerance," "Excommunication," "Virtue Ethics," *Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*, eds. David Fergusson, Karen Kilby, Iain Torrance, and Ian A. McFarland (Cambridge University Press, 2011).
4. "Time for Hauerwas's Racism," in *Unsettling Arguments: A Festschrift on the Occasion of Stanley Hauerwas's 70th Birthday*, eds. Charles R. Pinches, Kelly S. Johnson, and Charles M. Collier (Cascade, 2010), 254-270.
5. Articles (with Lindsay Cleveland) on "Humanity," "Nationalism," *Dictionary of Scriptural Ethics*, ed. Joel Green (Baker Academic, 2011).
6. "The Diasporic Politics of Asian-American Christianity" in *Korean Diaspora and Christian Mission*, eds. S. Hun Kim and Wonsuk Ma (Regnum Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, 2011), 72-83.
7. "Defending Constantine, Taken Seriously," *Constantine Revisited*, ed. John D. Roth (Pickwick, 2013), 124-132.
8. "Marlo's City of Words: Tempting a Natural Theology of Language," *Corners in the City of God: Theology, Philosophy, and The Wire*, eds. Jonathan Tran and Myles Werntz (Cascade, 2013), 59-75.
9. "The Wound of Tradition," *The Hermeneutics of Tradition*, eds. Cyrus P. Olsen and Craig Hovey (Cascade, 2014), 226-252.
10. "Performing the Self's Plasticity: The Phenomenon of Asian American Elective Plastic Surgery," *Introducing Asian American Christian Ethics* (Baylor University Press, 2015), 245-246.
11. "Anne and the Difficulty of Hauerwas' Church," *The Difference Christ Makes* ed. Charlie Collier (Cascade, 2015), 51-70.

12. "Acknowledging Authority," *Renegotiating Power, Theology, and Politics* eds. Joshua Daniel and Rick Elgendy (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 91-108.
13. "Exitus et Reditus in Marriage" (co-author Brandon Morgan) *Madmen and Theology* ed. Ann Duncan and Jacob Goodson Werntz (Cascade Press, 2016), 292-307.
14. "Killing Time," *Critical Theology against US Militarism in Asia: Decolonization and Deimperialization* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2017), 131-151.
15. "Racial Discrimination," *The Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics* ed. Maria Antonaccio, Elizabeth Bucar, David Clairmont, and William Schweiker (Wiley-Blackwell, Forthcoming 2018).
16. "Business of War in Latin America" (co-author Matthew Whelan) *The Business of War: Theological and Ethical Reflections on the Military-Industrial Complex* (Cascade, Forthcoming 2018)
17. "Ecclesiology and Politics," *T&T Clark Companion to Christian Ethics* (T&T Clark, Forthcoming 2019).

Articles in Non-Academic Publications

1. "Sold into Slavery: The Scourge of Human Trafficking," Cover Story, *Christian Century* (124:24, 2007), 22-26.
2. "The New Black Theology," Cover Story, *Christian Century* (129:3 2012). Winner of the 2012 Associated Christian Press Award for Excellence.
3. "Theology and Misconduct," with David Cramer, Jenny Howell, and Paul Martens, Cover Story, *Christian Century* (August 4, 2014).
4. "A Sanctuary Politics: Being the Church" (co-author Stanley Hauerwas), *Religion and Ethics* of Australian Broadcasting Corporation (March 30, 2017).

Reviews

1. Karl Barth and the Performance of Witness: Critical Reviews of Eberhard Busch's *The Great Passion: An Introduction to the Theology of Karl Barth*, Kurt Anders Richardson's *Reading Karl Barth*, and Joseph Mangina's *Karl Barth: Theologian of Christian Witness*," *Christian Century* (122:24, 2005) 45-48.
2. Understanding War: 3 Books for Consideration, *Vital Theology* (3:18, 2007).
3. Craig A. Carter, *Rethinking Christ & Culture: A Post-Christendom Perspective* (Brazos, 2006), *Religious Studies Review* (33-2, April 2007), 119.

4. Jonathan Y. Tan, *Asian American Theologies* (Orbis, 2008), *Religious Studies Review* (25:1, March 2009), 46-47.
5. J. Kameron Carter, *Race: A Theological Analysis* (Oxford, 2008), *Religious Studies Review* (35:2, June 2009), 115-116.
6. Willie J. Jennings, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* (Yale, 2010), *Religious Studies Review* (37:3, January 2011), 193.
7. *Religion at the Corner of Bliss and Nirvana: Politics, Identity and Faith in New Migrant Communities* ed. Lois Ann Lorentzen et al. (Duke, 2009), *Theology & Sexuality* (Fall, 2013).
8. "The Gift of Difference: Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation" ed. Chris Huebner and Tripp York (CMU, 2010), *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, (LXXXVI:3, July 2012).
9. Symposium on John Milbank's *Beyond Secular Order: The Representation of Being and the Representation of the People* (Wiley 2014), *Syndicate Theology* (Fall 2015).
10. Espen Dahl, *Stanley Cavell, Religion, and Continental Philosophy* (Indiana University Press, 2014), *Modern Theology* (31:4 Fall 2015), 686-688.
11. Tyler Roberts, *Encountering Religion: Responsibility and Criticism after Secularism* (Columbia University Press, 2013), *Modern Theology* (32:4, 2016), 669-671.
12. "Take and Read: Ethics" for *Christian Century* (Spring 2016, 2017, Forthcoming 2018).
13. *Desire, Faith, and the Darkness of God: Essays in Honor of Denys Turner* ed. Eric Bugyis and David Newheiser (University of Notre Dame Press, 2015), *Anglican Theological Review* (99:3, 2017), 595-597.
14. Symposium on John Kiess, *Hannah Arendt and Theology* (T&T Clark, 2016), *Syndicate Theology* (Forthcoming Fall 2017).
15. Graham Ward, *How the Light Gets In: Ethical Life I* (Oxford University Press), *Scottish Journal of Theology* (Forthcoming Fall 2017).
16. Symposium on Ryan Andrew Newsom, *Radical Friendship: The Politics of Communal Discernment* (Fortress, 2017), *Syndicate Theology* (Forthcoming Spring 2018).
17. James K.A. Smith, *Awaiting the King: Reforming Public Theology: Reforming Public Theology* (Baker Academic, 2017), *Marginalia Review of Books* (Forthcoming Spring 2018).
18. Willie James Jennings, *Acts* (Westminster John Knox, 2017), *Scottish Journal of Theology* (Forthcoming Fall 2018).

PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

1. "A Tale of Two Cities: Gift Giving in the City of God," American Academy of Religion, Annual Meetings, San Antonio, November 2004.
2. "The Politics of Re-Memory," American Academy of Religion, Annual Meetings, San Antonio, November 2004.
3. "A Few Things I Want from Asian American Evangelical Theology," American Academy of Religion, Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, November 2005.
4. "Between Worlds at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial," American Academy of Religion, Annual Meetings, Washington D.C., November 2006.
5. "Transgressing Borders: Genetic Control, Immigration, and Discourses of Sacrifice" Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meetings, Atlanta, January 2008.
6. "Confessing the Self as Theological Art: Michel Foucault and the Church Fathers," Institute for Theology, Imagination, and the Arts (ITIA), St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews, May 2009.
7. Keynote Speaker "The Future of Asian American Theology," at the Asian American Leadership Equipping Symposium, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA (November 2009).
8. "The Search for an Asian-American Christian Ethic," Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meetings, San Jose (January 2010).
9. "Diaspora in the Land of Becoming" and "Healing the Generations" for the Evangelical Formosan Church Denominational Conference, Arcadia, CA (February 2011).
10. "Beloved's Memory" for the "Healing the Brokenness" Conference, Houston, TX (May 2011).
11. "Breakfast with an Author: The Vietnam War and Theologies of Memory," Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C. (January 2012).
12. "Theological Analysis of America's Warring," Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C. (January 2012).
13. "Liturgy and Warfare," Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C. (January 2012).
14. "The Audacity of Hope and the Violence of Peace: Obama, War and Christianity"? Christian Reflections on Obama's Wars," The T.B. Maston Lecture in Ethics, George Truett Theological Seminary (January 2012).

15. "Power Acknowledged," for the "Before Authority: Renegotiating Power and Religion Conference," The University of Chicago (May 2012).
16. "Anne and the Difficulty of Hauerwas' Church," Plenary Address, "The Difference Christ Makes: Celebrating the Life, Work, and Friendship of Stanley Hauerwas," Duke Divinity School, Duke University (November 2013).
17. "A Critique of the New Black Theology," Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA (January 2014).
18. Plenary Response to Susanna Heschel," Society of Jewish Ethics, Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA (January 2014).
19. "The End of Words: Bodies, Animals and Language," Leuschner Lectures, Seventh & James Lectures (October 22, October 29, November 5, and November 12, 2014).
20. "Hegel and the Ordinary Language Limits of American Pragmatism," Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL (January 2015).
21. Asian American Heritage Lectures, Seattle Pacific University (Forthcoming, Spring 2015)
22. "Drone Dreaming Along the Border: Trump, Immigration, And Rhetorics Of Nostalgia" Kendrick-Poerschke Memorial Lecture, Furman University (October 2015).
23. "New Directions in Protestant Social Ethics," American Academy of Religion (November, 2015).
24. "Response" for Joint SBL Session for Book of Luke and Book of Acts Section, Society of Biblical Literature (November 2015).
25. "A Case *For* and *Of* Protestant Christian Ethics: Protest and Separateness," Plenary Address, Radix Annual Conference (Summer 2016).
26. "Moral Ambiguity and Innovation in Asian American Christianity," Princeton Theology Seminary and Duke Divinity School (Spring 2017).
27. "My Life with Students: Wittgensteinian Thoughts on Baylor Students" for the Collins Outstanding Professor Award at Baylor University (Spring 2017).
28. "Pearls of Price" for Fall Academic Convocation at Baylor University (Fall 2017).
29. "The Spirit of God Was Hovering Over the Waters': Pressing Past Racialization in the De-Colonial Missionary Context" for Fuller's 2017 Missiology Lectures (Fall 2017).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Baylor University

Thesis Directing (11 Undergraduate Honors Thesis-completed; 4 PhD Graduate Thesis-in progress)

Christology and Embodiment, Instructor Fall 2014
Leadership and the Good Life, Instructor, Fall 2014
Sexuality and the Christian Body, Instructor, Spring 2015
Theology Graduate Colloquium, Instructor, Fall 2012, Spring 2013
Religion Department Senior Seminar, Spring 2012
Globalization and Language, Co-Instructor, Fall 2012
Karl Barth and the Analogia Entis, Instructor, Fall 2012
Theology & Wittgenstein, Instructor, Spring 2011
Director, Baylor in St. Andrews, Scotland, Director, Spring 2009
Theology at the End of History, Instructor, Spring 2009
Race, Racism, and Reconciliation in America, Instructor, Fall 2009
Introduction to Christian Ethics, Instructor, Spring 2008, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2012, Spring 2015
Bioethics, Instructor, Fall 2006-Fall 2015
Introduction to the Christian Heritage, Instructor, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2016
Latour, Materiality, and Theology (co-taught with Alan Jacobs), Spring 2016
Introduction to the Christian Scriptures, Fall 2017
Linguistic Theology, Spring 2017
Ethical Theory, Fall 2017

Fuller Theological Seminary

Christian Discipleship in a Secular World, Instructor, Summer 2010, Summer 2011

Duke University

Writing the Academy Inside Out, Instructor, Fall 2005

Duke Divinity School

Christianity and Radical Democracy, Head Teaching Assistant, Spring 2006
Sex, Gender, and Discipleship, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2006
War and Peace in the Christian Tradition, Head Teaching Assistant, Fall 2005
Doctrine of the Trinity, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2005
Introduction to Preaching, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2005
Karl Barth and his Interpreters, Head Teaching Assistant, Fall 2004
Introduction to Christian Ethics, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2004, Fall 2003
Black Church in America, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2004
Introduction to Early Church History, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2002
Writing Program Evaluator, Fall 2004, Spring 2004, Fall 2003

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE SERVICE

Spiritual Life and Moral Formation Task Force (2016-Present)
Faculty-in-Residence Council (2010-Present)
University Tenure Committee (2012-Present; Chair 2014-2015)
Bias Motivated Incident Support Team Co-Chair (2008-2013; Chair 2008-2013)
Religion Department Speakers & Lectures Committee (2006-2008)

Presidential Advisory Committee on Diversity (2009-Present)
Religion Department Undergraduate Studies Committee (2009-Present)
Religion Graduate Program in Religion Administrative Committee (2011-2012)
University Chartering Council (2011-2013)
Global Community Advisory Board (2011-2013)
Retention of Underrepresented Student Groups Ad Hoc Committee (2010-2012)
Religion Department Select Committee on Baylor Religion in St Andrews (2009-2010)
Religion Department Tenure-Track Theology Search Committee (2009-2010)
Religion Department Christian Ethics Lecturer Search Committee (2010-2011)
Religion Department Christian Ethics Lecturer Search Committee Chair (2012-2013)
Center for International Education New Programs Committee (2009-2010)

RESEARCH GRANTS

2010 Wesleyan Center Visiting Summer Scholar, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego
2010 Baylor University Summer Research Grant
2009 Wesleyan Center Visiting Summer Scholar, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego
2009 Baylor University Summer Research Grant
2009 Baylor University Arts and Humanities Research Development Program Grant
2008 Pre-Tenure Summer Fellowship, Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton
2008 Baylor University University Research Committee (URC) Grant
2008 Baylor University Summer Research Grant
2007 Baylor University Summer Faculty Institute
2006 Baylor University Summer Research Grant

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Christian Ethics (2006-Present), Board of Directors (2013-Present; Board of Directors, 2013-Present; Executive Committee 2014-2015)
Asian and Asian American Working Group Co-Convener, Society of Christian Ethics (2010-2012)
American Academy of Religion (2003-Present)