

SEAN LARSEN

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EDUCATION

- 2013 **Duke University**, Durham, NC
PhD, Religion
Major: Theology and Ethics; *Minors:* Early Christianity, Literature
Dissertation Title: “Beyond Public and Private: A Theological Transfiguration”
Advisor: Paul J. Griffiths
Committee: Stanley Hauerwas, Reinhard Hütter, Kenneth Surin, Kathryn Tanner
- 2007 **Yale Divinity School**, New Haven, CT
MDiv, *summa cum laude*
- 2003 **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Madison, WI
BA, History and Philosophy, *with distinction*
Certificate: Religious Studies

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2016 **Carroll University**, Instructor
COURSES: World Religions
Cultural Studies: Cultural Seminar (2 sections)
Cultural Studies: Cross Cultural Experience
- 2013-2016 **High Point University**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion
COURSES: Introduction to Christianity (13 sections, 2 online)
Speaking of Sex (3 sections)
Contemporary Christian Theology (2 sections)
Great Theologians: Augustine
Evil, Suffering, and God
- 2012-2013 **Duke Divinity School**, Instructor
COURSES: Theology and Political Theory (with Stanley Hauerwas)
Truthfulness, Rhetoric, and Irony (with Stanley Hauerwas)
- 2010-2013 **Duke Course of Study**, Instructor
COURSES: Historical Theology: Early and Medieval Christianity
Historical Theology: Reformation (5 sections)
- 2008-2013 **Duke University**, Preceptor
COURSES: History of the Christian Church (Hans Hillerbrand)
World Christianity and Christian Responses to Poverty (Luke Bretherton)
Christian Ethics (Stanley Hauerwas)

The Life and Thought of Augustine of Hippo (Paul Griffiths)
 American Christianity (Kate Bowler)
 Early and Medieval Christianity (Warren Smith; 3 sections)
 Modern European Christianity (Sujin Pak, 2 Sections)
 Happiness, the Life of Virtue, and Friendship (Stanley Hauerwas)

OTHER ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

2012-2013 **Duke Divinity School**, Writing Tutor and Assessor

2005-2008 **Research Assistant**
 Miroslav Volf, Amy Laura Hall, Reinhard Hütter, Richard Hays, Grant Wacker

ARTICLES

2016 **“How I Think Hauerwas Thinks about Theology,”** *Scottish Journal of Theology* 69, no. 1 (February 2016). Followed by a response from Stanley Hauerwas, **“Connecting: A Response to Sean Larsen.”**

“The Word Was Always Flesh,” *Syndicate Theology*, Book Symposium on “Convulsing Bodies: Religion and Resistance in Foucault,” by Mark Jordan, (June 2016).

2015 **“Natural Law and the Sin against Nature,”** *Journal of Religious Ethics* 43, no. 4 (December 2015): 629-673.

“Contemplata Aliis Tradere: Notes on Tina Beattie’s Lacanian Thomism,” *Syndicate Theology*, Book Symposium on “Theology after Postmodernity” by Tina Beattie, 1, no. 4 (January 2015): 147–63.

“Trying Again” and “A Second Response to Tina Beattie,” Book Symposium on “Theology after Postmodernity,” by Tina Beattie *Syndicate Theology*, (January 24, 2015). <https://syndicatetheology.com/commentary/contemplata-aliis-tradere/>

2013 **“The Politics of Desire: Two Readings of Henri de Lubac on Nature and Grace,”** *Modern Theology* 29, no. 3 (2013): 279–310.

FORTHCOMING **“What Nick Wolterstorff and Stanley Hauerwas Have to Say to One Another.”** Extended Review of Wolterstorff’s book *The Mighty and the Almighty: An Essay in Political Theology*. Forthcoming in *The Other Journal*.

RESUBMITTED **“Sorting the Augustinians: Augustine, Liberalism, and the Turn to Particularity.”**

REVIEWS

- 2016 *Ethics as a Work of Charity: Thomas Aquinas and Pagan Virtue* by David Decosimo. Reviewed for *Modern Theology*, 32, no. 2 (April 2016): 289-290.
- 2014 *Thomas Aquinas: Faith, Reason, and Following Christ* by Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt. *Religious Studies Review* 40, no. 4 (December 1, 2014): 224.
- Stricken by Sin, Healed by Christ: Agency, Necessity, and Culpability in Augustinian Theology* by Jesse Couenhoven. Reviewed for *Religious Studies Review* 40, no. 4 (December 1, 2014): 222.
- From Morality to Metaphysics: The Theistic Implications of Our Ethical Commitments* by Angus Ritchie. Reviewed for *Theology* 117, no. 1 (January 1, 2014): 68–69.
- 2013 *Thomas Aquinas: A Portrait* by Denys Turner. Reviewed for *Religious Studies Review* 39, no. 4 (December 2013): 278.
- 2012 *Paul Ricoeur Between Theology and Philosophy: Detour and Return* by Boyd Blundell. Reviewed for *Review of Metaphysics* 65, no. 3, (March 2012): 643-4.
- 2010 *The Command of Grace: A New Theological Apologetics* by Paul D. Janz. Reviewed for *Modern Theology* 26, no. 4 (October 2010): 663-5.

ARTICLES UNDER REVISION

“Politics and the Supernatural: A Rational Reconstruction of de Lubac’s Augustinianism,” *Pro Ecclesia*.

“Speaking the Truth in Mercy: The Importance of Emotional Formation for Making Moral Judgments.”

BOOKS IN PREPARATION OR UNDER CONTRACT

Naked and Unashamed: Rethinking Sex and Politics with Augustine (late stages of revision)

Speaking about Sex: Biology, Sex, and Christian Ethics (co-written with Angela Bauer, a reproductive endocrinologist; early stages of preparation, under contract with Cascade Companions Series)

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 “Speaking the Truth in Mercy: Spirituality and the Moral Meanings of Scripture.” Paper accepted at the Marquette Scripture Project Graduate Conference, “Biblical Ethics in the 21st Century,” Milwaukee, WI, April 8-9, 2016.

- 2015 “Response” to “Contesting the Center” Paper session at the Virginia Graduate Colloquium on Theology, Ethics, and Culture, “Center or Vanishing Point? Perspectives on Theology and Religious Studies.” Charlottesville, VA, March 20-21, 2015
- 2014 “Naked and Unashamed: Rethinking Sex and Politics with Augustine” in “Augustine and Politics Workshop,” Duke University, June 20, 2014. Day long workshop with more than twenty peers and mentors who read and critiqued my revised book manuscript.
- “Political Theology and the Theologians: Schmitt and Some Contemporary Interlocutors.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 3-4, 2014.
- 2013 “Protestant Theology in the Nineteenth Century,” for “History of the Christian Church,” (Hans Hillerbrand) Duke University Department of Religion.
- “Counter-Enlightenment Reactions to the New Science,” in “History of the Christian Church,” (Hans Hillerbrand) Duke University Department of Religion.
- “Augustine and Politics Colloquium at the University of Virginia” (invited discussion participant), July 25-28, 2013, organized by Charles Mathewes and Joseph Claire.
- “Response” to “The Commodified Corpse” Session at the Virginia Graduate Colloquium on Theology, Ethics, and Culture, “Reckoning with Death.” Charlottesville, VA, April 5-6, 2013
- 2012 “Natural Law and the Sin against Nature,” in “Christian Ethics” (Stanley Hauerwas), Duke Divinity School.
- “Beyond Public and Private: The Queer Way the Virgin Mary Exalts Humanity.” Dissertation chapter presented at the Duke Theology and Ethics Doctoral Colloquium, Durham, NC, November 27, 2012.
- “‘And Over All These Virtues Put on Charity’: The Politics of the Unity of the Virtues in Augustine and Aquinas.” Paper presented at the Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Villanova University, October 26, 2012.
- “Sorting the Augustinians: What the Christian/Pagan Distinction Means for Moral Description.” Paper presented at the Virginia Graduate Colloquium on Theology, Ethics, and Culture, Charlottesville, VA, April 14, 2012.
- 2011 “The Grammar of the Moral Life: Augustine’s Response to Prosper and Hilary,” for “The Life and Thought of Augustine of Hippo,” (Paul Griffiths) Duke Divinity School.

“Public and Domestic in Augustine’s *De sancta virginitate*,” for “The Life and Thought of Augustine of Hippo,” (Paul Griffiths) Duke Divinity School.

“A De-Centered Augustine for De-Naturalized Societies: Two Types of Augustinianism.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 22, 2011.

“Catholic Social Thought: A Critical Investigation” (invited participant) Graduate Seminar in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition with Prof. Russell Hittinger, August 9-14, 2011.

2010 “Domesticating Nuptials: Mapping the Ambiguities of Christian Marriage.” Paper presented at the Duke Theology and Ethics Colloquium, Durham, NC, October 19, 2010.

2009 “Kant, Scotus, and Happiness,” for “Happiness, the Life of Virtue, and Friendship,” (Stanley Hauerwas) Duke Divinity School.

“Gift of Identity: An Interpretation and Evaluation of de Lubac on the Supernatural.” Paper presented at the Duke Theology and Ethics Colloquium, Durham, NC, March 17, 2009.

2008 “Spiritual Reading as an Ascetic Practice: Origen on Scripture.” Paper presented at the UVA-Duke Theology Consortium, Durham, NC, September 13, 2008.
“Theological Imagination and the Biblical Text: A Case Study of Lessing and Nietzsche.” Paper presented at the UVA-Duke Theology Consortium, Charlottesville, VA, Feb. 9, 2008.

“On the End of the World: Barth, Augustine, and Kant on the Law of Love and the Possibility of a Meaningful Life.” Paper presented at the Duke Theology and Ethics Colloquium, Durham, NC, November 8, 2008.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

2016 NEH Summer Institute Grant, *Problems in the Study of Religion*, Charlottesville, VA, May 31-June 17 2016

2015-2016 High Point University, Teaching Scholars Program

2010-2011 Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University

2007-2012 Graduate School Fellowship, Duke University

2008-2011 James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University

Awarded to top ten percent Duke Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

- 2007 Dwight Hooker Fellowship Prize, Yale Divinity School
- 2004-2007 E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation Scholarship, Yale Divinity School
Merit-based scholarship, full tuition and stipend
- 2004 Fourth Prize, Reaching Common Ground Jewish-Christian Essay Competition
On inter-religious dialogue, over four thousand submissions
- 2003 Phi Beta Kappa, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Michael & Frank Gallo Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2002 Florence Waste Pulver Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2000-2003 Dean's List, University of Wisconsin-Madison

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2016 Editorial Board, *Syndicate Theology*
- 2016 *Augustine and Politics Workshop*, participant, Princeton University, July 12-13 2016
- Syndicate Summit*, participant, Villanova, PA, July 19-20 2016
- 2015- 2016 Cultural Programming Committee, High Point University
- 2015 *Augustine and Politics Workshop*, co-organizer (with Charles Mathewes), High Point University, June 2015.
- 2014-2015 Participant in Honors Salon, High Point University.
- First Year Seminar Committee, High Point University.
- Peer-Reviewer for *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.
- 2013 *Augustine and Politics Seminar*, invited and funded participant, University of Virginia, July 2013.
- 2013-PRESENT Peer-Reviewer for *Modern Theology*.
- Peer-Reviewer for *Journal of Religious Ethics*.
- 2009-2011 Co-convener, Duke Theology and Ethics Colloquium, Duke, 2009-2011

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

THEOLOGY AND ETHICS

Augustine; Aquinas; fundamental moral theology; theological anthropology; philosophical theology; social encyclicals; social, political, and sexual ethics; Christology; contemporary contextual theologies

EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Augustine's life; late antique constructions of sex and gender; early Christian biblical exegesis; Trinitarian and Christological controversies

LITERATURE/PHILOSOPHY

Philosophical ethics; Foucault; queer theory; political philosophy; action theory; social theory; feminist theory

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Society of Christian Ethics

LANGUAGES

Latin, French, German

REFERENCES

Angela Bauer
Professor and Chair of Biology
High Point University
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High Point, NC 27268
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Paul J. Griffiths
Warren Professor of Catholic Theology
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Stanley Hauerwas
Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics

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Charles T. Mathewes
Carolyn M. Barbour Professor of Religious Studies
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Professor of Religious Studies
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