

# J. Aaron Simmons

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy  
Hendrix College  
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### Education

*Ph.D.* – Vanderbilt University, 2006, Philosophy

Dissertation: *Violence and Singularity: Thinking Politics Otherwise with Rorty, Kierkegaard, and Levinas*

Dissertation Committee: David Wood (director), Diane Perpich (director), John Lachs, Merold Westphal

*M.A.* – Vanderbilt University, 2005, Philosophy

*M.A.* – Florida State University, 2001, Humanities

Emphasis in Intellectual History with special focus on Romanticism

*B.A.* – Lee University, *Magna Cum Laude*, 1999, History with a Minor in Religion

### Areas of Specialization

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century European Philosophy (esp. Existentialism and Phenomenology), Philosophy of Religion

### Areas of Competence

Political Philosophy, Ethical Theory, Environmental Philosophy

### Academic Positions

Summer 2010 – Present	<i>Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Distinguished Scholarships Advisor</i> – Hendrix College
2007- Spring 2010	<i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy</i> – Hendrix College
2006-2007	<i>Lecturer in Philosophy</i> – Vanderbilt University
Fall 2006	<i>Teaching Supervisor</i> – Vanderbilt University Center for Ethics Oversaw four graduate students from the Vanderbilt Law School and Divinity School who taught discussion sections for the Introduction to Ethics course in the Philosophy Department
2005-2006	<i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy</i> – The University of the South (Sewanee)

### Publications

#### Books

(1) *God and the Other: Ethics and Politics After the “Theological Turn,”* Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, forthcoming March, 2011.

(2) *New Phenomenology: A Philosophical Introduction* (co-authored with Bruce Ellis Benson), Continuum Press, under contract (currently writing the manuscript; expected completion date is Spring 2012).

(3) *Whitehead and Levinas: Alterity, Ecology, Dialogue, and Globalization* (co-authored with Jay McDaniel), Rodopi Press, under contract (currently writing the manuscript; expected completion date is Spring 2011).

#### Edited Books

(4) *Levinas and Kierkegaard: Ethics, Politics, and Religion*, (co-edited with David Wood), Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2008.

Reviews:

(1) *Jewish Book World* (Summer 2009): 42-43.

(2) *Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter* 55 (October 2009): 27-28.

#### Journal Articles (\* indicates peer reviewed)

(1) \* “Gabriel Biel and Occasionalism: Overcoming an Apparent Tension” (with Fred Alondi), *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 28, no.2 (April 2011): 159-73.

- (2) \* “Heretics Everywhere: On the Continuing Relevance of Galileo for Philosophy of Religion” (with Fred Ablondi), *Philosophy and Theology* 22, no.1-2 (2010): 49-76.
- (3) \* “Levinas and Whitehead: Notes toward a Conversation to come” (with Jay McDaniel), *Process Studies* 40, no.1 (2011), forthcoming. (A revised version—peer reviewed in China—will also be published in Chinese as: “列维纳斯与怀特海,” in *World Philosophy* 3, (2011), forthcoming.)
- (4) \* “‘A Faith Without Triumph’: Emmanuel Levinas and Prophetic Pragmatism,” *Mono Kurgusuz Labirent: Reflections on Levinas* 4, no. 8-9 (Fall 2010). (Also published in Turkish as: “Zaferden Yoksun İnanc: Emmanuel Levinas ve Kahin Pragmatizmi”)
- (5) \* “A Lived Theology of the Encounter: Deconstructive Selfhood and the Religion of DMX” (with Jonathan Stadler), *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, (Spring 2011), forthcoming.
- (6) \* “Revisiting Gender Inclusive God-Talk: A New, Wesleyan Argument” (with Mason Marshall). *Philosophy and Theology* 20, no.1 (Fall 2009): 241-61.
- (7) \* “Teaching Plato with Emoticons” (with Scott F. Aikin), *APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy* 9, no.1 (Fall 2009): 5-7.
- (8) \* “‘Vision Without Image’: A Levinasian Topology,” *Southwest Philosophy Review* 25, no.1 (2009): 23-31.
- (9) \* “From Necessity to Hope: A Continental Perspective on Eschatology Without *Telos*” (with Nathan R. Kerr), *Heythrop Journal* 50, no.6 (Fall 2009): 948-65.
- (10) \* “Levinasian Otherism, Skepticism, and the Problem of Self-Refutation” (with Scott F. Aikin), *Philosophical Forum* 40, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 29-54.
- (11) \* “Evangelical Environmentalism: Oxymoron or Opportunity?” *Worldviews: Environment, Culture, Religion* 13, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 37-68.
- (12) \* “God in Recent French Phenomenology,” *Philosophy Compass* 3, no.5 (Fall 2008): 910-32.
- (13) \* “Is Continental Philosophy Just Catholicism for Atheists? On The Political Relevance of *Kenosis*,” *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* 15, no.1 (Spring 2008): 94-111.
- (14) \* “What About Isaac? Re-Reading *Fear and Trembling* and Re-Thinking Kierkegaardian Ethics,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 35, no.2 (Spring 2007): 319-45.
- (15) \* “Politics as an Ethico-Religious Task: Kierkegaard and Levinas on Religion in the Public Square,” *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 89, no.1-2 (Spring/Summer 2006): 1001-1018.
- (16) \* “Finding Uses for Used-Up Words: Thinking *Weltanschauung* ‘After’ Heidegger,” *Philosophy Today* 50, no. 2 (Summer 2006): 156-169.
- (17) \* “Making Tomorrow Better than Today: Rorty’s Dismissal of Levinasian Ethics” (with Diane Perpich), *Symposium* 9, no. 2 (Fall 2005): 241-266.

### **Book Chapters**

- (18) “Richard Rorty: Kierkegaard in the Context of Neo-Pragmatism,” in *Kierkegaard Research: Sources, Reception, and Resources, Vol.11: Kierkegaard’s Influence on Philosophy, Tome III: Anglophone Philosophy*, ed. Jon Stewart (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2011).
- (19) “Apologetics After Objectivity,” in *Religion With Religion*, ed. J. Aaron Simmons and Stephen Minister.
- (20) “Introduction: Religion *With* or *Without*,” in *Religion With Religion*, ed. J. Aaron Simmons and Stephen Minister.
- (21) “Toward a Relational Model of Anthropocentrism: A Levinasian Approach to the Ethics of Climate Change,” in *Faces of Nature: Levinasian Ethics and Environmental Philosophy*, ed. William Edelglass, Chris Diehm, and Jim Hatley (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, forthcoming).

- (22) "Seeking Charity After Justice: A Levinasian Vision of Liberal Democracy," [an extended essay of 75 pages] in *Levinas and Liberal Democracy*, ed. Richard Cohen (Albany: State University of New York Press, forthcoming) – The volume also includes extended essays by Richard Cohen, Jill Stauffer, and Roger Burggraeve.
- (23) "Continuing to Look for *God in France*: On the Relationship Between Phenomenology and Theology," *Words of Life: New Theological Turns in French Phenomenology*, ed. Bruce Ellis Benson and Norman Wirzba (New York: Fordham University Press, 2010), 15-29.
- (24) "Existential Appropriations: Jean Wahl's Influence on Levinas's Reading of Kierkegaard," in *Kierkegaard and Levinas: Ethics, Politics, and Religion*, ed. J. Aaron Simmons and David Wood, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008), 41-66.
- (25) "Good Fences May Not Make Good Neighbors After All" (with David Wood), in *Kierkegaard and Levinas: Ethics, Politics, and Religion*, ed. J. Aaron Simmons and David Wood (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008), 1-17.

#### **Interviews, Commentaries, and Review Essays**

- (26) "Luck, Justice, and Equality: A Response to Cervantez," *Southwest Philosophy Review*, forthcoming.
- (27) "On Being Inspired by Levinas: An Interview with J. Aaron Simmons" (Interviewed by Volkan Çelebi), *Mono Kurgusuz Labirent: Reflections on Levinas* 4, no. 8-9 (Fall 2010).
- (28) "Moments of Intense Presence: An Interview with David Wood," *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 10, no.1 (Winter 2009): 81-101.
- (29) "Become Joyful, Become Active, But Do Not Forget About Being Responsible: A Commentary on Anupa Batra's 'Deleuze's Ethics: An Interpretation Through His Reading of Spinoza'," *Southwest Philosophy Review* 23, no.2 (2007): 21-6.
- (30) A Review Essay of, David F. Wells, *Above All Earthly Powers: Christ in a Postmodern World* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005). *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 8, no.1 (Winter 2006).

#### **Translations**

- (31) Pierre Hadot, "There are Nowadays Professors of Philosophy, but not Philosophers," *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 19, no. 3 (Fall 2005): 229-37. (Translated from French)

#### **Book Reviews**

- (1) Courtney Bender and Pamela E. Klassen, eds., *After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2010). In *The Church and Postmodernism: A Conversation* (<http://churchandpomo.typepad.com/>), forthcoming.
- (2) Paul Marcus, *Being for the Other: Emmanuel Levinas, Ethical Living, and Psychoanalysis* (Marquette University Press, 2008). In *Heythrop Journal* (May 2010): 504-06.
- (3) David Michael Kleinberg-Levin, *Before the Voice of Reason: Echoes of Responsibility in Merleau-Ponty's Ecology and Levinas's Ethics* (Albany: State University of New York Press), 2008. In *Environmental Philosophy* 6, no.2 (Fall 2009): 4-7.
- (4) Merold Westphal, *Levinas and Kierkegaard in Dialogue*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press). In *Søren Kierkegaard Society Newsletter* no. 54 (March 2009): 28-30.
- (5) Kirsteen Kim, *The Holy Spirit in the World: A Global Conversation*, (Maryknoll: Orbis Books). In *Pneuma* 30 (Fall 2008): 359-60.
- (6) Michael Purcell, *Levinas and Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006). In *Philosophy In Review* 27, no.3 (June 2007): 227-29.
- (7) L. Gregory Jones, Reinhard Hüter, and C. Rosalee Velloso Ewell, eds., *God, Truth, and Witness: Engaging Stanley Hauerwas* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2005). In *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* (Fall 2007): 146-52.

- (8) Peter Jonkers and Ruud Welten, eds., *God in France: Eight Contemporary French Thinkers on God* (Leuven: Peeters, 2005). In *Bulletin de la Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française* 15, no.2 (Spring 2007): 99-105.
- (9) Judith Butler, *Giving An Account of Oneself* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2005). In *The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 7, no.2 (Spring 2006).
- (10) Richard Rorty and Gianni Vattimo, *The Future of Religion*, ed. Santiago Zabala (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005). In *Philosophia Christi* 7, no.2 (Winter 2005): 524-528.
- (11) Elsebet Jegstrup, ed., *The New Kierkegaard* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004). In *Teaching Philosophy* 28, no. 2 (June 2005): 191-94.

### **Popular Audience Essays and Other Publications**

- “On Fecundity, Fidelity, and Expectation: Reflections on Philosophy and Fatherhood,” in *Papa, Ph.D.*, ed. Mary Ruth Marotte and Paige Martin Reynolds (New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2011), 59-65.
- “Between Tonight and Tomorrow: On Obama’s Election,” *Log Cabin Democrat* (Conway, AR), November 6, 2008.
- “Index,” for David Wood, *The Step Back: Ethics and Politics After Deconstruction*, (Albany: SUNY Press, 2005).
- “Index” (with Chad Maxson), for *Truth: A Dialogue Between Philosophical Traditions*, eds. David Wood and Jose Medina, (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005).

### **Works in Progress/Under Review**

- *Religion With Religion* (co-authored with Stephen Minister, Bruce Ellis Benson, Jeffrey Hanson, and Drew Dalton) (co-edited with Stephen Minister). The manuscript is complete and under review at Duquesne University Press and Continuum Press.
- “A Goldilocks God: Between the Metaphysics of Presence and the Metaphysics of Absence” (with John Sanders), currently in progress – to be submitted to *Faith and Philosophy*.
- “Justice Than Which None Greater Can Be Conceived: An Open Response to John Caputo” (with John Sanders), currently in progress – to be submitted to *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*.
- “Prospects for a Levinasian Epistemic Informatism” (with Scott F. Aikin), currently in progress.

## **Courses Taught**

### **Philosophy Courses**

#### **100-Level**

Logic; Introduction to Philosophical Questioning; Environmental Philosophy; Self and Society; The Nature of the Political: Ancient and Modern; The Self, The World, and the Other; God, Self, and Rationality; Environmental Ethics (discussion section); The Ethics of Forgiveness (discussion section); Introduction to Philosophy and Moral Choices

#### **200-Level**

Ethics and Society; Philosophy and Literature; Existentialism; Humans and their Others; Philosophy and Popular Culture; Environmental Philosophy

#### **300-Level**

Philosophy of Religion; Ethical Theory; Rawls and His Critics

#### **400-Level**

Postmodernism: Heidegger, Levinas, and Derrida; The Postmodern God; Kierkegaard; Political Ontology in Heidegger and Arendt

### **Graduate Seminars**

Phenomenology

### **Directed Independent Studies**

Radical Political Theory; Sartre and De Beauvoir; Contemporary Feminism; Richard Rorty; The Ethics of Non-Profit Organizations

### Interdisciplinary Humanities Courses

Modern Humanities: The Enlightenment to Postmodernism; Multicultural Dimensions of Film in Twentieth Century American Culture; Renaissance Intellectual History and Philosophy, Journeys (a core humanities class required of all freshman at Hendrix College)

### Senior Theses Directed:

Lana Allen—"A Mouffean Critique of Liberalism" (2011)  
Zora McBride—"Subjectivity After the Death of the Subject" (2010)  
Elliott Machin—"Kant and Schiller on the Transformation of the Struggle Between Objectivity and Subjectivity" (2010)  
Liza Poris—"A New Argument for Rationality: The Conversion of C.S. Lewis and Antony Flew" (2010)  
Houston Hughes—"Between Plantinga and Dawkins: A Critical Reply to the New Atheism" (2009)  
Johnathan Boswell—"The Contemporary Relevance of the Ontological Argument" (2009)  
Chad Owens—"Cass Sunstein's Critique of Liberal Democracy" (2008)  
James Murray—"I and I: Rastafari Ontology" (2008)

### Committee Member for Senior Theses:

Claire Burns—"Hemmingway Through a Heideggerian Lens"

### Committee Member for Independent Interdisciplinary Majors at Hendrix College:

Lana Allen—"Political Theory" (Chair)  
Jenn Baker—"Social Justice and Sustainability" (Chair)  
Emily Mitchell—"Organizational Leadership" (Chair)  
Linh Chuong—"Social Justice: Identity, Society, and Ethics" (Chair)  
Laura Langley—"Medieval and Renaissance Studies"

### Professional Service

Humanities Advisory Editor for *CultureFrame* ([www.cultureframe.org](http://www.cultureframe.org))  
Contributor to *The Church and Postmodernism: Conversation* (<http://churchandpomo.typepad.com/>)  
Referee for Routledge Press  
Referee for Wadsworth/Thompson Learning Inc.  
Referee for *History of Philosophy Quarterly*  
Referee for *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*  
Referee for *Philosophia Christi*  
Referee for *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*  
Referee for *Southwest Philosophy Review*  
Referee for North Texas Philosophical Association

### University Service

Hendrix Honors Committee (Fall 2010-present)  
Hendrix Philosophy Department Webmaster (2007-present)  
Diversity Concerns Committee, Chair (Hendrix 2008-2010)  
Maymester Evaluation Committee (Hendrix 2009-2010)  
Working Group on Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum (Hendrix 2008-2009)  
Sponsor of Hendrix University Philosophy Club (2007-present)  
Faculty Fellow for Hendrix Varsity Baseball Team (2008-present)

### Reading Languages

French – Passed departmental translation requirement, Fall 2003  
German – Passed reading exam, Spring 2004  
Danish – Intensive study at St. Olaf College, Summer 2004

### Academic Experience (Non-teaching)

2007-Present *Board Member* – Marshall T. Steel Center for the Study of Philosophy and Religion at Hendrix College.  
2009 *Session Chair* – Søren Kierkegaard Society Meeting as part of the American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), New York, NY.  
2007 *Session Chair* – Metaphysical Society of America, Nashville, TN  
2006-2007 *Research Fellow* – for an interdisciplinary faculty research group focused on the issue of *Eco-Spirituality*. The group is funded by a grant from the Vanderbilt University Center for the Study of Religion and Culture and is organized by David Wood and Beth Conklin.  
2004-2006 *Research Assistant* – Vanderbilt University, for John Stuhr

- 2004 *Research Assistant* – Vanderbilt University, for Diane Perpich  
 2004 *Editorial Assistant* – *Bulletin de la Société Américaine de Philosophie de Langue Française*  
 2003 *Editorial Assistant* – David Wood and Jose Medina, eds., *Truth: A Dialogue Between Philosophical Traditions*, (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005)  
 2002 *Session Chair* – “International Conference of Romanticism,” Tallahassee, FL  
 2001 *Session Chair* – “Conference on Film and Literature,” Florida State University

### **Academic Presentations (Selected)**

#### **2011**

- (1) Upcoming – “Philosophy of Religion Across the Disciplines.” University of Alabama (invited).
- (2) Upcoming – “Continental Philosophy of Religion: A Future.” Postmodernism, Culture, and Religion 4, Syracuse University.
- (3) Upcoming – “Exploring the Contemporary Relevance of Whitehead” (with Pat Shade). Tri-State Liberal Arts Philosophy Symposium, Millsaps College (invited).

#### **2010**

- (4) “A Goldilocks God?” (with John Sanders). National American Academy of Religion – Philosophy of Religion Section, Atlanta, GA.
- (5) “Justice than Which None Greater Can be Conceived: Defending An Open Approach to Alterity and Responding to John Caputo” (with John Sanders). National American Academy of Religion – Open and Relational Theology Group, Atlanta, GA.
- (6) “Luck, Justice, and Equality: A Response to Cervantez .” Southwestern Philosophical Society, Memphis, TN.
- (7) “Environmentalism and Evangelical Politics.” University of Central Arkansas (invited).
- (8) “Social Justice in an Environmental Age,” Rhodes College (invited).
- (9) “Reading Levinas and Derrida After Audi: An Argument for the Viability of Foundationalism in New Phenomenology,” MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (10) “So Now What: A Commentary on Carlson’s Rule-Circularity and the Justification of Deduction,” MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (11) “Levinasian Otherism and Modest Foundationalism,” North Texas Philosophical Association, Denton, TX.

#### **2009**

- (12) “Between Walzer and Levinas: Political Viability as a Regulative Constraint on Environmental Philosophy,” Society for Social and Political Philosophy (in conjunction with the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association), New York, NY.
- (13) Commentary on Kierkegaard Panel, Søren Kierkegaard Society (in conjunction with the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association), New York, NY.
- (14) “Fecundity, Fidelity, and Expectation: Reflections on Philosophy and Fatherhood,” Arkansas Philological Association, Eureka Springs, AR.
- (15) “Heavenly Minded and Earthly Good: Evangelical Christianity and Environmental Ethics,” Central Methodist University (invited).
- (16) “Climate Change as Meta-Ethical Emergency: An Argument for a Relational Anthropocentrism,” MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (17) “A Not So Impotent Rights Theory: A Response to Merriam,” MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.
- (18) “Is Anthropocentrism the Best Model for Contemporary Environmental Ethics?” Co-presented with Steven Smith, Tri-State Liberal Arts Philosophy Symposium, Conway, AR
- (19) “Widows, Orphans, Strangers, and Swamp-Marshes,” Harding University (invited).

#### **2008**

- (20) “Existential Appropriations: The Influence of Jean Wahl on Levinas’s Reading of Kierkegaard,” Søren Kierkegaard Society (in conjunction with the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion), Chicago, IL (invited).
- (21) “Vision Without Image: A Levinasian Topology,” Southwestern Philosophical Society, Kansas City, MO.
- (22) “Reconstructive Separatism: What Has Phenomenology to do with Theology?” University of Mississippi (invited).
- (23) “*Simul Justus et Peccator*: Dissociative Identity, Deconstructive Selfhood, and the Religion of DMX,” (with Jonathan Stadler), Popular and American Culture Association of the South, Louisville, KY.
- (24) “What Does ‘Ethics’ Mean in Postmodernism?” Harding University (invited).
- (25) “Levinasian Otherism, Skepticism, and the Problem of Self-Refutation,” (with Scott F. Aikin), MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN.

- (26) "On Giving and Receiving Accounts: Justification in a Deconstructive Democracy," American Academy of Religion Southwestern Regional Conference, Dallas, TX.
- (27) "Opposition or Interlocutor? New Possibilities for Contemporary Continental Philosophy of Religion," Mississippi Philosophical Association, Memphis, TN.
- (28) "Five Themes in New Phenomenology," North Texas Philosophical Association, Denton, TX.
- (29) "If I Came Naked Thus . . . GeoCultural Constraints on Deliberation and an Appeal for Environmental Theo-Praxy," Climate Change and Consumption: An Interdisciplinary Conference, Nashville, TN.
- (30) "Eschatology Without a *Telos*" (with Nathan R. Kerr), Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Duke University.
- (31) "Is Caring for People the Key to Caring for the Environment?" Vanderbilt University Berry Lecture (invited keynote address).

#### 2007

- (32) "Politics, Religion, and The Environment," Vanderbilt University (invited).
- (33) "Ecotheology and Christian Environmentalism," Hendrix College (invited).
- (34) "Joy and Desire in Postmodernity" (with John Simmons), C.S. Lewis Foundation Southeastern Regional Conference, Nashville, TN.
- (35) "Vision Without Image: Levinas's Challenge to Philosophical Sight," as part of a panel entitled *Time, Image, and the Other: Levinas and Cinema*; The North American Levinas Society, Purdue, IL
- (36) "Theology as Practice: A Wesleyan Response to a Feminist Version of the Problem of Evil" (with Mason Marshall), Wesleyan Theological Society, Bourbonnais, IL
- (37) "The Ontological Stakes of the Political," Wheaton College (invited)
- (38) "I Believe that I Believe': Postmodern Catholic Resources for Contemporary Evangelicalism," Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Bourbonnais, IL
- (39) "Is Continental Philosophy Just Catholicism for Atheists? On the Political Relevance of Kenosis," The University of Dayton (invited)

#### 2006

- (40) Commentary on Anupa Batra's "Deleuze's Ethics: An Interpretation through his Reading of Spinoza," Southwestern Philosophical Society, Nashville, TN
- (41) "From Wyschogrod to Bonhoeffer: Is Postmodern Prescriptivity Possible?" Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
- (42) "Is Levinas a Liberal Democrat?" North American Levinas Society, West Lafayette, IN
- (43) "Standing Before God By Standing Next To Others: Kierkegaard on Ethics and Ontology," The Society of Christian Philosophers, Notre Dame, IN
- (44) "Continuing to Look for *God in France*: On the Relationship Between Phenomenology and Theology," Society of Continental Philosophy and Theology, Birmingham, AL
- (45) "Politics as an Ethico-Religious Task: Re-thinking Religion and the Nation with Kierkegaard and Levinas," *Religion and the Nation*: University of Tennessee Nexus Conference
- (46) "Kenosis and Political Critique – Or, Why So Much God-Talk in Continental Philosophy?" Colby College (invited)

#### 2005

- (47) "Kierkegaardian Transparency and Ethical Selfhood," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
- (48) Commentary on Kristie Dotson's "Emmanuel Levinas on Husserl's 'Fifth Cartesian Meditation'," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
- (49) "Missing the Other and Missing the Point: Richard Rorty's Formalist Critique of Emmanuel Levinas," Encounters with the Other Conference, Loyola University Chicago
- (50) "Making Tomorrow Better Than Today: Rorty's Dismissal of Levinasian Ethics," (with Diane Perpich), *Philosophical Collaborations Conference*, Southern Illinois University

#### 2004

- (51) "Traces of Transcendence: A Possible Account of Platonic Forms," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
- (52) Commentary on Mason Marshall's paper, "The Doctrine of Recollection and Psychagogical Paradox in Plato's *Meno*," Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
- (53) "Finding Uses for Used-up Words: Thinking *Weltanschauung* 'After' Heidegger," After Worldview Civitas Conference, Cornerstone University
- (54) "What About Isaac? God and Politics in Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*," The University of the South (invited)
- (55) "Maintaining the Paradox: Wittgenstein, Kierkegaard and the Possibility of the Religious Life," Covenant College (invited)
- (56) "The Alterity of Testimony: Trauma and Truth in Levinas and Heidegger," Address to the Lee University Philosophical and Psychological Societies (invited)

### **2003**

- (57) “The Conversation of Freedom: Indirect Communication in Kierkegaard and Emerson,” Emerson Bicentennial Conference, Vanderbilt University
- (58) “Substituting-Ahead: Levinas Beyond Heidegger Towards Heidegger,” Emory University Graduate Conference
- (59) “Encountering the Other: An Introduction to the thought of Emmanuel Levinas,” Address to the Lee University Philosophical Society (invited)

### **2002**

- (60) “Why Not Take All of Me: The Role of Passion in the Hegelian Dialectic,” Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN
- (61) “The Trembling Approach: Towards a Kierkegaardian Sublime,” International Conference of Romanticism, Tallahassee, FL

### **2001**

- (62) “Kant’s Sublime and Foucault’s Pipe: Pleasurable Pain in Aesthetic Dissimilitude,” Conference on Film and Literature, Florida State University

### **Invited Public Lectures (Non-academic)**

#### **2010**

- “Environmental Justice and Religious Existence,” Little Rock.
- “Justice as a Way of Life,” Harding University Forum on Peace and Justice

#### **2009**

- “Navigating the Postmodern World: A Discussion of *Kierkegaard and Levinas: Ethics, Politics, and Religion*,” Faulkner County Public Library
- “Why Every Christian Should Read Nietzsche,” First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR

#### **2008**

- “On Postmodern Apologetics,” First United Methodist Church, Conway, AR

#### **2006**

- “Four Theses on the Future of Christian Environmentalism,” Nashville Forum on Christianity and the Environment

### **Conferences and Events Organized**

- 2012 *Justice as a Virtue*, Society of Christian Philosophers Central Regional Meeting (co-organized with John Sanders and to be held at Hendrix College)
- 2010 *Symposium on Medical Humanities* (Hendrix College)
- 2009 *Tri-State Liberal Arts Philosophy Symposium* (featuring Hendrix College, Rhodes College, and Millsaps College)
- 2009 *For the Least of These Our Brethren: Faith, Justice and the Environment* (with Scharmél Roussel and Leo Hauser). Little Rock, Arkansas
- 2007-2010 Organizer of the *Central Arkansas Gatherings on Philosophy* (monthly discussion group for Philosophy faculty from several local colleges and universities)
- 2006 *Nashville Forum on Christianity and The Environment* (with Beth Conklin and Jonathan Gilligan)
- 2004 *God and Politics*, Vanderbilt University
- 2003 *Emerson Bicentennial Conference* (with Michael Broderick), Vanderbilt University

### **Academic Honors and Awards**

- 2010 Nominated by Hendrix College Provost for Franklin and Marshall Junior Scholars Fellowship
- 2008-2010 Award in Recognition of Service – Hendrix College Students for Black Culture
- 2006 Vanderbilt University Berry Award for Departmental Service
- 2005 Vanderbilt University Center for the Study of Religion and Culture Summer Graduate Fellowship
- 2005 Vanderbilt University Robert Penn Warren Humanities Center Summer Graduate Fellowship (Declined)
- 2005 Vanderbilt University Summer Research Grant in Arts and Science (Declined)
- 2005 The Chancellor’s List
- 2004 *Summer Fellow* – Howard V. and Edna H. Hong Kierkegaard Library
- 2004 Vanderbilt University Summer Research Grant in Arts and Science
- 2003-2004 Philosophy Departmental Fellowship – Vanderbilt University
- 2003 *Invited Participant* – Vanderbilt University Summer Institute for Social and Political Thought
- 2003 Philosophy Department Travel Grant – Vanderbilt University



- 2003 Graduate School Travel Grant – Vanderbilt University  
 2001 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award – Florida State University  
 2001 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society  
 1999 U.S.A.A. Academic All-American  
 1999 Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges  
 1999 National Honor Roll  
 1999 Excellence in History Award – Lee University  
 1998-1999 Alpha Chi National Honors Scholarship Society  
 1996-1999 Honors Scholarship – Lee University  
 1998-1999 Kappa Lambda Iota History Honors Society – Lee University.  
 1997 Semester in Europe: Cambridge, England – Lee University  
 One of twenty students chosen by an extensive application and interview process to spend a semester in England studying British history and culture. Semester thesis: *Form and Function in Gothic Cathedrals*  
 1995 Presidential Scholarship – Lee University

## **Professional Organizations**

### **Positions Held:**

Society of Christian Philosophers (Central Region) – Regional Committee Member (2010)  
 North Texas Philosophical Association – Member at Large (2010)

### **Memberships:**

Levinas Research Seminar (invited member since 2008)  
 American Philosophical Association  
 American Academy of Religion  
 Society of Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy  
 Society of Continental Philosophy and Theology  
 Society of Christian Philosophers  
 North American Levinas Society  
 Søren Kierkegaard Society

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