

MATTHEW PUFFER

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
Christ College
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Valparaiso IN 46383
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of Humanities and Ethics, Christ College, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY	2022–
Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Divinity, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE	2023
Reid Fellow, Cambridge Theological Federation, WESTMINSTER COLLEGE	2022-23
Imbesi Fellow, The Augustinian Institute, VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY	2019
Assistant Professor of Humanities and Ethics, Christ College, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY	2016-22
Siena Teaching Fellow, Ethics Program, VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY	2015-16
Postdoctoral Fellow, INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN CULTURE	2014-15

EDUCATION

PhD	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Religious Studies	2014
MDiv	PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	2009
BS	NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, Chemical Engineering	1999

PUBLICATIONS

Book Monographs

Ethics In Crisis, Ethics in Hope: Bonhoeffer's Unfinished Theological Ethics and the Future of Human Dignity. New Studies in Bonhoeffer's Theology and Ethics. London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, (forthcoming).

Augustine on the Image of God: Scriptural Imagination, Moral Formation, and the Development of Doctrine (in preparation)

Edited Volumes

With Charles Mathewes and Mark Storslee, *Comparative Religious Ethics: Critical Concepts in Religious Studies.* 4 Volumes. New York: Routledge, 2016.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"Turning Points in Bonhoeffer's Ethics of Resistance" in *UBonhoeffer and the Voice of the Other: Critical Essays on Bonhoeffer's Theology in a World of Struggle*, edited by Timothy Judson, Anthony Reddie, and Alison Walker, London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, (forthcoming).

"Toward a Theological Ethic of Intergenerational Responsibility: Bonhoeffer's Christ as Mediator for the Coming Generation," in *Bonhoeffer and the Responsibility for a Coming Generation: Doing Theology in a Time Out of Joint*, edited by Robert Vosloo, Teddy Sakupapa, Ashwin Thyssen, and Karola Radler. New Studies in Bonhoeffer's Theology and Ethics. London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2024.

"Is Bonhoeffer's analogia relationis still of any use? Anticipating White and Hardin on Anthropocentrism and Freedom," in *Dietrich Bonhoeffer in einer globalen Zeit / Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a Global Era*, edited by Philip Ziegler and Christiane Tietz, Goettingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht GmbH and Co. HG, 2024.

"The Image of God in the City of God" in *Augustine and Ethics*, edited by Sean Hannan and Kim Paffenroth. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2023.

"Barth and War" in *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Karl Barth*, edited by George Hunsinger and Keith Johnson. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2020.

"Three Rival Versions of Moral Reasoning: Interpreting Bonhoeffer's Ethics of Lying, Guilt, and Responsibility" *Harvard Theological Review* 112:2 (2019): 160-183.

"Creation" in *The Oxford Handbook of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, edited by Michael Mawson and Philip Ziegler. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

"Human Dignity After Augustine's *Imago Dei*: On the Sources and Uses of Two Ethical Terms," *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 37:1 (2017): 65-82.

With Nicola Bulled, "Introduction: Thinking Through Resistance" in *Thinking Through Resistance: A Study of Public Oppositions to Contemporary Global Health Practice*, edited by Nicola Bulled, Advances in Critical Medical Anthropology Series. New York: Routledge, 2017.

"Retracing Augustine's Ethics: Lying, Necessity, and the Image of God," *Journal of Religious Ethics* 44:4 (2016): 685-720.

"Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the Theology of Karl Barth" in *Karl Barth in Conversation*, eds. David Congdon and Travis W. McMaken. Eugene, Ore.: Pickwick, 2014.

"The 'Borderline Case' in Bonhoeffer's Political Theology" in *Dem Rad in die Speichen fallen: Das Politische in der Theologie Dietrich Bonhoeffers/A Spoke in the Wheel: The Political in the Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, eds. Kirsten Busch Nielsen, Ralf Wüstenberg, and Jens Zimmermann. Gütersloher, Germany: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 2013.

"Taking Exception to the *Grenzfall's* Reception: Revisiting Karl Barth's Ethics of War," *Modern Theology* 28:3 (2012): 478-502.

"Bonhoeffer's Ethics of Election: Discerning a Late Revision," *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 14:3 (2012): 255-276.

Book Reviews

Stephen C. van den Heuvel, *Bonhoeffer's Christocentric Theology and Fundamental Debates in Environmental Ethics*, *Theology Today* 76:2 (2019): 171-2.

Claudia Welz, *Humanity in God's Image: An Interdisciplinary Exploration*, *Reading Religion* (2017).

Jesse Couenhoven, *Stricken by Sin, Cured by Christ: Agency, Necessity, and Culpability in Augustinian Theology*, *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 37:1 (2017): 203-4.

Matthew Drever, *Image, Identity, and the Forming of the Augustinian Soul*, *Reviews in Religion & Theology* 21:3 (2014): 333-6.

Daniel L. Migliore, *Commanding Grace: Studies in Karl Barth's Ethics*, *Center for Barth Studies* (2012).

Keith Clements, *The SPCK Introduction to Bonhoeffer* and D. Densil Morgan, *The SPCK Introduction to Karl Barth*, *Theology* 114:1 (2011): 64-6.

Gary M. Simpson, *War, Peace and God: Rethinking the Just-War Tradition*, *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 9:1 (2009).

Robert B. Stewart, *Intelligent Design: William A. Dembski & Michael Ruse in Dialogue*, *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 8:10 (2008).

Other Publications

Five Questions with Jesse Couenhoven on *Stricken By Sin, Cured By Christ*, Symposium Ethics (<http://symposiumethics.org/2015/10/13/stricken-by-sin-cured-by-christ/>).

With Laura Alexander and Travis Pickell, “Instructor Resources” and “Student Resources” for Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* 7th ed., OUP, 2013 (www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199924585/?view=usa).

With Betsy Mesard and Travis Pickell, “Instructor Resources” for Ruth Gaare Bernheim, James F. Childress, Alan Melnick, and Richard J. Bonnie, *Essentials of Public Health Ethics*, Jones & Bartlett, 2013 (www.jblearning.com/catalog/9780763780463/).

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the Theology of Karl Barth,” Karl Barth Blog Conference, response by Andy Rowell, 2010 (<http://derevth.blogspot.com/2010/09/2010-kbbc-week-1-day-3.html>).

“Reintegration of Biological and Environmental Issues in Bioethics,” “Faith Healing and Refusal of Medical Care,” “Conflicts of Interest or Ethical Quandaries?” “Therapeutic Privilege: Its Moral Status,” “Acting in the Patient’s Best Interests,” “Access to Liver Transplantation: Is Moral Responsibility a Relevant Criterion?” *BioLaw* (2010).

HONORS AND AWARDS

University Research Professor, Valparaiso University	2022-23
Associate Fellow, UVa Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture	2015–
Summer Research Fellowship, Valparaiso University	2020
CHIP Micro-Grant, Institute for Leadership and Service	2019
German-American Bonhoeffer Research Network, Federal Republic of Germany	2017-20
Ramsey Fellow, Paul Ramsey Institute, Center for Bioethics and Culture	2017-19
Summer Research Fellowship, Valparaiso University	2017
Doctoral Fellowship, UVa Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture	2013-14
Junior Fellow, University of Virginia Society of Fellows	2013-14
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, UVa Religious Studies	2014
Teaching Fellowship, Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life	2013-14
Doctoral Fellowship, UVa Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture	2012-13
Society of the Purple Shadows Teaching Award, University of Virginia	2012
Environmental Ethics Fellowship, Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life	2012
Graduate Fellowship, UVa Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture	2011-12
The Outstanding AAR Graduate Paper Award, AAR Southeast Region	2011
Charles Bryant Fund Doctoral Fellowship, UVa Religious Studies	2009-11

PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The Crisis and Future of Human Dignity,” XIV International Bonhoeffer Congress, United Theological College, Sydney, AUS.
- 2023 “Human Nature, Human Dignity, and Artificial Intelligence,” Augustine Fellows Seminar, Valparaiso University.
- 2023 Response to Julien Smith, “Welcome One Another: A Pauline Ethics of Neighborly Love,” Sodalitas Forum, Valparaiso University.
- 2023 “Reforming Nationalism: Turning Points in Barth’s and Bonhoeffer’s Ethics of War, Peace, and Resistance,” Wentz Faculty Seminar, Valparaiso University.
- 2023 “*Semper Profice: Developing the Imago Dei After Augustine*,” Systematic Theology Research Seminar, King’s College, University of Aberdeen.
- 2023 “The Development of Augustine’s Doctrine of the *Imago Dei*,” Theology and Ethics Research Seminar, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh.
- 2023 “The Image of God and the Reformed Tradition” and “The Image of God and Reforming Mission” Ministers Refresher Workshops, Westminster College, Cambridge, UK.
- 2023 “The Development of Augustine’s Doctrine of the Image of God,” Systematic and Historical Theology Research Seminar, St Mary’s College, University of St Andrews.
- 2023 “The Future of Human Dignity,” Lounge Lecture Series, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford.
- 2023 “The Development of Augustine’s Doctrine of the Image of God,” Graduate Ethics Seminar, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford.
- 2023 “The Development of Augustine’s Doctrine of the Image of God,” Christian Theology Research Seminar, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge.
- 2022 “Thinking with the Image of God: Biblical, Theological, and Liturgical Interpretations,” Westminster College, Cambridge, UK.
- 2022 “The Development of Augustine’s Doctrine of the Image of God,” Society for the Study of Christian Ethics, Cambridge, UK.
- 2022 “Voices of Reentry: A Community Conversation with our Formerly Incarcerated Colleagues” Moderator and Co-organizer, ILAS Event with Fr. Gregory Boyle, Valparaiso University.
- 2022 “Project Neighbors: Creating a ‘World House’ in Valpo’s Backyard,” Panelist, Transforming Advocacy and Community Focus Session, MLK Day Celebration, Valparaiso University.
- 2020 “Christ as Mediator for the Coming Generation: A Theological Ethic of Intergenerational Responsibility,” XIII International Bonhoeffer Congress, Stellenbosch, SA.
- 2019 “Toward the Image of God: Scripture, Formation, and Augustine’s Catholic Imagination,” Imbesi Family St. Augustine Fellow Lecture, The Augustinian Institute, Villanova University.

- 2019 Response to Jesse Couenhoven, “The Justice in Mercy: A Hopeful Pessimist’s Account,” Ethics Colloquium, Villanova University.
- 2018 “Engineering Paradoxes or Pandora’s Boxes?: Reconsidering Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Centenary of Armistice Day,” IEEE Society Dinner, Valparaiso University.
- 2018 “Why Confess? Understanding the Inner and Outer World of Augustine’s *Confessions*,” Saint Augustine Lecture, Augustine and Culture Seminar Program, Villanova University.
- 2018 “Contextualizing Augustine’s *Confessions*,” Faculty Workshop, Augustine and Culture Seminar Program, Villanova University.
- 2018 “Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Empathy, Dialogue, and Responsibility,” Remembering the Reformation Lecture, Valpo Core Program, Valparaiso University.
- 2018 “Teaching Bonhoeffer: Context, Empathy, and Dialogue,” Core Faculty Workshop, Valparaiso University.
- 2018 “The Good Life and the Common Good: The Problem and Promise of Pluralism,” Christ College Symposium, Valparaiso University.
- 2018 “Three Rival Interpretations of Bonhoeffer’s *Ethics*: Divine commands, moral law, and borderline situations,” *Society of Christian Ethics*, Portland.
- 2017 “Engineering for the Common Good,” Christ College 50th Anniversary, Homecoming Weekend, Valparaiso University.
- 2017 “Three Rival Interpretations of Bonhoeffer’s *Ethics*,” Fellowship for Protestant Ethics, Princeton Theological Seminary.
- 2017 “Three Rival Versions of Bonhoeffer’s *Ethics*,” German-American Bonhoeffer Research Network, Union Theological Seminary, New York.
- 2017 “Three Rival Versions of Bonhoeffer’s *Ethics*,” Invited Lecture, King’s College, University of Aberdeen.
- 2017 “Augustine and Childress on Justifying War: The Challenge of ‘The Challenge of Peace,’” Invited Lecture. Praxis Award Academic Symposium, Villanova University.
- 2017 “*Fides Quarens Intellectum*: On the possibility of the knowledge of God in Anslem and Barth,” Christ College Symposium, Valparaiso University.
- 2016 “Human Dignity and Global Eco-ethics: Is the *analogia relationis* still of any use?” XII International Bonhoeffer Congress: Engaging Bonhoeffer in a Global Era, Basel, CH.
- 2016 “The Problems of Anthropocentrism and Future Generations: Is Bonhoeffer’s *analogia relationis* of any use?” Fellowship for Protestant Ethics, Baylor University.
- 2016 Response to Timothy Hanchin, “Educating in Caritas: Towards a hermeneutics and pedagogy of friendship in Catholic higher ed,” Ethics Colloquium, Villanova University.
- 2016 Response to John Bowlin, “Tolerance Troubles: Vice, Virtue, or Craft,” Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Colloquium, LaSalle University.

- 2016 “Dignity, Development, and the Imago Dei,” *Society of Christian Ethics*, Chicago.
- 2015 “The Future of Human Dignity,” Joint Session of Religion and Humanism Group and Comparative Religious Ethics Group, *American Academy of Religion*, Atlanta.
- 2015 “Augustine’s Scriptural Reimagining of the Image of God,” *Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference*, Villanova.
- 2015 “Augustine on the Image of God: An Ethical Inquiry,” *Augustine and Politics Colloquium*, High Point University.
- 2015 Response to Albert Shin, “Cultivating Conscience: The Amiable Virtues,” *Ethics Colloquium*, Villanova University.
- 2015 “(Ad)Ventures in Assisted Reproduction: A thought experiment,” Guest presentation with Travis Pickell for “Reproductive Ethics and Law” course, University of Virginia Law School.
- 2015 “Retracing Augustine’s Ethics: Lying, Necessity, and the Image of God,” Workshop presentation, Ethics Program, Villanova University.
- 2014 “Reflections on John Evans’s *Definitions of the Human*,” Respondent, *Virginia Center for the Study of Religion*, Charlottesville.
- 2014 “Western Trinitarian Thought: Augustine,” Guest lecture for “Introduction to Christian History” course, College of William & Mary.
- 2014 “The Environmental Ethics of Holmes Rolston III,” Guest lecture for “Religion, Ethics, and the Environment” course, University of Virginia.
- 2013 “Job Market Realities, Strategies, and Opportunities,” Presider and Organizer, Special Topics Forum, *American Academy of Religion*, Baltimore.
- 2013 “Human Dignity After the Image of God,” Constructive Theologies Section, *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Greenville, SC.
- 2013 “Preparing for the Job Market,” Presider and Organizer, Graduate Student Session, *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Greenville, SC.
- 2012 “Augustine and Barth on the Image of God and the Responsibility to Protect,” Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group, *American Academy of Religion*, Chicago.
- 2012 “Contours of Islamic Ecotheology: Past and Present,” Guest lecture for “Ecotheology” course, Mary Washington University.
- 2012 “On the Image of God and the Responsibility to Protect,” *Society for the Study of Christian Ethics*, Cambridge, UK.
- 2012 “The ‘Borderline Case’ in Bonhoeffer’s Political Theology,” XI International Bonhoeffer Congress: Reconsidering the Political in the Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Sigtuna, SE.
- 2012 “Reflections on Nigel Biggar’s *In Defence of War*,” Respondent, *Virginia Center for the Study of Religion*, Charlottesville.

- 2012 “Comparative Religious Ethics: Status Quaestionis,” with Charles Mathewes and Mark Storslee, *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Atlanta.
- 2011 “Planning/Hosting Grad Student Conferences,” Moderator, *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Atlanta.
- 2011 “Three Rival Versions of Bonhoeffer’s Ethics,” Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group, *American Academy of Religion*, San Francisco.
- 2011 “Revisiting Karl Barth’s Ethics of War,” Karl Barth Society of North America, *American Academy of Religion*, San Francisco.
- 2011 “The Death of an All-Too-Human God: Barth and Feuerbach on the Essence of Christianity,” Guest lecture for “The Death of God” course, University of Virginia.
- 2011 “Reinterpreting Bonhoeffer’s Ethics: Embracing Guilt No More,” New Conversations in Bonhoeffer’s Theology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2011 “Revisiting Barth on War: Taking Exception to the Grenzfall’s Reception,” Ethics, Religion, and Society Group, *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Louisville.
- 2010 “Reconciling Rosenzweig’s and Gadamer’s Phenomenology and Hermeneutics?” Respondent, Phenomenology and Scripture Group, *American Academy of Religion*, Atlanta.
- 2010 “Augustine and Bonhoeffer on Treacherous Truth-Telling,” Treachery and Traitors: Third Annual UVA. History Graduate Students Conference, Charlottesville.
- 2008 “Bonhoeffer’s Doctrine of Election in His Theological Ethics,” X International Bonhoeffer Congress: Between Fundamentalism and Secularism, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2008 “Faith and Suffering in Hebrews,” New Testament Epistles Group, *Society of Biblical Literature* Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, New Brunswick, NJ.

TEACHING

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

2016–

The Christian Tradition
 Christian Theology and the Moral Life: Augustine of Hippo
 Bonhoeffer’s Theology and Ethics
 Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Science, Theology, and Ethics in Modernity
 Engineering for the Common Good
 Humanity as the Image of God
 Imprisoned Minds (Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program)
 Interpretation: Self, Culture, and Society
 Inquiry in the Liberal Arts
 Science, Technology, & Society
 Science and Religion in Cambridge (Study Abroad Seminar)
 Texts and Contexts I & II: Traditions of Human Thought (Christ College First-Year Program)

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE	2024
Business Ethics (Moreau College Initiative – Prison Education Program)	
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY	2015-16
The Good Life: Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems (on-ground 6x, online 2x)	
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	2009-15
Business, Ethics, and Society (5x)	
Ethics and Law of Human Subject Research (co-taught with Lori Shepherd, School of Medicine)	
Human Dignity: The Sources and Uses of a Concept (co-taught with Chad Wellmon)	
Religion, Ethics, and the Environment (co-taught with James Childress)	
Religious Ethics and Moral Problems (TA with Charles Mathewes)	
Theology, Ethics, and Medicine (TA with James Childress)	

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY	
Faculty Senator	2023–
Budget Review Committee, Office of the President	2021–
Valpo LEADs Mentor	2023-24
Data Team, rpk GROUP	2023
Faculty Compensation Working Group	2023
Valpo LEADs Cohort	2021-22
Coordinator, Christ College First-Year Program	2020-22
University Writing Committee	2020-22
Institutional Review Board	2019-22
Committee on Honorary Degrees	2018-22
Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs Search Advisory Committee	2020
Faculty Grievance Committee, Faculty Senate	2018-20
Institute for Leadership and Service, Raquet Director’s Chair, Search Committee Chair	2019
Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, Instructor Certification	2019
Christ College Dean Search Committee	2017-18
Library Advisory Council	2018
Fulbright Scholarship Interview Committee	2017
Writing Intensive Course Committee, Christ College	2016-17
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION	
Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis, Program Unit Co-chair	2021–
Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis, Steering Committee	2018-20
Membership Task Force	2014-15
Graduate Student Committee	2012-14
SECSOR (AAR Southeast Region) Executive Boardmember, Student Director	2012-14
SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS	
Moral Theory Group, Co-chair	2021–
Convener, Facilitator, etc.	2014–

‘FAITH AND POLITICS: POLITICAL THEOLOGY IN A NEW KEY’

Advisory Board, Lexington Books series edited by Lori Brandt Hale and W. David Hall 2023–

ACADEMIC JOURNAL REFEREE

International Journal of Systematic Theology

Journal of Religion

Journal of Religious Ethics

Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics

Political Theology

PROJECT NEIGHBORS

Executive Board, Treasurer 2024–

Boardmember 2021–

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Research Associate, UVa Center for Global Health 2014-15

Research Assistant to James Childress 2010-14

Research for *Public Bioethics: Principles and Problems* (Oxford University Press, 2020)

Research for *Essentials of Public Health Ethics* (Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2013)

Research Assistant to Chad Wellmon 2009, 13

Manuscript editing for *Organizing Enlightenment: Information Overload and the*

Invention of the Modern Research University (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015)

Manuscript editing for *Becoming Human: Romantic Anthropology and the Embodiment of Freedom* (Penn State University Press, 2010)

Research Assistant to Dan Via 2011

Manuscript editing for *The Hardened Heart and Tragic Finitude* (Eerdmans, 2012)

On-site Coordinator, NEH Summer Seminar: “The Study of Religion” 2011

Organizer and Inaugurator, *Virginia Graduate Colloquium on Theology, Ethics, and Culture* 2011

Grants Received: *Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, Society for Scriptural Reasoning, UVa Department of Religious Studies, UVa Graduate School of Arts & Sciences*

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Research Assistant to Daniel Migliore 2009

Manuscript editing for *Commanding Grace: Studies in Karl Barth’s Ethics* (Eerdmans, 2010)

Research Assistant, Center for Barth Studies 2008-09

Latin and Greek translation editing for *Church Dogmatics Study Edition* (T&T Clark, 2009)

Coordinator, Karl Barth Conference, “Barth on Religion and the Religions” 2009

Student Representative, PTS Accreditation Self-Study Committee 2008-09

Adult Education Instructor, Tower Hill First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank 2007-08

Assistant Editor, Princeton Theological Review 2007-08

ST. DAVID’S SCHOOL, Raleigh NC

Physics and Honors Physics (Upper School) 2005-07

Moral Philosophy (Senior Capstone Seminar) 2006-07