

## Jason A. Mahn, Ph.D.

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Chair, Religion Department  
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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D.	2004	Emory University, Atlanta, GA Religion / Theological Studies
M.A.	1998	Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN Theology and Doctrine
B.A.	1995	Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN Religion and English, with emphasis in writing <i>magna cum laude</i>

### **CURRENT AND PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

#### **Director, Presidential Center for Faith and Learning at Augustana College (2017-)**

Primarily funded through external grants and alumni gifts, the Center “lifts up and lives out” Augustana’s Five Faith Commitments—commitments to Interfaith Engagement, Social Justice, Spiritual Exploration, Reasoned Examination of Faith, and Vocational Discernment. As Director, I support Augustana’s new Interreligious Leadership certificate program; edit the journal *Intersections* (see below); serve one the planning committee of the Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference; lead ALE (Augustana as Lutheran Education), a faculty discussion group about Augustana’s mission, identity, and church-relatedness; advise Augustana’s pre-seminary students (see below); and work with campus ministries to bring speakers to campus who enable students to reflect on their faith and the mission of the institution.

#### **Associate Professor of Religion, Augustana College (2011-present; assist. professor 2007-11)**

Tenure granted 2011. Position entails teaching upper level undergraduate courses to religion majors, minors, and general education students, plus multiple sections of one required “Christian Traditions” course to underclass students. Rigorous scholarship (equivalent to book publication) and service are also expectations for tenure. Trimesters; 2-2-3 teaching load before departmental chair course release.

#### **Editor, *Intersections***

*Intersections* is a publication by and largely for the academic communities of the 26 colleges and universities of the ELCA which reflects on the intersection of faith, learning, and teaching within Lutheran higher education. Editorial duties include inviting submissions, communicating with authors, editing and layout, connecting with readers,

raising awareness about *Intersections* and Lutheran higher education at relevant conferences, and other tasks.

**Chair, Department of Religion, Augustana College (2014-2017)**

Departmental chair for 5 tenured professors, 3 full time lectures and fellows, and several adjunct faculty members. Manage departmental budget; organize teaching schedules; oversee faculty development; evaluate departmental members for tenure and promotions; connect with future, present, and graduated religion majors; and other tasks.

**Advisor, Pre-Seminary Program, Augustana College (2012-present)**

Mentoring and advising students through seminary exploration and preparation; communicate with local churches and Lutheran and other seminaries; in conjunction with campus ministries, bring noted Christian leaders to campus to model careers in ministry as broadly construed; connect students to Lutheran Volunteer Core, Young Adults in Global Mission and other “gap year” opportunities, and other duties.

**Director, Holden Village Term (2013-present)**

Recruit students and two other teaching faculty; plan and oversee the “Holden Term,” consisting of 5 weeks on campus and 6 weeks in Holden Village, a Lutheran Retreat Center and intentional community in the Cascade Mountains; teach the course, “Creator, Creation, and Calling,” as well as a one-credit Holden Seminar. The next Holden Term is Winter Trimester, 2017-18.

**Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Duke University (2004-2007)**

Teaching undergraduate religion and writing courses on thematic topics (sin and suffering, religious pluralism, Kierkegaard, religious responses to war, religion and secularism, etc). Courses were primarily first-year introductions to academic writing (WR20), through the Duke University Writing Program.

**Instructor of Religion, Emory University and Candler School of Theology (2002-2004)**

Through the Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, instructing two undergraduate courses and one master’s level course; serving as various teaching assistants and associates (as PhD student).

**TEACHING**

**TEACHING AWARDS AND GRANTS**

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|------------|--|
| 2007       | Duke University Award for Excellence in Teaching Writing (university-wide award; sole recipient for 2007) See: <a href="http://uwp.duke.edu/writing-20/award-for-excellence-in-teaching-writing/2007-jason-mahn">http://uwp.duke.edu/writing-20/award-for-excellence-in-teaching-writing/2007-jason-mahn</a> |
| 2012, 2011 | Finalist (2011) and then winner (2012) of Augustana’s “Last Lecture” award, presented annually to three faculty members whom senior students elect to give a final academic address prior to graduation commencement.  |

2014, 13	President's New Initiatives Grant to develop and teach an ALE ("Augustana as Lutheran Education") course to 8-9 colleagues annually about Lutheran higher education
2014	Faculty New Initiatives Grant to support exploration of a new Interfaith Certificate program at Augustana.
2014	Institute for Service Learning Course Grant to support a two-day service learning trip to New Hope Catholic Workers Farm within RELG 364: Prayer, Community and Transformation
2013-17	Five Augustana Grants for Faculty-Student Interaction to support Religion major's presentations of their Senior Inquiry projects at the Midwest American Academy of Religion, Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio.
2015, 14, 08	Humanities Grants to support class visits to area Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish and Spanish-speaking Pentecostal communities.
2012, 2007	Two Vocational Reflection Course Grants for incorporation of vocation reflection in LS110: Myths of Meaning, RELG 335: Luther: Life, Thought and Legacy, and RELG 209: Christian Theology
2009	Student Research Committee Grant in support of my undergraduate student's paper at the Midwest American Academy of Religion Conference in Chicago.
2002-2003	Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Emory University. Selective fellowship to design and teach two courses through Emory College and Candler School of Theology.

### **AUGUSTANA COLLEGE COURSES**

Fall 2007	LSFY 110:	Myths of Meaning: Creation and Fall in Christian History (2 sections)
Winter 2007-08	RELG 335:	Luther: Life, Thought, & Legacy
	LSFY 110:	The Religious Self in the Modern Age (2 sections)
Spring 2008	RELG 328:	Theological Investigations
Fall 2008	RELG 328LC:	Theological Investigations; Learning Community: "God and the Modern," with Mike Augspurger, English
	RELG 260:	Introduction to Religion ("Gateway" course for majors)
Winter 2008-09	RELG 209:	Christian Theology (2 sections)
Spring 2009	RELG 335:	Luther: Life, Thought, & Legacy (2 sections)
	RELG 391:	Suffering, Death, and Endurance (majors, minors only)

Fall 2009	HON 101:	Self and Other (2 sections; through Honors program; fulfills Christian Traditions requirement)
	RELG 260:	Introduction to Religion (“gateway” course for majors)
Spring 2010	RELG 209:	Christian Theology (2 sections)
Fall 2010	HON 101:	Self and Other (2 sections)
	RELG 335:	Luther: Life, Thought, and Legacy
Winter 10-11	RELG 328:	Theological Investigation (2 sections)
Spring 2011	RELG 209:	Christian Theology (2 sections, one as a Learning Community: “Death and the Remainder of Life: Theological and Literary Perspectives,” with Paul Olsen, English
Fall 2011	RELG 364:	Prayer, Community & Transformation (a service-learning course), with Laura Hartman, Religion
	RELG 391:	Suffering, Death, and Endurance (majors, minors only)
	RELG 328:	Theological Investigations
Winter 2011-12	RELG 209:	Christian Theology (2 sections)
Spring 2012	RELG 209:	Christian Theology (2 sections)
	RELG 399:	“Renegade Theology” (8 student guided study)
Fall 2012	RELG 328:	Theological Investigations
	RELG 209:	Christian Theology (2 sections)
Winter 2012-13	HON 220:	Certainty/Uncertainty (2 sections), with Jason Peters, English
	RELG 399	Kierkegaard and Heidegger, with Heidi Storl (guided study)
Spring 2013	RELG 335LC:	Luther: Life, Thought, and Legacy; Learning Community with John Pfautz, Music
	HON 103:	Vision and Visionaries: Christian-Muslim Dialog, with Cyrus Zargar, Religion
2013-14	Sabbatical Leave	
	RELG 399	Working with Faith (1 credit course for pre-seminary Students)
Fall 2014	RELG 364:	Prayer, Community, and Transformation (a service-

	RELG 391:	learning course) Suffering Death, Endurance
Winter 2014-15	HON 220:	Certainty/Uncertainty (2 sections), with Jason Peters, English
	RELG 384	Micah House Seminar (one credit course for Micah House residents)
	RELG 399	Working with Faith (one credit course for pre-seminary students)
	RELG 355	Senior Inquiry Seminar (coordinator as chair)
Spring 2015	RELG 209:	Christian Theology
	RELG 155:	Encountering Religion (new “gateway” course for majors)
Fall 2015	RELG 209:	Christian Theology
	RELG 155:	Encountering Religion
	RELG 384:	Micah House Seminar
Winter 2015-16	RELG 383:	Creator, Creation, and Calling (Holden Village course)
Spring 2016	HON 103:	Vision and Visionaries (2 sections)
	RELG 399	Working with Faith (one credit course for pre-seminary students)
Fall 2016	RELG 209:	Christian Theology (2 sections)
	RELG 384:	Micah House Seminar
Winter 2016-17	RELG 364:	Theological Investigations
	RELG 391:	Suffering, Death, and Endurance
Spring 2017	HON 103:	Vision and Visionaries (2 sections)
	RELG 399	Working with Faith (one credit course for pre-seminary students)

### **DUKE UNIVERSITY COURSES**

Spring 2007	WR20:	Re-Placing Religion: On Secularism and Belief, 3 sections, (University Writing Program)
Fall 2006	REL 185	Narrative Religious Identity (Religion Department)
	WR 20:	Negotiating Religious Pluralism (University Writing Program)
Spring 2006	WR 20:	Kierkegaard and Contemporary Conundrums (2 sections, UWP)
Fall 2005	WR 20:	Religious Responses to War (3 sections, UWP, as part of Honors Cluster: “Twentieth Century Europe”)
Spring 2005	WR 20:	The Problem and Promise of Religious Pluralism (2 sections, UWP)

Fall 2004      WR 20:      Fortunate Fall? Sin in Theology and Popular Culture (3 sections, UWP)

### **EMORY UNIVERSITY / CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY COURSES**

Spring 2003    REL 366:      Evil: Philosophical and Literary Perspectives (Emory College)

Fall 2002      TS 698:      Sin and Salvation: The Practices of Constructive Theology (Candler School of Theology)

Spring 2002    REL 100:      Introduction to Religion: Buddhism and Christianity (Emory College)

### **ADDITIONAL TEACHING**

Fall 2017      “Radical Lutherans/Lutheran Radicals” (thrice-repeated week-long lecture series for adults at Holden Village, Zion Lutheran Church (Iowa City, IA), and Augustana College)

Feb. 2015, 17    Four-week community education courses at St. Ambrose University (Davenport, IA) through CommUniversity. The first course (with Dr. Eric Stewart) was on “Jesus and Salvation”; the second was entitled, “Can Lutherans Be Radical?”

2016-17      Academic advisor to approximately 20 Augustana students, including religion majors and pre-seminary students

2013-present    ALE (“Augustana as Lutheran Education”) faculty development course, which I created in consultation with Augustana President Steve Bahls and now lead for approximately 10 faculty members yearly

2010-present    Faculty director or secondary reader of roughly 15 Academic Internships/independent studies in preparation for Senior Inquiry capstone projects

Summer 2010    “Becoming a Christian in Christendom” (week-long lecture series for adults at Holden Village)

Summer 2009    Stories of Sin and Salvation (week-long intensive Summer Academy course, Lancaster Theological Seminary)

Summer 2007    Luther for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (week-long intensive Summer Academy course, Lancaster Theological Seminary)

Summer 2006    Christianity and the World’s Religions (week-long intensive Summer Academy course, Lancaster Theological Seminary)

Summer 2006    WR 10: Critical Thinking and Writing (pilot “special needs” course for Duke student-athletes; team-taught with Betsy Verhoeven)

- Summer 2001 Faith meets Faith: Religious Identity and the World Religions (month-long Youth Theological Initiative course, Candler School of Theology, Emory University)
- 1999-2000 Director and Instructor: Candler Writing Assistance Program, Emory University

## SCHOLARSHIP

### BOOKS

- (1) *Fortunate Fallibility: Kierkegaard and the Power of Sin*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. [author]

The book is a constructive retrieval of Kierkegaard's later religious writings (1840's-50's), specifically, of his notion that the capacity or disposition to sin provides an essential component of Christian faith, and thus can be considered "fortunate" or "happy." *Fortunate Fallibility* uses the "*felix culpa*" motif of the 5<sup>th</sup> century Holy Saturday liturgy, of Byron and other romantics, of 19<sup>th</sup> century German Idealist philosophy, and of the Lutheran tradition in order to trace Kierkegaard's strangely positive construal of sin, temptation, and *anfechtung* in relation to Christian faith. Published within the American Academy of Religion "Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion Series" by Oxford University Press.

- (2) *Becoming a Christian in Christendom: Radical Discipleship and the Way of the Cross in America's "Christian" Culture* (Fortress Press, 2016) [author]

The book combines Christian thought with sociological perspectives and some new ethnographic research to inquire into the problems of Christian identity in an ostensibly Christian culture. I argue that contemporary "secular" culture remains an instance of "Christendom"—indeed, is Christendom's mirror opposite—and so continues to raise problems for "becoming a Christian in Christendom." Christian formation today entails intentional, reflective practice in what writers in the wake of Luther (Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer, Douglas John Hall) call a theology of the cross and what some communitarians influenced by the Radical Reformation (Yoder, Hauerwas, the neo-monasticism movement) have described as post-Constantinian discipleship. The project thus brings together two clusters of church communities that critique Christendom for fairly distinct reasons and on different grounds: (1) Lutherans writing and acting against the propensity in their own tradition toward "cheap grace," who do so largely by reconnecting grace to lived, mundane discipleship, and (2) Anabaptists and others recovering pre-Constantinian communal practices that would distinguish Christianity from the dominant society.

For Symposium-style reviews of the book, see:

<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/becoming-a-christian-in-christendom/>

- (3) *The Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education* (Lutheran University Press, 2016) [editor; author of Introduction and an additional chapter]

This edited anthology collects the most influential essays published in the journal *Intersections*, from 1996 to 2016, to support reflections on the intersection of the Lutheran faith, pedagogy, vocational reflection, and the institutional identities of the 26 ELCA colleges and universities. Published by Lutheran University Press under the sponsorship of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities.

- (4) *Radical Lutherans/Lutheran Radicals* (Cascade Press, 2017) [editor; author of Introduction and Chapter 5]

This book is a short, undergraduate-friendly volume with chapters on Luther, Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer, Soelle, and "You" (i.e. a final chapter addressing the vocation of the student/reader). Each chapter would show how the figure returns to the roots (hence "radical") of Luther's life and writing and puts them toward radical politics (critiques of cultured Christianity, resistance to dominance by State or Market, preferential option for the poor and suffering, deep commitments to peace and justice, etc.). Contributors are Samuel Torvend, Pacific Lutheran University; Lori Brandt Hale, Augsburg College; Carl Hughes, Texas Lutheran University; Jacqueline Bussie, Concordia College, and Jason Mahn, Augustana College.

For sample review, see: <http://readingreligion.org/books/radical-lutherans-lutheran-radicals#comment-4089>

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

- Augustana Presidential Fellowships (\$3000 each) in 2008, 2009, and 2011 to support research related to journal articles and first book project.
- William A. Freistadt Grant for Research in Peace Studies (\$2,000), to support ethnographic research into Christian intentional communities during the 2011-12 academic year. A second grant was received for summer 2013 in support of second book project.
- Augustana New Faculty Research Grant 2009 (\$4000)
- Mellon Research Grant 2006 to support research at Duke University (\$1000)

## **SEMINAR/WORKING GROUP PARTICIPATION**

- Invited participant: Advisory Committee reporting to college presidents who comprise the Board of Directors of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities regarding the identity and mission of higher education in the Lutheran tradition (one of nine national members)
- Invited participant: faculty development seminar, "Teaching Interfaith Understanding," Chicago, August 2-6, 2015. Jointly sponsored by Council of Independent Colleges and Interfaith Youth Core.
- Invited participant and co-author: NetVUE Scholarly Resources Project: "Integrating Vocation across Diverse Fields of Study." Three gatherings: June, 2014: Hope College, Holland MI; January 2015: Atlanta, GA, and July, 2015: Calvin College, MI. Each seminar participant contributes a chapter on vocation to edited book project sponsored by NetVUE and the Council of Independent Colleges.



- Invited Participant: “Teaching Luther in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” June 15-17 Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
- Summer 2013: Augustana Representative at “People of Wondrous Ability: Introducing Faculty and Staff to Lutheran Higher Education” working group at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA.
- Summer 2013: Invited participant at the Convocation of Teaching Theologians presented by the Association of Teaching Theologians of the ELCA/ELCIC, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC
- Summer 2011: Lutheran Academy of Scholars Seminar participant, Harvard University. Two week interdisciplinary course led by Prof. Ronald Thiemann, Harvard Divinity School, plus independent research and writing, culminating in a draft of my article, “What are Churches *For*? Toward an Ecclesiology of the Cross in a Secular Age”
- October 2010: Invited respondent: Drew University Trans-disciplinary Theology Colloquium. Theme: “Divine Multiplicities”
- October 2009: Invited Discussant: Drew University Trans-disciplinary Theology Colloquium. Theme: “Polydoxy.”
- Summers of 2009-2016: Participant in the Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, for which I also serve on planning committee

#### **PUBLICATIONS (ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTERS)**

- “The Conflicts in Our Callings: The Anguish (and Joy) of Willing Multiple Things” (NetVUE Scholarly Resources Book Project: *Vocation Across the Academy: A New Vocabulary for Higher Education*, ed. David Cunningham; Oxford University Press, 2017)
- “Church Hidden and Revealed in John Howard Yoder and Søren Kierkegaard” (forthcoming in *Kierkegaard and Political Theology*, ed. Silas Morgan and Roberto Sirvent, Pickwick Publications, 2017)
- “Sin: Leaping and Sliding and Mysteries Pointing to Mysteries” (forthcoming in *Companion to the Theology of Kierkegaard*, ed. David Gouwens and Aaron Edwards, T&T Clark, 2017)
- “Why Interfaith Understanding is Integral to the Lutheran Tradition” (*Intersections*, Fall 2014; revised and reprinted in *The Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education*, ed. Jason Mahn, Lutheran University Press, forthcoming 2016)
- “What Intentional Christian Communities Can Teach the Church” (with Augustana graduate Grace Koleczek) (*Word & World*, Spring 2014)
- “Reforming Formation: The Practices of Protestantism in a Secular Age.” (*Currents in Theology and Mission*, October, 2013)
- “Called to the Unbidden: Saving Vocation from the Market” (*The Cresset*, Michaelmas, 2012)

- “What are Churches *For*? Toward an Ecclesiology of the Cross in a Secular Age” (*Dialog: A Journal of Theology*, Spring 2012)
- “Between Presence and Explanation: Thinking Through Suffering with Thomas Long” (*Theology Today*, Summer 2012)
- “Do Christians Love God for Naught? Job and the Possibility of ‘Disinterested’ Faith” (*Word & World*, Fall 2011)
- “Becoming a Christian in Christendom,” in *Why Kierkegaard Matters*, Mercer University Press, 2010.
- “Radical Hospitality: Sociotheological Reflections on Postville, Iowa,” with Peter Kivisto (*Word & World*, 2009)
- “Choking on Christian Authenticity: Some Theological Predicaments in Light of Pharmacology, Hollywood Film, and Post-Freudian Therapeutics” (*The Other Journal: An Intersection of Theology and Culture*, December, 2007)
- “Kierkegaard after Hauerwas” (*Theology Today*, July, 2007)
- “*Felix Fallibilitas*: The Benefit of Sin’s Possibility in Kierkegaard’s *The Concept of Anxiety*” (*Faith and Philosophy*, July, 2006)
- “Kierkegaard’s *Three Devotional Discourses* and the *Felix Culpa* Theme” (*International Kierkegaard Commentary Vol. 18: Without Authority*, ed. Robert Perkins, 2006)
- “Beyond Synergism: The Dialectic of Grace and Freedom in Luther’s *De Servo Arbitrio*” (*Augustinian Studies*, Summer 2002). Abridged and reprinted in *Luther Digest*, 2006.

#### **PUBLICATIONS (SHORT ESSAYS and REVIEWS)**

- “Called Home” (*Holden Village Voice*, Fall 2016). Available at: [http://www.holdenvillage.org/files/9014/7390/5686/HVV\\_2016\\_Fall2016.pdf](http://www.holdenvillage.org/files/9014/7390/5686/HVV_2016_Fall2016.pdf)
- “The Vocation of *Intersections* on its Twentieth Birthday,” with Bob Haak and Tom Christenson (*Intersections* 43, Fall 2016). Available at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections/vol2016/iss43/4>
- Review of Dale Allison, *Night Comes: Death, Imagination, and the Last Things* (*Biblical Theology Bulletin*, forthcoming)
- Review of Nation, Siegrist and Umbel, *Bonhoeffer the Assassin? Challenging the Myth, Recovering His Call to Peacemaking* (*Biblical Theology Bulletin*, Spring 2015)
- “Postmodernity and/or Christendom: A Response to Kyle Roberts” (Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter, June 2014)

- Review of Paul Holmer, *On Kierkegaard and the Truth* (*Lutheran Quarterly*, Summer 2013)
- Review of Simon Podmore, *Kierkegaard and the Self Before God: Anatomy of the Abyss* (*Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter*, 2012)
- Review of Paul R. Sponheim, *Love's Availing Power: Imaging God, Imagining the World* (*Word & World*, 2012)
- Review of D. Stephen Long, *Speaking of God: Theology, Language, and Truth* (*Dialog*, Fall 2011)
- Review of Michael Kirwan, *Political Theology: An Introduction* (*Word & World*, Spring 2011)
- Review of Sylvia Walsh, *Kierkegaard: Thinking Christianly in an Existential Mode* (*Theology Today*, April 2010)
- Review of David Mellott, *I Was and I Am Dust: Penitente Practices as a Way of Knowing* (*Practical Matters*, Spring 2010)
- Review of William Cavanaugh, *Being Consumed*, and Kathryn Tanner, *Economies of Grace* (*Word & World*, Winter 2010)
- Review: C. Stephen Evans, *Kierkegaard on Faith and the Self* (*Theology Today*, 2007)
- "Reflections on Anti-Climacus and his Offensive, Radical Cure: A Review of *International Kierkegaard Commentary Vol. 20: Practice in Christianity*" (*Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter*, August, 2005)
- Review of Charles Bellinger, *The Genealogy of Violence* (*Word & World*, Winter 2004)
- Review of William Lazareth, *Christians in Society: Luther, the Bible, and Social Ethics* (*Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, Spring 2002).
- Review: Catherine Pickstock, *After Writing: The Liturgical Consummation of Philosophy* (*Dialog*, Spring 2001)
- "The Bound Will and Moral Progress: Response to Kleinhans" (*Dialog*, Summer 2000)

#### **SELECT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

- "Post-Christendom or Neo-Christendom?: A Kierkegaardian Assessment of Christian Privilege and the Church Indifferent in Contemporary U.S. Culture and Politics" (National AAR, Boston, Fall 2017)
- "Bonhoeffer's Lutheran Christological Peace Ethic: Beyond the Realism-Pacifism Impasse" (National AAR, San Antonio, 2016)
- Invited panelist, "The Not-Always-Religious Language of Vocation as Transformative Pedagogy" (National AAR, San Antonio, 2016)

- “Why Interfaith Understanding is Integral to the Lutheran Tradition” (Opening keynote address at the Interfaith Understanding Conference for ELCA Colleges and Universities, June 1, 2014)
- “Interrogating Authenticity: Kierkegaard, Evangelicalism, and American Neo-Christendom” (National AAR, Baltimore, 2013)
- “Postmodernity and/or Christendom: Response to Kyle Roberts” (Symposium on Faith and Culture, Baylor University, 2013)
- “Church Hidden and Revealed in John Howard Yoder and Søren Kierkegaard” (Symposium on Faith and Culture, Baylor University, 2013)
- “Becoming a Christian in (the new) Christendom: Kierkegaard among Post/Secular Debates” (Sixth International Kierkegaard Conference, Summer 2010)
- “Deconstructing Sin: The Inextricability of Theology and Rhetoric in Kierkegaard” (National American Academy of Religion Conference, Chicago, 2008)
- “Teaching Kierkegaard through Writing (and Vice-Versa)” (National AAR, Washington DC, 2006)
- “The Shape of Critical Historical Theology” (Drew University, April, 2006)
- “Kierkegaard after Hauerwas: Christian Courage and Fortunate Fallibility in Contemporary Virtue Ethics” (National AAR, Philadelphia, 2005)
- “*Felix Peccabilitas*: Fallibility and Christian Heroism in the Hamartiology of Søren Kierkegaard” (International Kierkegaard Conference, St. Olaf College, June 2005)
- “A Lutheran Luther and a Christian Christ: The Function of Religious Imagery of Twenty-First Century Film” (National AAR, San Antonio, 2004)
- “Growing out of Eden? Kierkegaardian Faith and ‘the Child’” (National AAR, San Antonio, 2004)
- “Determinate Negatives: Sin and the Metaphysics of Morals in Hegel and Kierkegaard” (Fordham University Graduate Philosophy Conference, March 2004)
- “Beyond Synergism: Luther’s Alternative Compatibilism in ‘De Servo Arbitrio’ as Recasting the Relation of Gift and Freedom” (National AAR, Denver, 2001)

## **SERVICE**

### **AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

Feb. 2017      External Reviewer (with Daniel Ott, Monmouth College) of the Philosophy and Religion Department of Blackburn College, Carlinville, Illinois.

- 2011-present Editor of *Intersections*, a journal by and largely for the academic communities of the 26 colleges and universities of the ELCA which reflects on the intersection of faith, learning, and teaching within Lutheran higher education.
- 2016-present Member of 9 person advisory committee reporting to the Board of Directors of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities regarding the identity and mission of higher education in the Lutheran tradition
- 2011-present Planning committee member: Vocation of a Lutheran College Annual Conference at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN
- 2012-present Section Chair of Theology, Midwest American Academy of Religion
- Nov. 2011 Panel Presider: Søren Kierkegaard Society at the American Academy of Religion: “Kierkegaard and the Work of Edward Mooney.”
- Oct. 2010 Invited response to Kathryn Tanner: “Absolute Difference.” Drew Transdisciplinary Theology Colloquium: “Divine Multiplicities: Trinities & Diversities.”
- July 2010 Invited response to Lee Barrett: “Martenson and Kierkegaard.” Sixth International Kierkegaard Conference, Modern Thought Section, St. Olaf College
- March 2010 Invited Respondent: Midwest American Academy Religion Conference, Systematic Theology Section, Augustana College
- Jan. 2010 Invited Respondent: Midwest American Philosophical Association Conference, Kierkegaard section, Chicago, IL.
- Oct. 2009 Invited Discussant: Drew Transdisciplinary Theology Colloquium: “Polydoxy”
- 2008-present Invited peer reviewer for *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Theology Today* and *Practical Matters*
- 2009-present American Academy of Religion representative for the Søren Kierkegaard Society, USA (elected), through which I organize sessions and speakers at the national conference
- 2006-2009 Steering Committee: Kierkegaard, Religion and Culture Group of the American Academy of Religion
- 2005-present Active participation in the professional societies of American Academy of Religion; SALT: Society for Anglican and Lutheran Theologians, and Søren Kierkegaard Society, USA
- 2005-07 Editorial Board: *Deliberations: A Journal of First Year Writing at Duke*

**AT AUGUSTANA**

- 2017 Provost/Dean Hiring Committee member representing the division of History, Religion, and Philosophy. Our committee of 12 works closely with an AGB search consultant to write the position profile, vet applications, conduct interviews, and recommend top candidates to the President.
- 2014-15 Co-chair of Presidential Task Force (with Richard Priggie, campus chaplain) to critically reflect on, revise, and raise visibility of Augustana's "Five Faith Commitments" (its articulation of its church-relatedness and institutional identity) on this 10 year anniversary of the document
- 2013-present Creator and Leader of "ALE" (Augustana as Lutheran Education), a faculty development group that reads and discusses books and essays related to Lutheran Higher Education, Lutheran history and theology, and Augustana's church-relatedness
- 2014-17 Member of task force charged with designing and proposing an Interfaith Certification curriculum at Augustana College
- 2016-present Chair of Selection Committee for the Excellence in the Liberal Arts Award
- 2016-17 Member of Education Policies Committee
- 2016 Member of Education Policies Committee (EPC)
- 2015-present Member of Advising Committee
- 2010-present Member of the Honors Committee
- 2016-present Faculty Advisor to Campus Kitchens, a student group responding to food insecurity among students and community members
- 2009-present Advisor to Micah House, an intentional community of Augustana senior students devoted to hospitality, community, prayer, and servanthood in the Keystone and Florencia neighborhoods
- 2014, 15, 17 Presenter at Symposium Day, a day of alternative learning at Augustana. I presented with Daniel Morris on religion in the Public Square (2014); interviewed special guest Stanley Hauerwas on the 10 year anniversary of Augustana's Five Faith Commitments (2015); and presented on "Christian Privilege" beside Augustana students Hannah Griggs and Emily Stine (2017).
- 2009-13, 15-16 First year advisor
- Fall 2011 Panelist discussing "Christianity and Ethics After 9/11" as part of the symposium on "9/11 in 2011," Augustana College
- Fall 2011 Panelist discussing *Fahrenheit 451* (Augie Reads selection) for first year students, Fall Connection
- Fall 2010 Panelist discussing ways to teach *Bottlemania* (Augie Reads selection) at Fall Faculty Retreat, concurrent session

- 2008-2011;  
2012-13 Faculty Senator (elected)
- 2007-09 Faculty Research Forum Co-Organizer (with Adam Kaul, anthropology, and Molly Todd, history). Our work entailed organizing three campus-wide forums (on publishing, non-published professional activity, and the scholarship of learning and teaching), as well a series of working group meetings for faculty interested in reading and responding to one another's research and writing.
- 2008-present Other Campus Wide Committees, including Convocation Committee, Greek-Faculty liaison, Student Rating of Instruction committee, and "Augie Reads" selection member

### **IN AUGUSTANA RELIGION DEPARTMENT**

- 2014-present Departmental Chair
- 2009-present Advisor to Pre-Seminary Program
- 2008-present Advising religion majors and minors
- 2007-present Full participation in four national tenure-track searches (ethics, Islam, Hebrew Bible, New Testament), plus eight Bergendoff Fellow positions
- 2007-08 Member of small committee to create senior inquiry program and to create a revised program for religion majors and minors and "senior inquiry" capstone courses
- 2008-09 Creator and implementer of the "Reel Religion Film Series," a forum to discuss the religious importance of contemporary films with students and faculty

### **IN THE COMMUNITY (representative sample)**

- 2015, 17 CommUniversity Instructor (see additional teaching, above)
- March, 2016 Three part series at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline, IL. Theme: Counter-cultural Christianity
- Nov. 5, 2015 Illowa Lutheran Coalition Forum: "Becoming a Christian in 'Christian' America" (Wilson Center of Augustana College)

- October, 2015 Three part series at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA. Theme: Christian Privilege versus Christian Grace
- 2013-15 Member of the Ecumenical Committee composed of Lutheran, Catholic, and Jewish community leaders planning events to commemorate the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.
- Oct. 11, 2011 Panelist commenting on Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* at Bettendorf Public Library, in conjunction with "The Read on WVIK"
- March 2011 Workshop on Biblical and Theological Perspectives in Immigration, Northern Illinois Congregational Resourcing Event
- 2007-present Guest preacher at various community churches, including Augustana's Ascension Chapel (about 5-6/year)
- 2007-present Guest speaker in Adult Education forums at various community churches (about 3-4 sessions/year)
- 2009-2011 Keynote speaker at IGNITE youth events, a joint venture of QCA area churches (3-5 each year)
- Spring 2010 "Christians' Responsibility to their Jewish Neighbors: Overcoming Supersessionism." Community Ethics Lecture Series, Augustana College, delivered on-campus and at two area churches.
- 2009-2010 Various presentations at various community churches; topics included The Book of Job; Re-Reading the Fall through Augustine and Julian; Luther on Penitence
- Feb. 2010 "Suffering, Death and Hope: Christian and Muslim Perspectives," with Dr. Cyrus Ali Zargar. Community presentation at Benet House Retreat Center at St. Mary's Monastery, Rock Island, IL
- Oct. 2009 "Why Christians Need Muslims." First Annual Augustana Day for Iowa & Illinois Clergy; topic: "Learning from Islam"
- Sept. 2009 "The Loss of Jobs and the Book of Job." Community presentation at Benet House Retreat Center at St. Mary's Monastery, Rock Island, IL
- Nov. 2008 "The Church and the Holocaust." Community presentation at Tri-City Jewish Center as part of "Beyond *Kristallnacht*: Lessons for Today" (70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Kristallnacht*)

## MEMBERSHIP

American Academy of Religion (1998-present)

Søren Kierkegaard Society, North America (2001-present)

Society of Anglican and Lutheran Theologians (2005-present, sporadic)



Association of Teaching Theologians (2011-present)