

DENNIS P. BRAY

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY

Taylor University ° Upland, IN ° (765) 998-5153
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EDUCATION

2022 **PhD, Analytic & Exegetical Theology**
School of Divinity, University of St. Andrews
*Dissertation: 'Richard of St. Victor's Argument for the Necessity of the Trinity: An Exposition and Analysis of the Argument for a Tri-Personal God in *De Trinitate*'*
Supervised by Prof Oliver Crisp, Rev Prof Alan Torrance, and Dr Jonathan Rutledge
Read by Prof Richard Cross and Prof Timothy Pawl

2013 **M.A., Systematic Theology (Honours)**
Biola University, La Mirada, CA

2012 **M.A., Philosophy of Religion & Ethics (Honours)**
Biola University, La Mirada, CA

2006 **Teaching Credential**, Single Subject (Social Studies), California Clear Credential
Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, CA

2004 **B.A., Modern European History**
University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2025-Present **Assistant Professor of Theology, Taylor University**
Courses taught: *Contemporary Christian Belief; Historic Christian Belief*

2022-2025 **Research Fellow in Theology and the Arts, *Art as Revelation* Project**, Templeton Religious Trust, University of St Andrews

2021-2022 **Associate Lecturer, Systematic, Historical, & Analytic Theology, University of St Andrews**
Courses taught: *Persons: Divine and Human; Divine Action and Creation; The Doctrine of the Trinity; Analytic Theology: God, History, and Revelation; Reconciliation: Divine and Human*
Guest lecture: *Thomas Aquinas; Christian Anthropology*

2020-2022 **Graduate Fellow, *Cross-Training in the Empirical Sciences***, Society of Christian Philosophers, University of St Andrews

2022 **Guest Faculty, Calvary Chapel Bible College, CA**
Taught: *Philosophy & Christian Worldview*

2014-2017 **Adjunct Instructor, Philosophy Department, Biola University**
Courses taught: *Introduction to Philosophy and Aesthetics; Redeeming Culture through Music* (Talbot Seminary); *Theological Aesthetics* (Talbot Seminary)

GRANTS

John Templeton Foundation, *Society of Christian Philosophers Science Cross-Training* in developmental psychology & comparative psychology; (\$34,000) supervised by Sir Malcolm Jeeves

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2026 *What is Art? An Introduction to Aesthetics*, Questions in Christian Philosophy Series, InterVarsity Press Academic

2025 *Nichil Melius, Nichil Perfectius Caritate: Richard of St. Victor's Argument for the Necessity of the Trinity*, Bibliotheca Victorina series, Brepols

Refereed Journal Articles & Chapters

2025 'Richard of St Victor's Argument for the Trinity: Prospects and Problems for Its Apologetic Use', *Journal of the International Society of Christian Apologetics*

2025 'Icons and Paintings: Differences in Psychological Distance, Empathy, and the Feeling of Personal Communication', (co-authored with Marina Iosifian & Brendan Wolfe) *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality* vol. 17, n. 3

2024 'The Body of the Artist, in the Body of Christ, Toward a Theology of the Embodied Arts', *Religions* vol. 15, n. 345.

2023 'Shared Intentionality and Divine Persons: Explorations in Ramified Natural Theology', *Religious Studies*, September, 2023

2023 'Mysterian Social Trinitarianism: Responding to Charges of Projection, Anthropomorphism, and Apophasis', *Verbum Vitae* vol. 41, n. 3

2023 'Richard of St. Victor's Argument from Love and Contemporary Analytic Theology of the Trinity', *TheoLogica: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion* vol. 6, n. 2

2022 'Critical Ressourcement and Evaluative Correction in Trinitarian Theology: A Case Study on Richard of St. Victor's De Trinitate', *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 18

2022 'Richard's Trinitarian Argument in De Trinitate: An Analytic Overview', in *Omnium Expetendorum Prima est Sapientia: Studies on Victorine thought and influence*, Bibliotheca Victorina 29 (Turnhout: Brepols)

2021 'Bonaventure's I Sentence Argument for the Trinity from Beatitude', *The American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* vol. 95, n. 4

2020 'Gregory Of Nazianzus' Trinitarian Argument in Oration 23', *TheoLogica: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion* vol. 4, n. 2

Online Publications

2023 "You wouldn't know it was here, unless I was with You: Meaning & Artistic Process in Dan Drage's Gathering Surface", *Transpositions*, the online journal of the Institute for Theology, Imagination, and the Arts, University of St Andrews ([here](#))

2019 "Why Do Christians Believe in the Trinity?", Logos Public Engagement Booklets, University of St Andrews ([here](#))

Work in Progress

Journal article, 'Aesthetic Communication in Religious Art: A Triadic Account', co-authored with Brendan Wolfe

Encyclopaedia article, 'Models of the Trinity', under contract for the *Saint Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology*

Journal article, 'William Lane Craig's Plausibility Argument for the Trinity: An Exposition and Analysis'

CONFERENCES AND SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Refereed

2024 “The Artist In and For the Church: Toward A Theology of the Christian Arts”, Evangelical Theological Society 2024 Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

2024 “Knowing the Trinity: Bonaventure and Albert on Trinitarian Understanding and Faith”, International Medieval Congress, Franciscan Institute Session, Leeds, UK

2023 “Religious Art and Psychological Distance: An Exploratory Empirical Study and Theoretic Account”, ‘Second International Conference on Beauty and Change – Aesthetic Experience: Philosophical, Psychological and Neuroscientific Perspectives’ conference, Turin, Italy

2023 “Shared Intentionality and Divine Persons: Explorations in Ramified Natural Theology”, ‘New Heavens and a New Earth: Scientific and Theological Eschatology’ conference, Angelicum Thomistic Institute, Rome

2022 “Richard’s Philosophical Trinitarian Argument”, ‘Studies on Victorine thought and Influence’ conference, at the Catholic University John-Paul II, Lublin Poland

2019 “St. Bonaventure’s Trinitarian Argument from Beatitude”, ‘The Franciscan Legacy from the 13th Century to the 21st’ conference, Ushaw College, Durham

2018 “Richard of St. Victor’s Argument from Love and Contemporary Analytic Theology of the Trinity”, ‘Analytic Theology and the Tri-Personal God’ conference, Université Catholique de Louvain

2018 “Richard of St. Victor’s Trinitarian Argument”, Evangelical Philosophical Society annual conference, Denver, CO

2014 “Goodness and Love in St. Bonaventure’s Trinitarian Metaphysics: A Critique and Reanalysis of the Axiom Goodness is Self-Diffusive”, Evangelical Philosophical Society regional conference, Pasadena, CA

2014 “Aquinas’ Use of the Axiom Goodness is Self-Diffusive: Grounding the Axiom in Love”, Talbot Philosophical Society Conference, Biola University

Invited & Other Talks

2025 Panel Respondent to Dr Don Davis, “New Paradigms in Theological Education: Reflections on Thirty Years of Church-Based Seminary”, Taylor University

2024 Colloquium on *What is Art?*, with comments by: Profs Gordon Graham, David Brown, Judith Wolfe, Trevor Hart; artist Dan Drage, University of St Andrews

2024 “The Artist in the Body of Christ”, Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts (ITIA) Research Seminar, University of St Andrews

2020 “Unmaking the consensus in Nicene Pneumatology after 381: A Response to Oliver Langworthy”, Systematic and Historical Theology Seminar, University of St Andrews

2019 “Richard of St. Victor’s Argument for the Necessity of Trinity”, Logos Institute Seminar, University of St Andrews

2018 “Arguing for Aesthetic Realism”, the A(aron) & K(yle)-47 Podcast

2014 “Beauty and Peace”, Biola Chapel, Biola University

2013 “How to Strengthen Your Faith While Studying Philosophy”, Talbot Philosophy Boot Camp, Biola University

2012 “St. Bonaventure’s Argument for the Trinity from Fecundity”, Talbot Philosophy Boot Camp, Biola University

2012 "Three Arguments from Richard of St. Victor's *de Trinitate*", Talbot Philosophical Society, Biola University

SCHOLARLY REVIEWS

2023 *Richard of Saint Victor, On the Trinity: Prologue and Six Books, Translation and Introduction*, by Aage Rydström-Poulsen, *Medieval Mystical Theology* (forthcoming)

2023 *Life at Saint Victor and Richard of Saint-Victor, On the Trinity*, by Frans van Liere and Juliet Mousseau (eds.), *Medieval Mystical Theology* (forthcoming)

2023 *Victorine Restoration: Essays on Hugh of St Victor, Richard of St Victor, and Thomas Gallus*, by Robert J. Porwoll & David A. Orsbon (eds.), *Archa Verbi* (forthcoming)

2022 *Bonaventure's Aesthetics: The Delight of the Soul in Its Ascent into God*, by Thomas McKenna (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2020), *Franciscan Studies* (forthcoming)

2022 *Gregory of Nazianzus' Soteriological Pneumatology*, by Oliver Langworthy (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2019), *Theology in Scotland* vol. 29, n.1

2021 *Contemplation and Kingdom: Aquinas Reads Richard of St. Victor*, by Kevin Hart (South Bend, Indiana: St. Augustine's Press, 2020), *The European Journal for the Study of Thomas Aquinas*, v. 39, n.1

2021 *Love Divine: A Systematic Account of God's Love for Humanity*, *Oxford Studies in Analytic Theology*, by Jordan Wessling (Oxford: OUP, 2020), *Religious Studies Review* vol. 47, n. 2

2020 *Love: Divine and Human: Contemporary Essays in Systematic and Philosophical Theology*, ed. Oliver Crisp, James Arcadi, Jordan Wessling (London: T&T Clark, 2020), *Theology in Scotland*, vol. 27, n. 1

RELEVANT SERVICE TO MY LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY

Young Children's Church, I watch the wee kiddos (0-2 yrs) on Sundays (2017-present)

Teacher, The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) (2016)

Teacher, Calvary Chapel La Mirada Bible Ministry School, La Mirada, CA (2012-2014). I have taught:
Apologetics; Luke-Acts; The Spiritual Gifts

Leader of the College Youth Group, Koinonia Christian Fellowship Church, Hanford, CA (2005-2007)

Translator, missions to Bahia, Brazil (2006)

Selected Sermons: 'Jesus and the intellectual virtue of thoroughness'; 'Intellectual charity and the sermon on the mount'; 'Eph. 4:1-16: The Trinity and unity in the church'; '1 Peter 2: By our beauty our message will be believed'

Deacon, Redeemer Church, La Mirada, California (2016-2017)

Missions: I've led or been a member of missions to South Korea (with Campus Crusade), Hong Kong (Campus Crusade), Brazil (as translator), and Mexico (as leader of the college-age youth group)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Advisory Board, Theology Chair for *Theophron: Journal of Christian Studies*

Referee for *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*

Referee for *TheoLogica*

Referee for *Journal of Analytic Theology*

Peer Reviewer for *Saint Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Evangelical Philosophical Society

Evangelical Theological Society

Society for the Study of Theology

American Academy of Religion

Societas Victorina