

DENNIS P. BRAY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY

Taylor University • Upland, IN • (765) 998-5153
dennis_bray@taylor.edu • dennispbray.com

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 Rydstrom-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