

Megan Loumagne Ulishney

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Department of Philosophy and Theology
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EDUCATION

- 2019 **Doctor of Philosophy in Theology**
No corrections
Christ Church, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
Clarendon Scholar (full funding)
- 2015 **Masters of Divinity**
Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Chestnut Hill, MA
Baker-Arrupe Fellow (full funding)
- 2010-2012 **Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Soul Care**
Talbot School of Theology, Institute of Spiritual Formation, La Mirada, CA
*Partial completion
- 2007 **Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies**
Biola University/Torrey Honors College, La Mirada, CA
Summa cum laude
Major: Liberal Studies, Minor: Biblical Studies
California State Teaching Credential in English

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2023-present **Theology Program Director**
Department of Philosophy and Theology
Gannon University, Erie, PA
- 2022-present **Assistant Professor of Theology (tenure-track)**
Department of Philosophy and Theology
Gannon University, Erie, PA
- 2019-2022 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies
University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK
- 2018-2022 **Director of Studies in Science and Religion** (part-time)
Wycliffe Hall (SCIO), University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
- 2016-2022 **Religion and Philosophy Instructor** (part-time)
St. Clare's Oxford International College, Oxford, UK
- 2018-2019 **Academic Coordinator**
Bridging the Two Cultures of Science and the Humanities II Project (funded by the John Templeton Foundation)

Wycliffe Hall (SCIO), University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2014 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
- 2008-2012 Theology/English Instructor and Director of Student Activities
Maranatha High School, Pasadena, CA
- 2007-2008 Humanities teacher
Torrey Academy, La Mirada, CA

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Grants

Spiritual Naturalisms: Nature Spiritualities and Ecological Action among the “spiritual-but-not-religious”

- I have applied to the John Templeton Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$240,000 to fund this research project that investigates the implicit theologies and philosophies operative in contemporary nature-based spiritualities. I will receive a decision about this application in July 2024.

Monographs

Beauty in the Wild: Ecological Aesthetics, Theology, and Feminism (in research and drafting stage)

Articles

“Beauty in the Wild: Evolution, Feminism, and Theological Aesthetics” (in draft form, to be submitted to *Modern Theology* in December 2023)

“Marine Lover: Reading Alexis Pauline Gumbs’ *Undrowned* as Theological Aesthetics” (in draft form, to be submitted to *Theological Studies* in January 2024)

Encyclopedia Entries

“Gender” entry for T&T Clark Encyclopedia of Theology (in draft form, to be submitted November 2023)

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Original Sin and the Evolution of Sexual Difference

Oxford University Press (March 2023)

*Finalist for the International Society of Science and Religion’s 2023 Book Award

Journal articles and contributions to edited volumes

“Restoration of Abundance: Feyerabend, Mysticism, and Science-Engaged Theology”
Theology and Science (forthcoming Spring 2024)

Oxford Handbook of Theological Anthropology, eds. Ashley Moyse, Jens Zimmermann
Chapter entitled “Theological Anthropology After Darwin”
Oxford University Press (forthcoming Spring 2024)

God and the Book of Nature, ed. Mark Harris
Chapter entitled: “Creaturely Agency in Evolution and Theology”
Routledge Science and Religion Series (forthcoming Fall 2023)

“Gender as Context in Science and Religion: ‘Natural’ Sexual Difference as a Case Study”
Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences, (Vol. 9, Issue 2), 2022

“The Evolution of *Homo Ludens*: Sexual Selection and a Theology of Play”
Zygon, (Vol. 57, Issue 3), 2022

Emerging Voices in Science and Theology: Contributions from Young Women, eds. Alister McGrath and Bethany Sollereeder
Chapter entitled: “Unity in the *Massa Peccati*: Original Sin and the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis”
Routledge Science and Religion series, 2022

Augustine and Time, eds. Sean Hannan, Kim Paffenroth, John Doody
Chapter entitled: “Augustine and the Gendered Self in Time”
Rowman and Littlefield, 2021

“Visiting Iniquity Upon the Generations: Epigenetics, Systems Biology, and Theologies of Inherited Sin”
Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences, (Vol. 7, Issue 2), 2020

“Teresa of Avila on Theology and Shame”
New Blackfriars, (Vol. 99, Issue 1081), 2018

Salvation in the World: The Crossroads of Public Theology, eds. Stephan van Erp, Christiane Alpers, Christopher Cimorelli
Chapter entitled: “A Theologian Standing with God in the World: Developments in Schillebeeckx’s Epistemology and Implications for Feminist Theology”
Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2017

“The Rise of Fundamentalisms and the Concept of Sin”
Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review, (Volume 105, Number 422, 2017)

“Created Sick, Commanded to Be Sound: Augustine on Original Sin After Darwin”
Tijdschrift voor Theologie, (Volume 55, 2015) (online edition)

“Taking Her Stand Beyond All Earthly Hierarchies: Teresa of Avila, Gender Performance, and Contemplative Prayer”
The Sword: A Journal of Historical, Spiritual, and Contemporary Carmelite Issues, (Volume 75, 2015)

“God Remembered: Barrenness and Hope in *Genesis*”
Lumen et Vita Graduate Academic Journal of Boston College STM
(Volume 5, 2015)

“Dis-membering and Re-membering: The Eucharist and the Suffering of Women”
Lumen et Vita: Graduate Academic Journal of Boston College STM
(Volume 4, 2014)

Online Resources

“Can evolutionary biology help to render natural law approaches to sexual ethics more affirming of non-heterosexual relationships?”, *Theological Puzzles* (Issue 8, 2022), <https://www.theo-puzzles.ac.uk/2022/06/14/ulishney/>

“Report on Supporting Diversity in STEM Faculty Hiring and Retention at CCCU Institutions,” SCIO (Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford, research for this report was funded by the John Templeton Foundation), September 2021. Report can be found here: <https://www.scio-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021-Report-on-Supporting-Diversity-in-STEM-Faculty.pdf>

Book Reviews

Studies in Christian Ethics (forthcoming 2023)

Review of Karen Kilby’s *God, Evil, and the Limits of Theology* (Bloomsbury 2020)

Modern Believing (Vol. 64, 2022)

Review of Rachel Sophia Baard’s *Sexism and Sin-Talk* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2019)

Perspectives on Science and the Christian Faith (Vol. 73, 2021)

Review of *Original Sin and the Fall: Five Views* (Eds. J.B. Stump and Chad Meister)

Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences (Vol. 7, Issue 2, 2020)

Review of Celia Deane-Drummond’s *Theological Ethics Through a Multi-Species Lens* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

TEACHING & ADVISING

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| 2022-present | Courses taught at Gannon University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundations of Theology and Christian Morality• Comparative Theology: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam• Christology• Marriage & Sexuality (scheduled for Spring 2024) |
| 2019-2022 | Courses convened at the University of Nottingham (MA distance learning): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christology• The Virgin Mary in Christian Tradition Advising at the University of Nottingham:
Masters Dissertations Supervised: 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Bonaventure, Creation, and Inclusion”• “Penal Substitutionary Atonement as ‘Cosmic Child Abuse’: A Christological examination of the validity of this critique” |
| 2016-present | Course taught at St. Clare’s, Oxford International College <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Concept of God |
| 2018-present | Courses Taught at Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science and Religion• Science and the Christian Tradition (Online Summer Course)• Augustine, Early Christianity, and Late Antique Philosophy |

2018-2022 Taught class session on Feminist and Eco-Feminist Theologies for the MPhil/MSt Seminar in Modern Theology at the University of Oxford

Advising at Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford
Undergraduate Research Essays in Science and Religion Supervised: 12

GRANTS

May 2023 Author of winning application for the SET Foundations Course Development Prize (\$25,000). Prize awarded to the Department of Philosophy and Theology at Gannon University to facilitate running a course I developed entitled “Communities of Knowledge: Theology and Philosophy of Science.”

2023-2024 Selected to participate in the *Illuminating Theological Inquiry and Christian Ethics Through Training in Psychological Science* project (John Templeton Foundation funded project organized by Baylor University). Project includes psychology cross-training and a \$7000 stipend.

2022-2023 Designed, applied for, and attained a John Templeton Foundation grant in the amount of \$225,000 entitled “Biocultural evolution and theological anthropology” (Co-PI with Dr. Michael Burdett, Dr. Nathan Lyons, and Dr. Victoria Lorrimar) [Grant 62619]

2019-2022 John Templeton Foundation ‘God and the Book of Nature’ Project

- Full-time postdoctoral research grant to participate in a £2.44 million international project organized by the University of Edinburgh.

December 2021 Course Development Grant (University of St. Andrews and the John Templeton Foundation)

- £2000 to develop a course entitled “Sexual Ethics in Science and Religion

June 2021 *New Visions in Theological Anthropology* Fellowship (University of St. Andrews and the John Templeton Foundation)

- £3500 stipend, fully funded travel and accommodation in St. Andrews.

June 2021 *SET Foundations* Fellowship (Loyola University Maryland and the John Templeton Foundation)

- Competitively selected to participate in the *Building Foundations in Science-Engaged Theology (SET): Insights from Philosophy of Science* seminar (\$4000 honorarium).

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

“Deus Ludens, Homo Ludens: Evolution and a Theology of Play”

- Christian Systematic Theology Unit
- American Academy of Religion, scheduled for November 2023

Invited presenter: SCIO Science and Religion Webinar

- “Original Sin in the Context of Science and Religion,” March 2023
- A Webinar for CCCU faculty participating in the “Supporting Structures in STEM” grant (funded by the John Templeton Foundation)

Invited Respondent on Science and Religion panel

- Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA) Conference, June 2022

“For the Beauty of the Earth: Ecological Aesthetics and Theology as Resources for Global Sustainability”

- European Society for the Study of Science and Theology (ESSSAT) Conference, Alesund, Norway, May 2022.

Invited speaker: “Gender as Context in Science and Religion”

- Intercultural Theology Research Seminar, Protestant Theological University (the Netherlands), March 2022 (virtual).

Invited presenter: SCIO Science and Religion Webinar

- “Original Sin in the Context of Science and Religion,” February 2022

Invited Respondent: Thomistic Evolution Workshop

- Blackfriars, University of Oxford, October 2021

Invited Speaker: “The Evolution of *Homo Ludens*: Sexual Selection and a Theology of Play”

- Theology Research Seminar, University of Nottingham, October 2021

Invited Speaker: “Feminist Reception of Augustine”

- MA Distance Learning Residential, University of Nottingham, April 2021

Invited Speaker: “Feminist Reception of Augustine”

- University of Wales Trinity Saint David, February 2021 (virtual)

Invited Speaker: “Major Themes in Augustine”

- Building the Christian Church course, University of Nottingham, February 2021

Invited speaker: “Rethinking Theologies of Creaturely Agency”

- Modern Doctrine Research Seminar, University of Oxford, January 2021

Invited speaker: “Feminist Theology”

- Christianity and the Crisis of Modernity Course, University of Nottingham, March 2020

Invited speaker: “Vatican II”

- Christianity and the Crisis of Modernity Course, University of Nottingham, March 2020

Invited speaker: “Gender Trouble: Darwin and Sexual Selection as Resources for Catholic Feminist Theology”

- Laudato Si’ Research Institute, Oxford, March 2020

Invited speaker: “The Nature of Beauty: Sexual Selection and Theologies of Nature”

- University of Edinburgh, February 2020

“Evolving Desire: Sexual Selection, the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis, and Theologies of Purpose in Nature”

- “God and the Book of Nature” workshop, AAR, November 2019

Invited speaker: “Inherited Sin: Original Sin and the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis”

- University of Nottingham, October 2019

Invited Panelist, Roundtable Discussion of “Global Perspectives on Science and Religion”

- “Intersection of Science, Religion, and Culture in Africa: Past, Present, and Future

Perspectives,” Christian and Scientific Association of Kenya (CSAK) and Mount Kenya University, Nairobi, Kenya, August 2019.

Invited speaker: “The Sex of Sin: Theologies of Sin and the Evolution of Sexual Difference”

- “Contextuality and Universality in Science and Religion” Consultation, St. Hugh’s College, University of Oxford, April 2019

Invited speaker: “Feminist Theologies and Methodologies”

- Ripon College Cuddesdon, November 2018

Invited speaker: “Sex and Sin in Evolution: Original Sin and the Evolution of Sexual Difference”

- Graduate Christian Forum, University of Oxford, November 2018

Invited speaker: “Theologies of the Body: John Paul II Through a New Feminist Materialist Lens”

- Modern Doctrine/Patristics Seminar, University of Oxford, October 2018

“Shall These Bones Live? The Re-Enchantment of Nature and Theological Anthropology”

- European Society for the Study of Science and Theology, Lyon, France, April 2018

Invited speaker: “Valerie Saiving and the Human Situation: Sin and Sexual Difference in 1960”

- Modern Doctrine/Patristics Seminar, University of Oxford, November 2017

“‘Her Sex is Different from Adam’s, but Her Pride is the Same:’ Augustine on Original Sin and Gender”

- Bonn-Oxford Faculty Exchange, University of Bonn, Germany, September 2017

Response to Sarah Williams’ *Public Sex*

- Invited respondent: Oxford Character Project “Arts of Leading” Series: May 2017

Invited speaker: “Sons of Adam, Daughters of Eve: Original Sin and the Evolution of Sexual Difference”

- Las Casas Institute, Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford: May 2017

“The ‘Nature’ of Sexual Difference: New Materialism as a Resource”

- Society for the Study of Theology Conference: University of Nottingham, UK: April 2017

“Special Divine Action and Theological Anthropology”

- American Academy of Religion Pre-Conference Symposium, Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion: November 2016

“Hamartiology and the Rise of Fundamentalisms”

- “The Role of the Church in a Pluralistic Society: Good Influence or Good Riddance?” : Trinity College Dublin, Loyola Institute: June 2016

Invited Respondent: Response to Graham Ward’s *How the Light Gets In*

- Modern Doctrine Study Day: Ertegun House, University of Oxford: June 2016

Vilma Seelaus Prize Lecture: “Taking Her Stand Beyond All Earthly Hierarchies: Teresa of Avila, Gender Performance, and Contemplative Prayer”

- Carmelite Symposium: St. Teresa of Avila’s Gift to the 21st Century: University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois: Summer 2015

“Can Augustine Survive Natural Selection? Reading Augustine on Original Sin After Darwin”

- Colossian Forum: “Re-Imagining the Intersection of Evolution and the Fall Conference”

- Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL: Spring 2015

“Schillebeeckx and Original Sin in the 21st Century: Electronic Alienation and a Healing Church”

- The Church and the Modern World Conference: Teaching and Understanding *Gaudium et Spes* After 50 Years: University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota: Spring 2015

“Dangerous Crossings: Schillebeeckx, Pope Francis, and the Future of Feminist Theology”

- Edward Schillebeeckx Centenary Conference: Grace, Governance, and Globalization
- Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands: Summer 2014

“Taking Her Stand Beyond All Earthly Hierarchies: Teresa of Avila, Gender Performance, and Contemplative Prayer”

- New England and Canadian Maritimes American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting
- Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts: Spring 2014

AWARDS AND HONORS

April 2024 2015-2018	Aquinas Scholar in Residence in Theology, Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame Clarendon Scholarship, University of Oxford (full D.Phil funding with living stipend)
2018	Rebecca Flowers Squire Bursary, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford
2015-2018	Christ Church Graduate Scholarship, University of Oxford
2016-2018	SCIO Doctoral Scholarship in Science and Religion Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford
2015	<i>Tijdschrift voor Theologie</i> Essay Prize for Theology and Contemporary Culture (2 nd place)
2012-2015	Baker-Arrupe Fellowship, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (full tuition scholarship with living stipend)
Spring 2015	University of Notre Dame Human Distinctiveness Project Ph.D Scholarship {Declined}
Fall 2014	Vilma Seelaus Prize for Carmelite Writing, The Carmelite Institute
Summer 2014	Boston College School of Theology and Ministry Grant
Summer 2014	Edward Schillebeeckx Centenary Conference Grant
Summer 2014	IHM Sisters Ministry Grant

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

“Aquinas and a Theology of Play”

- Public Lecture at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN. Scheduled for April 11, 2024.

Interviewed by Prof. Tom O’Loughlin (University of Nottingham) for the ‘Why Study?’ series (Youtube), 2021.

Theologies of Action in a Time of Crisis

- Public online event with TheoCon and the University of Edinburgh organized by Dr Sarah Lane Ritchie and Dr Tripp Fuller. Panelists included myself, Dr Grace Ji-Sun Kim, and Dr John Boopalan. July 2020

“Evolving Desire: Sexual Selection, the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis, and Theologies of Purpose in Nature”

- Public Lecture, Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion, University of Oxford, March 2020

“Augustine on Human Nature”

- Public Outreach event for Theology Dept. from University of Nottingham, English Martyrs Catholic School, Leicester, UK, January 2020

Invited guest on the BBC’s (television) “The Big Questions” (May 28 2017, Series 10, Episode 19)

- Panelist addressing question “Does Morality come from Religion or Evolution?”

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

- 2023 Reviewer for Oxford University Press
2023 Reviewer for *Theology and Sexuality*
2022-2025 Moderator for Theology and Science Unit, Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA)
2022 Application reviewer for SET Foundations grant applications (Loyola University Maryland and John Templeton Foundation)
2022 Peer reviewer for *Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences*
2017 Admissions examiner, Christ Church, University of Oxford
2016-2017 Graduate Theological Society President, University of Oxford
2016-2017 Graduate Christian Forum Secretary, University of Oxford
2016-2017 Graduate Joint Consultative Committee, University of Oxford
2014-2015 Student Forum Moderator (included service on Educational Policy Committee, STM Student Forum, and Graduate Senate of Boston College)
Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Summer 2013/2014 Program Assistant, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Summer Institute
2013-2014 Arrupe International Immersion Program Mentor (El Salvador group)
Boston College

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker)
Latin, Spanish, French (reading)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA)
European Society for the Study of Science and Theology (ESSSAT)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS

California State Preliminary Secondary Teaching Credential (English)
California Subject Exams for Teachers (CSET)- Passed both the Multiple Subject and English exams
California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)-Passed
Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA)-Passed
Attended Oxford University’s ‘Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford’ workshop (1 day)
Attended Oxford University’s ‘Developing Learning and Teaching’ seminar series (8 weeks)
Acquired the SEDA PDF Support Learning Award (UK Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Learning in Higher education, Descriptor 1) (Nationally recognized teaching qualification equivalent to Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy)
Attended Oxford University’s Sexual Violence Awareness Training (1 day)