

Erik C. Owens

Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life
Boston College
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. The University of Chicago, 2007
Religious Ethics
Dissertation: "Civic Education for Religious Freedom: Liberal Republicanism and the Common Good in American Public Schools"
Committee: Jean Bethke Elshtain (Advisor); Franklin I. Gamwell; W. Clark Gilpin
- M.T.S. Harvard University Divinity School, 1996
Religion and Society
Advisor: Rev. J. Bryan Hehir
- B.A. Duke University, 1994, *magna cum laude*
Public Policy Studies, Religion
Special Distinction in Religion awarded for Senior Honors Thesis

EMPLOYMENT

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Assistant Director, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, July 2006 – Present

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theology, July 2006 – Present

Publish ongoing research on religion and public life, with special focus on their intersection with theories and practices of education. Teach elective graduate and undergraduate courses in theology and international studies. Write grant proposals, including current proposal for major project on religious freedom and public schools (co-principal investigator with Alan Wolfe). Organize and participate in the Center's many campus events: conferences, lectures, panel discussions and ongoing lunch colloquia. Primary organizer of the major conferences "Gambling and the American Moral Landscape" (October 2007) and "Blasphemy, Free Expression and Journalistic Ethics" (March 2007). Oversee the Center's web site content and development. Manage four research assistants who help with all these efforts.

The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Visiting Fellow, Center on Religion and Democracy, September 2005 – June 2006

Worked on dissertation and related conference papers, articles and book; presented research to faculty and fellows; participated in interdisciplinary fellows' seminar.

The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Teaching Intern, Social Sciences Collegiate Division, January – June 2003 (2 academic quarters)

"Classics of Social and Political Thought," with professors Jean Bethke Elshtain (Winter 2003) and Luis Fernando Medina (Spring 2003).

The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Chicago, IL
Research Associate, September 2001 – February 2003
Interim Administrative Director, June – September 2001

Coordinated, conducted and disseminated research on capital punishment, human stem cell research, state sovereignty, international relations, human rights, and theological education. Organized public forums, published research in print and on the Pew Forum’s popular web site.

DePaul University, Chicago, IL
Instructor, Religious Studies, January – August 2000; March – June 2002 (3 academic quarters)
Taught “Business, Ethics and Society” to undergraduate students.

City of Chicago Board of Ethics, Chicago, IL
Research Analyst, June 2000 – June 2001
Conducted research and drafted legal opinions and memoranda relating to cases pending before the Board of Ethics, which enforces the City of Chicago’s ethics ordinances.

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Concord, MA
Research Assistant, April 1996 – July 1998
Assisted Pulitzer Prize-winning author with research for her book *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* (Simon & Schuster, 2005). Research topics included military strategy and history, presidential media coverage, religion and the presidency, and just war theory.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Visiting Fellowship, Center on Religion and Democracy, University of Virginia (2005-2006)
Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Research Related to Education (2004-2005)
Doolittle-Harrison Travel Fellowship (2005)
Finalist, Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship (2003-2004)
Bradley Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2001-2004)
Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellowship, The University of Chicago (2002-2003)
University of Chicago Divinity School Scholarship (1998-2001)

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Edited Volumes

Gambling: Mapping the American Moral Landscape. (Edited, with Alan Wolfe.) Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2009.

Religion and the Death Penalty: A Call for Reckoning. (Edited, with John Carlson and Eric Elshstain.) Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004.

The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics. (Edited, with John Carlson.) Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2003.

Peer Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

“The True Cost of Funding Education with Lottery Revenues,” in *Gambling: Mapping the American Moral Landscape*, forthcoming 2009.

“Disestablishment as Legal Paideia: Assessing Michael McConnell’s Educational and Religious Pluralism,” in *Philosophy of Education Yearbook 2008* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2008).

“Religion and Capital Punishment: An Introduction” (with Eric Elshtain). In *Religion and the Death Penalty*, 2004.

“Sovereignty after September 11: What Has Changed?” In *The Sacred and the Sovereign*, 2003.

“Reconsidering Westphalia’s Legacy for Religion and International Politics” (with John Carlson). In *The Sacred and the Sovereign*, 2003.

“Taking the ‘Public’ Out of Our Schools: The Political, Constitutional and Civic Implications of Private School Vouchers.” *Journal of Church and State* 44:4 (Autumn 2002): 717-747.

Other Articles and Book Chapters

“Religion and Civic Education in American Public Schools,” chapter in Karin Johnston, ed. *Religion, Politics and Policy in the United States and Germany*, vol. 5 (Washington: American Institute for Comparative German Studies, 2007).

“The Death Penalty: Legal Aspects.” In *Religion Past and Present: The Encyclopedia of Theology and Religion* [English adaptation of *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, 4^e], H.D. Betz, D. Browning, B. Janowski and E. Jüngel, eds. Leiden: Brill, 2007.

“Religious Displays on Public Property.” In *The Encyclopedia of Religious Freedom*, C. Cookson, ed. New York: Berkshire/Routledge, 2003.

“Mitchell v. Helms,” “Religious Freedom (Istook) Amendment,” “Boy Scouts of America v. Dale,” and “Religion in the 1994 Elections.” In *The Encyclopedia of American Religion and Politics*, Paul A. Djupe and Laura R. Olson, eds. New York: Facts on File, 2003.

“Transitions and Traditions: Use of Force in International Politics.” *Criterion*, Spring 2001.

“Rethinking Religion and Sovereignty.” *Sightings*, September 14, 2000.

Book Reviews

Does God Belong in Public Schools? by Kent Greenawalt. *Journal of Religion* 86:3 (July 2006): 486-87.

The Ways of Judgment, by Oliver O'Donovan. *Anglican Theological Review* 88:3 (Summer 2006): 468-70.

Getting Over Equality: A Critical Diagnosis of Religious Freedom in America, by Steven D. Smith. *Journal of Religion* 84:2 (April 2004): 319-320.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Manuscript: *Religious Freedom and the Common Good in American Public Schools*.

Article: “Do Good Citizens Need the Good Book? Teaching the Bible in American Public Schools”

Paper: “Teaching Religious Freedom in Public Schools: A Comparative Study” [for the American Academy of Religion 2008 annual conference]

Book reviews of recent work in religion, politics and education for the *Journal of Church and State*; *Politics and Religion*; and *Journal of Religion*.

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Religion in the 2008 Presidential Campaigns.” American Academy of Religion, November 2008.

“Teaching Religious Freedom in Public Schools: A Comparative Study.” American Academy of Religion, November 2008.

“Religion and the 2008 Election.” Boston College, October 2008.

“The Future of American Political Theologies.” Response paper, “Political Theologies: Past, Present, and Future” conference, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, October 2008.

“Universal but Separate: Integration and Ethics in Antebellum American Schools.” Response paper, Bentley College Faculty Research Seminar, April 2008.

“Disestablishment as Legal *Paideia*?” Philosophy of Education Society, April 2008.

“Civic Education for Religious Freedom.” Society of Christian Ethics, January 2007.

“Disestablishment as Legal *Paideia*?” American Academy of Religion, November 2006.

“Religion, Public Education and the Power of Persuasion: Assessing Michael McConnell’s ‘Educational Disestablishment’ as a Form of Pluralism.” American Political Science Association, September 2006.

“Do Good Citizens Need the Good Book? Teaching the Bible in American Public Schools.” Illinois Forum on Religion in America, University of Illinois, April 2006.

Book discussion session: *Religion and the Death Penalty: A Call for Reckoning*. Society of Christian Ethics, January 2006.

“Religious Freedom and Civic Education in American Public Schools.” Stanford University School of Education, December 2005.

“Pragmatic Citizenship and the Democratic Virtues in Stout’s *Democracy and Tradition*.” “Religion and the Democratic Prospect” conference, University of Chicago, February 2005.

“Judging Religious Freedom in American Public Schools: The Supreme Court’s New Conception of Citizenship?” Society of Christian Ethics, January 2005.

“Religious Freedom and Civic Education in American Public Schools: Lessons from the Supreme Court.” “Religion and the Democratic Prospect” conference, University of Chicago, May 2004.

“Integrating Civic Virtues and Religious Studies in American Public Schools.” American Academy of Religion, Midwest Region, April 2004.

Book discussion session: *The Sacred and the Sovereign: Religion and International Politics*, Society of Christian Ethics, January 2004.

“Private School Vouchers and Religious Freedom.” Public Theology Working Group, Martin Marty Center, University of Chicago Divinity School, March 2002.

“Religion and the Presidency: Comparing Carter and Reagan.” (Senior Honors Thesis, Duke University, 1994). Selected as a required text for the course “Ethical Issues in Twentieth Century America” at Duke University, Fall 1994 and 1995.

COURSES

“Religion and Politics: Irish and European Perspectives,” Boston College (Theology), Summer 2009 in Dublin, Ireland.

“For God and Country? Thinking about Religion and Citizenship,” Boston College (Theology), Spring 2007, Fall 2008.

“Ethics, Religion and International Politics,” Boston College (International Studies/Theology), Spring 2008 and 2009.

“Ethical Issues in Business and Economics,” Boston College (Theology), Fall 2007.

“Classics of Social and Political Thought,” University of Chicago (Social Sciences Core), Spring/Winter 2003.

“Business, Ethics and Society,” DePaul University (Management/Religious Studies), Spring 2000 and 2002, Summer 2000.

TEACHING COMPETENCE

Primary: Religious ethics (including theological and philosophical approaches); religion and political thought (historical and contemporary, applied and theoretical); citizenship and civic education; theories of justice; religion and the U.S. Constitution.

Secondary: Religion and international relations; business ethics; theories and methods in religious studies; American religious history.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (steering committee: Religion and Politics section)

American Political Science Association (communications committee: Religion and Politics section)

Association for Political Theory

Philosophy of Education Society

Society of Christian Ethics

REFEREEING

Baylor University Press

Journal of the American Academy of Religion

Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics

Saint Antony's International Review (STAIR) [University of Oxford]

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty member and rapporteur, “Ways of Knowing and the Catholic Intellectual Traditions” seminar, Boston College, 2007-2009.

Faculty Performance Review, The University of Chicago Divinity School, Winter 2003.

Conference organizer, “A Call for Reckoning: Religion and the Death Penalty,” The University of Chicago, January 2002.

Conference organizer, “The Sacred and the Sovereign: Human Rights, the Use of Force, and Religious Pluralism at Century’s Dawn,” The University of Chicago, October 2000.

Founding member of two ongoing Graduate Workshops at The University of Chicago: Public Theology (starting Fall 2000) and Law and Religion (starting Fall 2003).

Harvard Divinity School Representative, Harvard Graduate Council, 1995-1996.

REFERENCES

Alan Wolfe

Professor of Political Science and Director, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life
Boston College, 24 Quincy Rd., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Jean Bethke Elshtain (Dissertation advisor)

Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics
University of Chicago Divinity School and Department of Political Science
Swift Hall, 1025 E. 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637

Eamonn Callan

Pigott Family Professor of Education
Stanford University School of Education
485 Lasuen Mall, Stanford, CA 94305-3096

Rev. J. Bryan Hehir (Former advisor)

Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life
Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government
and Secretary for Social Services, Archdiocese of Boston
75 Kneeland St., Suite 800, Boston, MA 02111

Franklin I. Gamwell (Dissertation reader)

Shailer Mathews Distinguished Service Professor of Religious Ethics and Philosophy of Religion
University of Chicago Divinity School
Swift Hall, 1025 E. 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637