Matthew C. Kruger, August 2023

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Curriculum Vitae

Department of Theology 84 Sumner St

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Chestnut Hill, MA 02467 3392222097

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2022- Associate Professor of the Practice, Theology Department, Boston College

2015-2022 Assistant Professor of the Practice, Theology Department, Boston College

2014-2015 Adjunct faculty, Philosophy Department, Boston College

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Department of Theology, Boston College, 2014

Dissertation: *The freedom of the mind for God: reflexivity and spiritual exercises in Thomas Aquinas*

M.Div. Harvard Divinity School, 2009

B.A. Comparative Religion, Tufts University, 2006

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

2020 *What the living know: A novel of suicide and philosophy.* Buffalo, NY: NFB publishing.

Podcast: https://newbooksnetwork.com/what-the-living-know

2019 *The Gospel and Nothingness*. Nagoya, Japan: Chisokudo Publications. [Peer-reviewed]

2018 *Spiritual Exercises for the Postmodern Christian*. Eugene, OR: Cascade.

**Peer reviewed journal articles**

Forthcoming Nietzsche, Nishitani, and Laruelle on the Apostle Paul: tradition and the affirmation of life. *Comparative and Continental Philosophy*.

2023 Aquinas and Zhuangzi on simultaneous emotions. *Dao: A journal of comparative philosophy*. 22.3: 413-436.

2022 Heidegger, Marion, and the theological turn: “The Vanity of Authenticity” and the answer to nihilism. *Sophia*. 62.2: 341-358

2021 Is Philosophy a Choice? An Exploration via Parable with Nishitani, Heidegger, and Derrida. *Philosophy East and West*. October 71.4: 919-937.

2020 Double-consciousness and despair: exploring a connection between Søren Kierkegaard and W.E.B. Du Bois. *Kierkegaard Studies Yearbook.* Autumn 2020. 25.1: 265-283.

2020 High on God: Religious experience and counter-experience in light of the study of religion. *Religions*. July, 11.8: 388.

2020 Jeremy Taylor and the practice of theology. *Anglican Theological Review.* 102.1, 31-48.

2017 Aquinas, Hadot, and spiritual exercises. *New Blackfriars*. July, 98 (1076), 414-426.

**Editorially reviewed chapters and articles**

2022 Nihilism – Buddhism. *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception.* DeGruyter.

2022 The iPhone is a river: Heidegger on aesthetic engagement with technology. *Aesthetic Literacy Vol. 1: A Book for Everyone*. Ed. Valery Vinogradovs

2021 Without why: religion without purpose in Pixar’s Soul. *Harvard Divinity Bulletin.* Autumn/Winter.

**Book Reviews**

2023 Review: *Religion and Film* by Stefanie Knauss. *Reading Religion*.

2022 Review: *Contemporary with Christ: Kierkegaard and Second-Personal Spirituality* by Joshua Cockayne. *Reading Religion*.

2014 Review: Julian of Norwich, Theologian by Denys Turner. *Anglican and Episcopal History* 83, no. 2: (219-220).

2012 Review: Christian Mysticism: An Introduction to Contemporary Theoretical Approaches by Louise Nelstrop, Bradley B. Onishi and Kevin Magill. *Anglican and Episcopal History* 81, no. 1: (100-101).

**UPCOMING PROJECTS**

**Submitted**

Marion, Love, and Nihilism: A dialogue with Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Nishitani

“Nietzsche, Nishitani, and Laruelle on the Apostle Paul: tradition and the affirmation of life”

**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

**Monographs**

*The art of technology: Simondon, Heidegger, and the Kyoto School*

*The relation of the self to truth: Foucault on spirituality*

*The spirituality of Thomas Aquinas* (two volumes)

**Articles**

“Foucault and the hermeneutics of the subject: Bonaventure and Aquinas”

“Nietzsche, Nishitani, and Laruelle on Faith”

**REVIEW**

Peer Reviews for *Religions, Modern Theology, Studia Heideggeriana,* and *Philosophy East and West*

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Boston College, Sole Instructor**

The Meaning of Life through Film (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

PULSE: the person and social responsibility I and II (2015-present) (two sections)

PULSE: the person and social responsibility I and II (fall 2013-2015) (one section)

Intro to Christian Theology I and II (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

**Boston College, Team Taught**

The self between eastern and western thought (with Catherine Cornille) (Spring 2019)

**Boston College, Teaching Assistant**

PULSE: the person and social responsibility I and II (Fall 2012, Spring 2013)

Exploring Catholicism I and II (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)

**Tufts University, Teaching Assistant**

Philosophy of religion (Fall 2005)

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

**Administrative service**

2021-2021 Theology department conversations facilitator

2021- Theology Department Newsletter Editor

2021-2021 Ad-hoc committee on the state of the department

2021-2023 Theology Department Curriculum Committee

2019-2020 Pulse 50th Anniversary Conference co-chair

2017- 2019 Executive Committee, Department of Theology

2016- Pulse learning goals assessment committee

**Advising**

2017-2020 Freshman pre-major advising (15 students per year)

2016- Theology department major advising (2 students per year)

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

2013-2014 Graduate Fellow of Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College

2011 Junior Scholar Research Grant, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, Boston College

**CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

2021 Heidegger’s Technology and Tanizaki’s Toilet: Gestell and Cosmotechnics. *Japan: Pre-Modern, Modern, Contemporary - A Return Trip from the East to the West: Learning in, about and from Japan*. The 8th International Conference (online) “Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University, Bucharest September 3-5, 2021

2021 Art, Technology, and the Future of Religion: Simondon with Mariko Mori and Takashi Murakami. *Demarginalizing Futures: Rethinking embodiment, community, culture.* 5th Vienna Forum on Intercultural Philosophy. (Online) February 18-20.

2020 (postponed) Overcoming nihilism: the responses of Jean-Luc Marion and Nishitani Keiji. *Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle Conference*. Tallinn, Estonia. May 7-10.

2020 (postponed) Why do we care about others? Providing philosophical and theological reasons for morality and compassion. Pulse 50th Anniversary Conference. Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. March 27.

2019 The experience of nothing at all: Eriugena and Nishida on religious experience. Mystical Theology Network conference. Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. March 3.

2018 Response to Eugene Uzukwu’s “On Redemptive Suffering: From African Religions to Christianity.” Atonement and Comparative Religion Conference. Connors Conference and Retreat Center, Dover, MA. September 28-29.

2018 Words without knowledge: Wittgenstein, Nishitani and Job on scientific knowledge in ethics and theodicy. NEMAAR Conference. Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, MA. April 7.

2014 Aquinas, Sarah Coakley, and the Trinity. Patristics, Medieval and Renaissance Conference. Villanova University, Villanova, PA. October 24-26.

2014 The passions of the apostle Paul in the commentaries of Thomas Aquinas. Boston College and Durham University Medieval Studies Post-Graduate Conference*.* Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. May 5-6.

2013 What is the human? Identity and self-relation in Thomas Aquinas. Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies. St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO. June 17-19.

2011 Controlling Habits of Thought in Thomas Aquinas. Patristics, Medieval and Renaissance Conference. Villanova University, Villanova, PA. October 21-23.

2010 The Absence of Experience: Ethical Formation in the Liturgy. Liturgy, Ethics, and the Interpretation of Vatican II. Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA. March 9.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2006-2008 Staff researcher, New Testament Language Project: Contexticon.com

Conducted research and wrote articles on Koine Greek terminology

**MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

2023 Sabbatical Associate Priest Newton Centre, MA

Trinity Church

2016- Diocesan Supply priest

2015 St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Brookline, MA

Summer Sabbatical Associate Priest

2013 St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Bedford, MA

Interim Rector (November-December)

2011-2013 The Old North Church Boston, MA

Assistant Vicar

Leadership of Young Professionals group (20s-40s), Responsible for weddings and baptisms (10-15 weddings per year) including pre-marriage counseling, Leadership of Pastoral Care Team, Preach two to three times monthly

2009-2011 Trinity Episcopal Church Concord, MA

Curate

2008 Beverly Hospital Beverly, MA

Clinical Pastoral Education (Seminarian) (summer)

2007-2008 The Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard University Cambridge, MA

Cambridge, MA Kellogg Fellow (Seminarian)

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2013- Instructor, Diocesan Program for Diaconal Formation, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts (Ethics and Moral Theology)

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion

European Network of Japanese Philosophy

Society of Asian and Comparative Philosophy

**LANGUAGES**

French: Intermediate reading, basic speaking

German: Intermediate reading, basic speaking

Latin: Intermediate reading

Spanish: basic reading, basic speaking

Ancient Greek (Koine): basic reading

**REFERENCES**

Catherine Cornille

Newton College Alumnae Chair

Professor of Comparative Theology

Boston College

[Catherine.cornille@bc.edu](mailto:Catherine.cornille@bc.edu)

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James Heisig (retired)

Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture

Nagoya, Japan

[heisig@nanzan-u.ac.jp](mailto:heisig@nanzan-u.ac.jp)

James F. Keenan, S.J.

The Founders Professorship in Theology

Boston College

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Mark Jordan

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