

DAVID CHRISTIAN JUSTICE

Postdoctoral Fellow at Baylor University

Honors College, Baylor University
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EDUCATION

Spring 2023	Ph.D. in Christian Theology, Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO) Graduate Minor in Women's and Gender Studies Dissertation title: "King and Kingdom Violence: Thinking with Martin Luther King Jr. Toward the Beloved Community" Dissertation Director: Leonard C. McKinnis II Committee: J. Kameron Carter, Emily J. Dumler-Winckler, Rubén Rosario Rodríguez
Expected 2023	M.A. in Religion, University of Illinois (Champaign, IL)
2018	M.A. in Theological Ethics, Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO)
2015	M.A. in Philosophy, University of Missouri—St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)
2012	B.A. in Philosophy, <i>Cum Laude</i> , Greenville University (Greenville, IL)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Theology and Activism of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Decolonial and Liberatory Study of Religion
- African-American Studies
- Women's and Gender Studies

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Fall 2023 - present	Baylor University (Waco, TX) Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core program
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AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Saint Louis University
- Spring 2022 **Saint Louis University Dissertation Fellowship**
A fellowship competitively awarded to Saint Louis University Ph.D. candidates whose work, during their time at Saint Louis University, demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and whose dissertation will significantly extend the body of knowledge within their discipline.
- Department of Theological Studies Travel Grant**
A grant awarded by DTS to fund research travel.
- Fall 2021 **Knoedler Student Research Fund**
An award to help finance my travel to the AAR annual meeting.
- Summer 2020 **Religion and Public Life Graduate Fellowship for the Lived Religion in the Digital Age Project**
I conducted field research in the St. Louis region collecting ethnographic data, doing remote interviews, and digitally documenting lived religion, primarily focused on minority religious communities and BLM protests.
- 2019—2020 **Culturally Responsive Graduate Fellow in the Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning**
This fellowship teaches participants through seminars and workshops how to effectively teach international, first-generation, and culturally diverse students and create a welcoming and pedagogically effective classroom environment.
- 2019 **SLU College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Thesis Award**
This award honors exceptional scholarship by thesis master’s students. It is the award given to the top thesis each year in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- 2018—2019 **Henry Luce Foundation: Religion and Public Life Fellow**
I worked as a member of the “Lived Religion in the Digital Age” project. This included organizing conferences pertaining to lived religion and working towards the creation of a publicly accessible interactive database of religious life in St. Louis. In addition, I acted as a teaching assistant, created and maintained the project website, and conducted ethnographic research.
- 2016—2020 **Awarded full tuition remission and research/teaching assistant position**
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Fall 2022 **Love of Learning Award - Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society**
A monetary award to help fund graduate or professional study.
- Spring 2022 **Thulin Prize for Excellence in the Study of Religion**
A prize awarded each year to an outstanding MA student or students in the Department of Religion.
- Graduate College Masters Project Travel Grant**
A grant awarded to fund my research trip to the Boston University archive.
- 2020-2021 **Qualified for “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students”**
A list compiled by the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning based on student evaluations of instruction.
- 2020-Present **Awarded full tuition remission and teaching/research assistant position**

Greenville University

- 2016 **The Students' Choice "Best Classes at GU"**
 My course, Major Issues in Philosophy, was picked as one of the student
 body's five favorite courses at Greenville University
- 2008—2012 **McAllaster Scholar**
- 2008—2012 **College Scholar**
- 2008—2012 **Trustees' Scholarship**

PUBLICATIONS

Journal

"The Sword that Heals: King, the Black Radical Tradition, and the Destructive Power of the Beloved Community," *Black Theology Papers Project* (Accepted for Publication)

Online

"On Prophetic Rage," *Sightings*, The University of Chicago Divinity School, October 21, 2021,
<https://divinity.uchicago.edu/sightings/articles/prophetic-rage-0>.

"Negating Racial Capitalism Through the Beloved Community," *The Bias Magazine, Institute for Christian Socialism*, January 18, 2021,
<http://christiansocialism.com/martin-luther-king-jr-racial-capitalism-negative-theology/>.

Columnist, *Conciliar Post*, <https://conciliarpost.com/author/david-justice/> (2019—2022)

Book Reviews

Nonviolence Before King: The Politics of Being and the Black Freedom Struggle by Anthony C. Siracusa in *Reading Religion*, published May 20, 2022,
<http://readingreligion.org/9781469663005/nonviolence-before-king/>.

The #BlackLivesMatter Movement: Toward an Intersectional Theology by Edward Donalson III in *Reading Religion*, published July 9, 2021,
<https://readingreligion.org/books/blacklivesmatter-movement>.

America's Unholy Ghosts: The Racist Roots of Our Faith and Politics by Joel Edward Goza in *Reading Religion*, August 11, 2020, <https://readingreligion.org/books/americas-unholy-ghosts>.

Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody: The Making of Black Theologian by James Cone in *Reading Religion*, July 31, 2019 <http://readingreligion.org/books/said-i-wasnt-gonna-tell-nobody>.

Journal Articles In Preparation

"From White Supremacy to the Beloved Community: Social Sin and Redemption in King and Schleiermacher." (complete draft)

"Perhaps a New Spirit is Rising Among Us': Reading the Civil Rights Movement as a New Pentecost." (complete draft)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “New Cartographies in Kingian Studies” — Invited Panelist
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 19: Denver, CO)
- “Decolonizing the Human: Toward Breaking Man and Reinventing the Human.”
Christian Left Conference 2022—Creation, Land, and Indigeneity: Resistance on Turtle Island and Beyond—Emmanuel College of the University of Toronto (August 5: online)
- “David Walker's Appeal in Conversation with Wesleyan Christian Perfection as Scriptural Argument for Societal Metanoia.”
Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting (March 10: online)
- 2021 “The Sword that Heals: King, the Black Radical Tradition, and the Destructive Power of the Beloved Community.”
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 22: San Antonio, TX)
- “From White Supremacy to the Beloved Community: King in Conversation with Schleiermacher.”
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 20: San Antonio, TX)
- “Hate What is Evil: The Relationship Between Hatred and Love in Dr. King's Theology.”
Midwest American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (April 23: online)
- 2020 “Negating Capitalism: The Beloved Community as Negative Political Theology and Positive Social Imaginary.”
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (December 9: online)
- “How Then Should We Experience?”
Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting (March 7: Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO)
- “Ecological Outlaws: Developing Outlaw Emotions in the Service of Creation Care.”
Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting (March 5: Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO)

“A Certain Dark Joy’: The Prophetic Possibility of Rage and Joy in MLK Jr.”
International Conference for Collaborative Philosophy, Theology, and
Ministry (February 28: Christ the King Seminary, Buffalo, NY)

Panelist on “‘Keep Moving Forward!’: Resourcing the Community”
Third Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Observance in Fountain Park (January
18: Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO)

2019

“Remaining Angry: The Intimate Connection between Anger and Love in
King’s Social Theology”
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
(November 23: San Diego, CA)

“Divine Discontent: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Theology of Anger”
Crossing the Lines: Interdisciplinary Christian Conversations about Difference
(October 23: Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA)

“Suffering as Conversion: White Supremacy in MLK’s Theology through the
Lenses of Lonerganian Bias and Conversion” Lonergan on the Edge
(September 20: Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI)

“Ontological Courage: Re-creating Ontology in the Light of Black Being”
Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting
(March 14: Wesley Seminary, Washington, D.C.)

“Blind and Deaf to God: White Christianity in the Theology of Cone/King”
Minority Scholars of Religion and Theology Student Conference: “The
Theology of Professor James Hal Cone”
(March 7: Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO)

“Be Still and Know that I am God: The Apocalyptic Vision of MLK Jr.”
Midwest American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
(March 2: Muncie, IN)

“Ontological Courage: Moving Beyond the Idolatry of Whiteness”
Midwest American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
(March 1: Muncie, IN)

2018

“Beyond Non-Violence in the Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.”
Saint Louis University Graduate Research Symposium
(April 27: Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO)

“Withered Souls: The Degrading Effects of White Supremacy on White
America” Wesleyan Philosophical Society Annual Meeting
(March 8: Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow	Baylor University, BIC 1112: Examined Life, BIC 1313: World of Rhetoric, BIC 2330: Social World I, Fall 2023
Adjunct Professor	Greenville University, UNIV 301: Science and Christianity, Spring and Summer 2022, Summer 2023, Fall 2023: online (Greenville, IL).
Teaching Assistant	University of Illinois, PHIL 110/REL 110: World Religions, Spring 2021—Spring 2022 and AFRO 134/REL 134: Race, Religion, and Resistance, Fall 2020 and Spring 2022 (Champaign, IL). Saint Louis University, AAM 3350/THEO 3425: The Invisible Institution: African American Religion and the Rise of Black Theology, Spring 2020 and THEO 1000: Theological Foundations, Fall 2019 (St. Louis, MO).
Guest Lecturer	Saint Louis University, THEO 2520: Comparative Religious Ethics, Spring 2019, THEO 2110: Old Testament, Spring 2019 and THEO 2930: Race, Religion, and America, Spring 2019 (St. Louis, MO)
Adjunct Professor	Greenville University, Interterm 2016—Summer 2018 (Greenville, IL)
Adjunct Professor	Kaskaskia College, Fall 2015 (Centralia, IL)
Adjunct Professor	Centralia Correctional Center, Fall 2015 (Centralia, IL)
Graduate Instructor	University of Missouri-St. Louis, Summer—Fall 2014 (St. Louis, MO)
Teaching Assistant	University of Missouri-St. Louis, Fall 2013—Spring 2014 (St. Louis, MO)
Teaching Assistant	Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP), Summer 2012 (Durham, NC)

COURSES TAUGHT

UNIV 301: Science and Christianity, Greenville University (Greenville, IL)
PHIL 201: Major Issues in Philosophy, Greenville University (Greenville, IL)
PHLE 120: Ethics, Kaskaskia College (Centralia, IL)
PHLE 110: Logic, Kaskaskia College (Centralia, IL)
PHLE 119: Core Values and Ethical Decision Making, Centralia Correctional Center (Centralia, IL)

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM AREAS

Exam 1: Modern Christian Theology—Focus on American theology

Exam 2: Theories and Methods in Religious Studies—Focus on Gender Studies and Hermeneutics

Exam 3: Liberation Theology—Focus on Black liberation, Latin American liberation, Womanist, and Mujerista theology

Exam 4: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Intellectual Genealogy—Focus on American Black Church, Black American History, and Major Kingian Scholarship

UNIVERSITY/ACADEMIC SERVICE

November 2022 - present	Member of Steering Committee, Theology of Martin Luther King Jr. Unit, American Academy of Religion
Spring 2021 - Spring 2023	Section Chair, Undergraduate Papers, Midwest American Academy of Religion
Fall 2021 - Spring 2022	Member of the Application Committee, Fellowship for Protestant Ethics
Spring 2020	Head of Department of Theological Studies Student Action Committee Parental Leave Policy Subcommittee
Spring 2020	Member of the Organizing Committee for the 26th Annual Graduate Student Association Research Symposium *Cancelled due to COVID-19
Fall 2019	Organizing Assistant for the Lived Religion in the Digital Age Fall Symposium: "Religion in Place: Spaces Borders Bodies"
Fall 2019	Graduate Student Association Representative Theological Studies Department
Spring 2019	Co-Organizer for the Inaugural Exhibit for the Adorjan Hall Humanities Gallery: "#Arch City Religion: Photographs from Religion in the Midwest by Lauren Pond"
Spring 2018	Member of the Organizing Committee for Saint Louis University Symposium: "From Selma to St. Louis: Theology of Martin Luther King Jr., and the Pursuit of Justice 50 Years Later"
Spring 2017	Committee Member for Elizabeth Johnson's Honors Thesis at Greenville University

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Fellowship for Protestant Ethics
Political Theology Network

REFERENCES

Leonard Cornell McKinnis II
Assistant Professor of Religion and Black Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Rubén Rosario Rodríguez
Professor of Systematic Theology, Steber Chair
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