

DR BARNABAS ASPRAY

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, St. Mary's Seminary and University

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EDUCATION

- 2015-2019** **PhD, Christian Theology**, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge
Thesis title: 'Finitude and Transcendence: A Study in Paul Ricœur's Early Philosophy'
Supervisor: Prof. Janet Soskice
Examiners: Prof. Emmanuel Falque and Dr Rowan Williams
Viva October 7th, 2019: no corrections
- 2013-2014** **MPhil, Christian Theology**, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge
Thesis title: 'Theological Hermeneutics in David Tracy and Robert Jenson'
Supervisor: Prof. David Ford
- 2010-2013** **MA, Theological Studies**, Regent College, Vancouver
Biblical Studies concentration. GPA 3.86
- 2001-2005** **BSc, Computer Science with European Study**, University of Exeter
Upper second class honours (2.1)
One-year exchange at Université de Technologie de Troyes, France

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Jul 2026 – Present** **Associate Professor of Systematic Theology**, St. Mary's Seminary and University, Maryland, USA
Full-time faculty member in the School of Theology.
- Jul 2023 – Jun 2026** **Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology**, St. Mary's Seminary and University, Maryland, USA
Full-time faculty member in the School of Theology.
- Oct 2022 – Aug 2023** **Teaching Fellow**, Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford
Teaching fellow for the Virtues & Vocations project. Responsibilities include: teaching & mentoring graduate students in virtue, character and leadership; researching and writing on character education and leadership.
- Jan 2022 – Dec 2022** **Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion**, King's College London
Undergraduate lecturer in philosophy of religion. Responsibilities include: lecturing, running seminars, marking essays, participating in committees, supervising graduate & undergraduate dissertations, & providing pastoral support to students.
- Oct 2019 – Sep 2022** **Junior Research Fellow**, Pembroke College Oxford
Member of 'Religion and the Frontier Challenges' research programme. Responsibilities include: conducting research on Christian responses to refugees, engaging in seminars, providing undergraduate and graduate teaching and assessment, and participating in the research community at Pembroke.
- Aug 2019 –** **Research Assistant**, SOAS

Jun 2020	100 hrs editorial work for Prof. Alison Scott-Baumann's monograph, <i>Islam on Campus</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020)
Jun 2014 – Apr 2015	Research Assistant , University of Cambridge 200 hrs directed research for Prof. Janet Soskice's monograph, <i>Naming God</i>
Oct 2006 – Aug 2010	Software Engineer , BBC website Developing & maintaining the BBC's mobile internet content management systems Acting team leader May 2009 – Jan 2010
Nov 2005 – Sep 2006	Software Engineer , Thales Avionics Developing a satellite communications box for airborne mobile phone usage

TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

- Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Aug 2023 – Present	St. Mary's Seminary and University, Maryland, USA Responsible for teaching: 1. Doctrine of God 2. Christology and Soteriology 3. Fundamental Theology 4. Ministry in Ecumenical and Interfaith Contexts 5. Thesis director for one doctoral student and two STL students
July 2023	Regent College, Vancouver, Canada One-week summer school course for graduate students: 'Welcoming the Stranger: Refugees in Christian Perspective'.
Oct 2020 – Jun 2023	Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford Course Convenor , 'Figures and Themes in Modern Theology' (MPhil/MSt) • Facilitating & co-teaching 16 classes for graduate students Guest Lecturer , 'Themes in Nineteenth-Century Theology and Religion' (2 nd yr UG) • 3 lectures: 'The Crisis of the Religion of Reason'; 'Feuerbach'; 'Marx and Nietzsche' Undergraduate Tutor , 'Christian Moral Reasoning'
Oct 2022 – Jun 2023	Oxford Character Project, University of Oxford Course Facilitator : 'Global Leadership Initiative', a course on character and virtue in leadership.
March 2023	Universidad Anahuac, Mexico City, Mexico 2-day course on 'Leading with Character' as part of the Oxford Character Project's knowledge exchange program.
March 2023	Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Madrid, Spain 2-day course on 'Leading with Character' as part of the Oxford Character Project's knowledge exchange program.

- Jan 2022 – Dec 2022** **King’s College London**
Teaching & Marking:
- ‘Faith and Enlightenment: Philosophies of Religion from Anselm to Kant’ (2nd year undergrad)
 - ‘Philosophy of Religious Life’ (3rd year undergrad)
 - Contributor to ‘Academic Methods’ (1st year undergrad)
- Supervising:**
- 4 dissertations (1 Master’s & 3 undergrad)
- Module design:**
- Team lead designing the core 3rd year undergrad module ‘Offence’.
- Committees:**
- Student Experience committee
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- Jun 2013 – Jan 2022** **King’s School of Theology**
Lecturer, Theology & Biblical Studies
- Teaching: ‘Doctrine of God’, ‘Hermeneutics’, ‘Theology of Culture’, ‘Why Refugees Matter’, ‘Challenges to Faith’
 - Dissertation supervised: ‘Lamentations for the Contemporary Church’
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- Oct 2016 – Jun 2018** **Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge**
Undergraduate Supervisor, Faculty of Divinity
- Paper C11: ‘God, Metaphysics, and the Modern Challenge’
 - Paper B10: ‘God, Freedom, and the Soul’
 - Paper B8: ‘Great Christian Theologians’
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- Sep 2017 – Dec 2017** **St Alban’s Certificate in Theology**
Tutor & Co-Lecturer, ‘Introduction to Christian Doctrine’
- Designing & teaching a 20hr Adult Learning course
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- Sep 2013 – Mar 2017** **King’s School of Theology**
Track Leader, Theology & Biblical Studies
- Designing & co-teaching: ‘Romans’, ‘Hermeneutics’, ‘Wisdom Literature’, ‘Christian Thought & Culture’
 - Essay marking, course coordination
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- Sep 2012 – Apr 2013** **Regent College, Vancouver, Canada**
Teacher’s Assistant, ‘Christian Thought & Culture’
- Hosting a weekly tutorial & marking final exams
- Teacher’s Assistant**, ‘Biblical Exegesis & Interpretation’
- Marking weekly student assignments & hosting a weekly tutorial

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Barnabas Aspray and David Elcott, [*On the Significance of Religion in Immigration Policy*](#) (Routledge, 2026).

Barnabas Aspray, [*Ricœur at the Limits of Philosophy: God, Creation, and Evil*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Reviews of *Ricœur at the Limits of Philosophy*:

- [Review essay in *Reviews in Religion and Theology*.](#)
- [Review in *Reading Religion*.](#)
- [Review in *Heythrop Journal*.](#)
- [Review in *Journal for Continental Philosophy of Religion*.](#)
- [Review in *Philosophy*.](#)

Journal Articles

- Barnabas Aspray, '[Mediating Revelation: Rejoinder to "Hermeneutics: The Only Way to Transcendence"](#)', *Modern Theology* 42, no. 1 (2026): 39-41.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Hermeneutics: The Only Way to Transcendence](#)', *Modern Theology* 42, no. 1 (2026): 19-35.
- Barnabas Aspray, 'Ricœur's Reception in Anglophone Theology: History and Evaluation', *Jian Diao* 63, no. 1 (2025).
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Paul Ricœur and Metaphysics](#)', *Études Ricœuriennes / Ricœur Studies* 15, no. 2 (2024): 207-26.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Jesus Was a Refugee: Unpacking the Theological Implications](#)', *Modern Theology* 40, no. 2 (2024).
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Faith, Science, and the Wager for Reality: Meillassoux and Ricœur on post-Kantian Realism](#)', *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* 84, no. 2 (15 March 2023): 133-56.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[New Challenges to Character Education](#)', *Journal of Character and Leadership Development* 10, no. 2 (2023): 49-59.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[A Throne Will Be Established in Steadfast Love: Welcoming Refugees and the Davidic Kingdom in Isaiah 16:1-5](#)', *Open Theology* 7 (2021): 426-44.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[How Can Phenomenology Address Classic Objections to Liturgy?](#)', *Religions* 12, no. 4 (April 2021): 236.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Y a-t-il une métaphysique ricœurienne ?](#)', *Crossing: The INPR Journal* 1 (2020): 73-83.
- Barnabas Aspray, '["No One Can Serve Two Masters": The Unity of Philosophy and Theology in Ricœur's Early Thought](#)', *Open Theology* 5, no. 1 (2019): 320-332.
- Barnabas Aspray, '["Scripture Grows with its Readers": Doctrinal Development from a Ricœurian Perspective](#)', *Modern Theology* 35, no. 4 (2019): 746-759.

Chapter Contributions

- Barnabas Aspray, 'Jaspers and Paul Ricœur', in *The Jaspersian Mind*, ed. Daniel Adsett (Routledge: forthcoming 2027 – completed and submitted to editor).
- Barnabas Aspray, 'Vocational Witness: A Philosophical Analysis', in *Come and See: the Call and Challenge of Cultural Witness*, ed. Graham Tomlin and Oliver Wright (SCM Press, 2026).
- Barnabas Aspray, 'Myth Became Fact: C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien on the Resurrection', in *Resurrecting the resurrection: die Auferweckung Jesu Christi als Quelle der Erneuerung*, ed. Oliver Dürr, Nicolas Matter, and Benjamin Schliesser (Aschendorff, 2026).
- Barnabas Aspray, 'From Exegesis to Allegory: Ricœur's Challenge to Biblical Scholarship', in *Reading Scripture with Paul Ricœur*, ed. Joseph Edelheit and James Moore (Lexington Press, 2021).
- Barnabas Aspray, 'Transforming Heideggerian Finitude? Following Pathways Opened by Falque', in *Transforming the Theological Turn: Phenomenology with Emmanuel Falque*, ed. Martin Kočí and Jason Alvis (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020).

Translations

- Emmanuel Falque, 'Response', trans. Barnabas Aspray, *Modern Theology* 42, no. 1 (2026): 131-133.

Emmanuel Falque, 'Trinitarian Kenosis and the Limits of Phenomenology', in *New Trinitarian Ontologies*, ed. John Milbank, Ryan Haecker, and J.D. Lyonhart, trans. Barnabas Aspray, vol. 1 (Cascade, 2025), 92–106.

Emmanuel Falque, 'The All-Seeing: Fraternity and Vision of God in Nicholas of Cusa', trans. Barnabas Aspray and Kyle Kavanaugh, *Modern Theology* 35, no. 4 (2019): 760–87.

Paul Ricœur, 'From One Testament to the Other', trans. Barnabas Aspray, *Modern Theology* 33, no. 2 (2017): 235–42.

Dictionary Entries

Three entries ('Nietzsche'; 'Biblical Hermeneutics'; 'Transcendence') in *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, ed. Andrew Louth, 4th ed., (Oxford University Press, 2022).

Book Reviews

Review: D. Glenn Butner Jr., *Jesus the Refugee: Ancient Injustice and Modern Solidarity* (Fortress Press, 2023), *Reading Religion* (29 June 2023) - <https://readingreligion.org/9781506479361/>.

Double Review: Mark Glanville and Luke Glanville, *Refuge Reimagined: Biblical Kinship in Global Politics* (InterVarsity Press, 2021), and Mark W. Hamilton, *Jesus, King of Strangers: What the Bible Really Says about Immigration* (Eerdmans, 2019), *Studies in Christian Ethics* 35, no. 1 (1 February 2022): 195–99.

Review: Scott Davidson, ed., *A Companion to Ricœur's The Symbolism of Evil* (Lexington, 2020), *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* 82, no. 1 (2 March 2021): 95–96.

Review: David Hollenbach SJ, *Humanity in Crisis: Ethical and Religious Response to Refugees* (Georgetown University Press, 2019), *Studies in Christian Ethics* 34, no. 1 (13 January 2021): 126–29.

Review: Scott Davidson, ed., *A Companion to Ricœur's Fallible Man* (Lexington Books, 2019), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 27 no. 4 (2020): 503–507.

Review: Emmanuel Falque, *The Guide to Gethsemane: Anxiety, Suffering, Death* (Fordham University Press, 2019), trans. George Hughes, *Modern Theology* 36 no. 1 (2020): 230–232.

Review: Stewart Goetz, *A Philosophical Walking Tour with C. S. Lewis: Why It Did Not Include Rome* (Bloomsbury, 2014), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 26, no. 1 (2019): 76–79.

Review: Joshua Broggi, *Sacred Language, Sacred World: The Unity of Scriptural and Philosophical Hermeneutics* (Bloomsbury, 2015), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 24, no. 3 (2017): 444–47.

Review: George Ille, *Between Vision and Obedience – Rethinking Theological Epistemology: Theological Reflections on Rationality and Agency with Special Reference to Paul Ricœur and G.W.F. Hegel* (James Clarke & Co, 2014), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 23, no. 3 (2016): 326–29.

Review: Iain Provan, *Seriously Dangerous Religion: What the Old Testament Really Says and Why It Matters* (Baylor University Press, 2014), *Syndicate: A New Forum for Theology* 2 no. 5 (2015).

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Sep 2022 – Aug 2023 Teacher for Global Leadership Initiative, a course on character and virtue in good leadership. Responsibilities include: teaching leadership to graduate students at Oxford University, 1-1 mentoring of students, facilitating discussion, course co-design with colleague.

Oct 2022– Present Lead author for the team writing the 'Religion Matters in Migration' book project.

Jun-Nov 2022 Led a team designing the 'Offence' module for KCL's Theology & Religious Studies department.

Sep 2013 – Mar 2017	Leader, Biblical Studies track, King's School of Theology. Led and coordinated all the teachers and modules for the track.
Sep 2012 – Apr 2013	Academic Vice President, Regent College Student Association. Jointly responsible with the President for running the Student Association and for representing the students at faculty meetings.
Apr-Dec 2009	Acting Team Leader, BBC Mobile Server Side Development team. Led a team of software engineers responsible for the BBC's mobile website.

ORGANISATION & ADMINISTRATION

July 2023-Present	Canvas Administrator, St. Mary's Seminary and University Responsible for training and maintenance of the online learning platform, including plagiarism detection software.
April 2022	Conference Organiser: 'Christ & Philosophy' 3 day Doctoral & Postdoctoral Seminar with the INPR
Dec 2021	Undergraduate Admissions Interviews , Pembroke College Oxford
Dec 2020	Undergraduate Admissions Interviews , Pembroke College Oxford
Oct 2016 – May 2019	Philosophy of Religion Subject Committee , University of Cambridge Graduate representative
Jun 2018	Conference Organiser: 'Body & Spirit in French Philosophy of Religion' 3 day conference with keynote Emmanuel Falque, 40 attendees
Dec 2017	Conference Organiser: 'Divine Creation & Linguistic Creations' 1 day conference in honour of Professor Janet Soskice's retirement, 50 attendees
Oct 2016 – May 2017	Athena Swan working group for equality & diversity, University of Cambridge Graduate representative
Oct 2015 – May 2016	Editor , Noesis Review, Graduate journal of the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge
May 2012 – Apr 2013	Academic Vice President , Regent College Student Association
Mar 2013	Conference Organiser: 'Regent College Academic Symposium' 1 day annual conference for graduate students, 60 attendees

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

- International Network of Philosophy of Religion
- Porticus Talents for Good Network
- Collegium Emmaus, Fribourg, Switzerland
- Academy of Catholic Theology, USA

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

Silber-Obrecht lectures: Committee member. I am on the committee that decides the biannual speaker for the Silber-Obrecht lectures at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies. These lectures constitute first endowed lectureship in Interreligious and Interfaith Studies, and aims to advance the field by presenting new and creative work by a senior scholar and interreligious practitioner.

I have peer reviewed books and articles for the following journals and publishers:

- Cambridge University Press
- Bloomsbury
- *Modern Theology*
- *International Journal of Systematic Theology*
- *Open Theology*
- *Ecclesiology*
- *Humanities*
- *Philosophies*
- *Approaching Religion*
- *Irish Theological Quarterly*

PUBLIC OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

May 2025 – Present	Lead theologian for Christian Story , a video channel introducing Christian doctrines in an accessible format.
Feb 2023 – Present	Regular contributor to Seen & Unseen , an online magazine offering Christian perspectives on culture and contemporary events for a non-Christian audience.
Sep 2021 – Present	Faith at the Frontiers podcast (over 1,000 subscribers). Co-hosted with Dr Austin Stevenson , the podcast confronts challenges to the Christian faith through interviews and discussion of contemporary issues.
Oct 2024	Timeline Theological Videos , YouTube. Video recording: ' Theology of Refugees '.
Aug 2023	Timeline Theological Videos , YouTube. Video recording: ' Introduction to Paul Ricœur '.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (* = invited)

*June 2026	'Humanity as God's Image: A Tour through History', Center for Faith & Society annual Forum, University of Fribourg, Switzerland.
*May 2026	'The Truest Thing the Fewest Have Believed: Welcome to the Imago Dei' at The Understory Festival, hosted by Comment Magazine , Washington D.C.
*April 2026	' Immigration and the idea of a Christian nation ', Acts 11 Project, a part of the Church Mission Society (online webinar).
*April 2026	' God's Unchanging and Eternal Love: A Soskician Retrieval of Metaphor, Metaphysics & Intimacy in Scripture ', at the Colloquium Honouring Janet Soskice
*July 2025	' Welcoming the Stranger: A Christian Theology of Refugees and Immigration ', at the Eastern European Institute of Theology annual conference, Kyiv, Ukraine.
*June 2025	'"Myth Became Fact": C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien on the Resurrection', Center for Faith & Society annual Study Days, University of Fribourg, Switzerland.
May 2025	'Immigration, Religion and Public Policy: Case Study Hungary', at Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) annual convention, Columbia University, New York.
May 2025	'Can the Creed be Proven from Scripture? Implications for Ecumenical Dialogue', at the Academy of Catholic Theology annual conference, Dominican House of Studies, Washington D.C.
April 2024	'The Ethics of Immigration', at the Catholic Moral Theology and Seminary Teaching annual conference, Mundelein Seminary, Chicago.

*July 2023	‘Leadership for a Sustainable Future’, <i>Digital and Sustainability Experience</i> , Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ashanti, Ghana.
*Jan 2023	‘Jesus was a Refugee: Unpacking the Theological Implications’, King’s College London Senior Research Seminar, Faculty of Theology, King’s College London.
*May 2022	‘God, Creation, and Evil in the Philosophy of Paul Ricœur.’ Modern Theology Senior Seminar, Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford.
April 2022	‘The Second Copernican Revolution’, <i>International Network of Philosophy of Religion</i> Seminar, Durham, UK.
*April 2022	‘Refugee Welcome: Challenges and Opportunities Working with Refugees’, <i>Porticus Talents for Good</i> Convening, online.
*Sept 2021	‘The Keystone of Ricœur’s Thought: Finitude and What Lies Beyond’: Guest Speaker, Verstehen Colloquium, Cambridge.
*July 2021	‘Social Justice Leadership in a Post-Pandemic Era’, <i>Porticus Talents for Good Convening</i>
*May 2021	‘The Voice of the Refugee’, <i>Free Speech at the Crossroads: International Dialogues</i>
*May 2021	‘Ricœur and the God of the Philosophers’, <i>Campion Seminar</i>
Sep 2019	‘Finitude and Transcendence in Ricœur’s Philosophy’, <i>League of European Research Universities (LERU) thematic group Doctoral Seminar</i> , Cambridge
*Jun 2019	Response: ‘Apocalyptic Eschatology and the Limits of Discourse’, <i>International Network of Philosophy of Religion</i> , Institut Catholique de Paris
*Jun 2019	Response: ‘Joy, Sorrow, and the Good Life’, <i>Annual Conference of the Study Centre for Faith and Society</i> , University of Fribourg, Switzerland
*Dec 2018	‘Est-ce qu’il y a une métaphysique ricœurienne?’, <i>International Network of Philosophy of Religion Seminar</i> , Institut Catholique de Paris
Aug 2018	“‘Scripture Grows with its Readers’: Ricœur and Doctrinal Development’, <i>Newness of the Old Conference</i> , Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge
Jun 2018	‘The Meaning of Evil: Its relation to Finitude & Guilt in Ricœur and Falque’, <i>Symbolism of Evil Conference</i> , Institut Protestant de Théologie, Paris, France
*May 2018	‘Communication, Mediation, and Combat: The Formation of Ricœur the Mediator’, <i>May ’68 at 50 Conference</i> , King’s College, London
*Apr 2018	‘Distinguishing Prejudices: Ricœur and Interreligious Recognition’, <i>Interreligious Studies Senior Seminar</i> , University of Cambridge
*Apr 2018	‘Existence and Transcendence in the Early Ricœur’, <i>International Network of Philosophy of Religion Colloquium</i> , Tivoli, Italy

AWARDS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

2026	Grant from Porticus: People on the move for teaching buy-out, €25,000
2025	Grant from Christian Story project for teaching buy-out, \$6,000
2023	Nagot Grant (from St. Mary’s Seminary and University) for open access publication of monograph, \$2,500
2023	Research Grant, Faith at the Frontiers Podcast (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science), £1,000
2022	Grant, Faith at the Frontiers Podcast (Ian Ramsey Centre) £500

2022	Grant, Faith at the Frontiers Podcast (King's Cultural Initiatives) £1,000
2021	Grant, Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology £2,000
2015-2018	Doctoral Award, School of Arts and Humanities, University of Cambridge £63,171
2017	Conference Grant, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge £1,440
2013	Old Testament Prize, Regent College
2010-2013	George Hill Bursary, Regent College \$5,900

LANGUAGES AND IT SKILLS

Languages	Fluent French, advanced German and Spanish, intermediate Biblical Greek and Hebrew, basic Latin.
IT	Professional training to Bachelor's level plus six years full-time employment as a software engineer. Experience maintaining two multi-author blogs and producing a regular podcast.