

DR. BARNABAS ASPRAY

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

124 W 27th St
Baltimore, MD
21218

Phone: (+1) 443-286-2818
Email: baspray@stmarys.edu

EDUCATION

- 2015-2019** **PhD, Philosophy of Religion**, 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. Grade Point Average 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

- Aug 2023 – Present** **Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology**, St. Mary's Seminary and University, Maryland, USA
Faculty member of the School of Theology, responsible for teaching courses in systematic theology, including Doctrine of God, Christology and Soteriology, Fundamental Theology, and Ministry in Ecumenical and Interfaith Contexts.
- 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 – Jun 2020** **Research Assistant**, SOAS

100 hrs editorial work for Prof. Alison Scott-Baumann's monograph, *Islam on Campus* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020)

- Jun 2014 – Apr 2015** – **Research Assistant**, University of Cambridge
200 hrs directed research for Prof. Janet Soskice's monograph, *Naming God*
- 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

- 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' (2nd 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

- 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'
- 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'
- Sep 2017 – Dec 2017** **St Alban's Certificate in Theology**
Tutor & Co-Lecturer, 'Introduction to Christian Doctrine'
- Designing & teaching a 20hr Adult Learning course
- 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
- 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, *Ricoeur at the Limits of Philosophy: God, Creation, and Evil* (Cambridge University Press: 2022).

Reviews of this book:

- [Review at Reading Religion.](#)
- [Review at Heythrop Journal.](#)

Journal Articles

Aspray, B. '[Jesus Was a Refugee: Unpacking the Theological Implications](#)', *Modern Theology* (online, forthcoming in print)

- Aspray, B. '[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.
- Aspray, B. '[New Challenges to Character Education](#)', *Journal of Character and Leadership Development* 10, no. 2 (2023): 49–59.
- Aspray, B. '[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.
- Aspray, B. '[How Can Phenomenology Address Classic Objections to Liturgy?](#)', *Religions* 12, no. 4 (April 2021): 236.
- Aspray, B. '[Y a-t-il une métaphysique ricœurienne ?](#)', *Crossing: The INPR Journal* 1 (2020): 73-83.
- Aspray, B. '[“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.
- Aspray, B. '[“Scripture Grows with its Readers”: Doctrinal Development from a Ricœurian Perspective](#)', *Modern Theology* 35, no. 4 (2019): 746-759.

Chapter Contributions

- Aspray, B. 'From Exegesis to Allegory: Ricœur’s Challenge to Biblical Scholarship', in *Reading Scripture with Paul Ricœur*, ed. Joseph Edelheit and James Moore (Lanham: Lexington Press, 2021).
- Aspray, B. 'Transforming Heideggerian Finitude? Following Pathways Opened by Falque', in *Transforming the Theological Turn: Phenomenology with Emmanuel Falque*, ed. Martin Kočí and Jason Alvis (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020).

Translations

- Emmanuel Falque, 'The All-Seeing: Fraternity and Vision of God in Nicholas of Cusa', *Modern Theology* 35, no. 4 (2019): 760-787.
- Paul Ricœur, 'From One Testament to the Other', *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: 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* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2021), and Mark W. Hamilton, *Jesus, King of Strangers: What the Bible Really Says about Immigration* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 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* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 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* (Washington DC: 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* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2019), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 27 no. 4 (2020): 503-507.
- Review: Emmanuel Falque, *The Guide to Gethsemane: Anxiety, Suffering, Death* (New York: 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 Ricoeur and G.W.F. Hegel* (Cambridge: 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

- 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’

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

Active Member of:

- American Catholic Philosophical Association
- Society for Christian Ethics
- International Network of Philosophy of Religion
- Porticus Talents for Good
- Political Theology Network
- Las Casas Institute for Social Justice, Blackfriars Hall, Oxford
- Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology research group
- Collegium Emmaus, Fribourg, Switzerland

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (* = invited)

- *July 2023** 'Leadership for a Sustainable Future', *Digital and Sustainability Experience*, 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', *International Network of Philosophy of Religion* Seminar, Durham, UK.
- *April 2022** 'Refugee Welcome: Challenges and Opportunities Working with Refugees', *Porticus Talents for Good* Convening, online.
- *July 2021** 'Social Justice Leadership in a Post-Pandemic Era', *Porticus Talents for Good Convening*
- *May 2021** 'The Voice of the Refugee', *Free Speech at the Crossroads: International Dialogues*, Georgetown University
- *May 2021** 'Ricœur and the God of the Philosophers', *Campion Seminar*, University of Oxford
- *Jun 2019** Response: 'Joy, Sorrow, and the Good Life', *Annual Conference of the Study Centre for Faith and Society*, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
- *Dec 2018** 'Est-ce qu'il y a une métaphysique ricœurienne?', *International Network of Philosophy of Religion Seminar*, Institut Catholique de Paris
- Aug 2018** "Scripture Grows with its Readers": Ricœur and Doctrinal Development', *Newness of the Old Conference*, Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge
- Jun 2018** 'The Meaning of Evil: Its relation to Finitude & Guilt in Ricœur and Falque', *Symbolism of Evil Conference*, Institut Protestant de Théologie, Paris, France
- *Apr 2018** 'Distinguishing Prejudices: Ricœur and Interreligious Recognition', *Interreligious Studies Senior Seminar*, University of Cambridge
- *Apr 2018** 'Existence and Transcendence in the Early Ricœur', *International Network of Philosophy of Religion Colloquium*, Tivoli, Italy