

LAUREN SMELSER WHITE

Graduate Department of Religion, Theological Studies area
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN
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ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

Graduate Department of Religion at Vanderbilt University
Ph.D. candidate in Theological Studies *2011 – present*
Minor in Religion, Philosophy, & Literature

Dissertation: “*Word Made Flesh, Flesh Made Word: Beyond the Protestant Interpretation Problem*”
Defense date: November 15, 2017

Vanderbilt Divinity School at Vanderbilt University
Master of Theological Studies *2008 – 2010*
Graduated with highest honors

Abilene Christian University
Master of Arts in English *2004 – 2006*
Summa Cum Laude

Harding University
Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Minor in Bible *2000 – 2004*
Magna Cum Laude

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS:

- Fellow in Vanderbilt University’s *Program in Theology and Practice*
Fall 2011 – present
- Awarded Vanderbilt University Founder’s Medal; highest honor for the Divinity School’s
graduating class
May 2010

- Awarded grant from Vanderbilt's Newberry Committee, member of the Newberry Consortium for Renaissance Studies, to present at the *Newberry 2013 Multidisciplinary Graduate Conference*
January, 2013
- Awarded grant from Vanderbilt's Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality to present at the *American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*
March, 2012
- Member of *Alpha Chi Academic Honor Society*
Academic induction year: 2003-2004
- Awarded *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*
Academic selection year: 2003-2004
- Member of *Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society*
Academic induction year: 2002-2003

PUBLICATIONS:

- "A Commemorative Review of Jürgen Moltmann's *The Spirit of Life*"
Leaven: A Journal of Christian Ministry (forthcoming)
- "Cruciform Communication as Transformative Truth-Seeking"
Leaven: A Journal of Christian Ministry, 25:1 (2017)
- "For Comparative Theology's Christian Skeptics: An Invitation to Kenotic Generosity in the Religiously Pluralistic Situation"
The Harvard Theological Review, 109:02 (April, 2016)
- "The Petitionary Prayer of Gethsemane in the Event of Divine Desire: Faith's Undoing or Refiner's Fire?"
The Other Journal: An Intersection of Theology and Culture, no. 21 (August, 2012)

PRESENTATIONS:

- Lecturer at "*Summer Celebration*" *Annual Lectureship* at Lipscomb University
- Lecture on Martin Luther's "Priesthood of All Believers" doctrine
In "Reformation 500: Justification by Faith" session
June 30, 2017

- Respondent at *Christian Scholars' Conference*
 - Respondent to Landon Saunders' lecture, "Toward a Relevant Theology in/for Public Spaces"
In the "Second Annual Landon Saunders Lecture" session
June 9, 2017
 - Respondent to panelists in Women's Studies session: "Constraint and Calling: How Women Have Been Constrained and Called by Science and Religion"
June 8, 2017

- Lecturer at *Pepperdine Bible Lectures*
 - Lecture: "Martin Luther and the Priesthood of All Believers"
As part of "Reformation 500" session
May 5, 2017

- Presenter at *Christian Scholars' Conference*
 - Presented "Asceticism or Enslavement?: Christological Re-Constructions of the Person in the Bodily Process of Salvation"
June 9, 2016

- Lecturer at *Pepperdine Bible Lectures*
 - Presentation: "Cruciform Communication as Transformative Truth-Seeking"
In "Leaven Symposium" session
May 6, 2016
 - Lecture: "More Than a Narrative: Discerning Scriptural Truths in a 'Postmodern' World"
May 5, 2016

- Presenter at "*Streaming*" *Christian Ministry Conference*
 - Presented "The Deliverance of a Community: Michael Welker's *God the Spirit* as Pneumatological Resource for Public Theology"
October 9, 2015

- Panelist at the *American Academy of Religion Conference*
 - Presented "'Freaking' the Normate: The Performance of Extraordinary Bodies in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction"
November 24, 2014

- Presenter at *Theology and Youth Ministry* conference at Lipscomb University
 - Gave keynote speech, "Taking Theology to Youth Ministry...in Churches of Christ?"
 - Taught class titled "Theology and Intergenerational Youth Ministry"
March 4, 2014

- Panelist and Respondent at *Christian Scholars' Conference*
 - Presented "Beyond the Scandal of (Female) Embodiment in Domains of Theological Discourse: A Response to Rachel Held Evans's Respondents"

June 7, 2013
 - Respondent to Professor John Hare's presented paper, "Three Arguments for the Dependence of Morality Upon Religion"

June 8, 2013

- Panelist at *Engaging Particularities XI: New Directions in Comparative Theology, Interreligious Dialogue, Theology of Religions, and Missiology*
 - Presented "For Comparative Theology's Christian Skeptics: An Invitation to Kenotic Generosity in the Religiously Pluralistic Situation"

March 23, 2013

- Panelist at Lipscomb University's *HumanDocs* film series
 - Panelist commentator on the documentary feature film *The Invisible War*

February 27, 2013

- Presenter at the *Newberry 2013 Multidisciplinary Graduate Conference* at The Newberry: Chicago's Independent Research Library
 - Presented "Kenotic Encounter with the Word Made Flesh: The Sacramental Hermeneutic Theologies of Dante Alighieri and Louis-Marie Chauvet"

January 25, 2013

- Panelist at *Christian Scholars' Conference*
 - Presented "Reconciling 'Inerrant' and 'Errant' Scripture: The Re-Interpretation Principle"

June 8, 2012

- Presenter at the *American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*
 - Presented "What God Hath Not Bound: Challenging Biological Essentialism by Re-reading Scripture in Conservative Stone-Campbell Congregations" on proposed "Women, Gender, and Religion & Bible and Modern Cultures" joint panel

March 2, 2012

- Panelist and Presider at *Arkansas Philological Association Conference*
 - Presider of "Canonical Voices" session

October 12, 2007
 - Presented "Encountering the Sublime: A Conversation with T.S. Eliot and C.S. Lewis"

October 13, 2007

- Panelist at *Christianity in the Academy Conference*.
 - Presented “Epistemological Criticism in the Presence of Reductive Discourse”
March 23, 2007
- Panelist at *Arkansas Philological Association Conference*.
 - Presented “Meaning-Making in *Moby-Dick* and the Ambiguity of Melville’s Implied Reader”
October 14, 2006
- Panelist at the *Southwest Conference for Christianity and Literature*.
 - Presented “The Eternal Conversation of Epistemological Criticism: A Theory of Hope.”
 - Participant in round-table discussion: “Integrating Faith and Literary Theory.”
September 29, 2006
- Member of group selected from graduate class to present in “Gospel and Culture” segment of *Abilene Christian University Annual Bible Lectureship*
 - Presented on Contemporary Sabbath Practices as Gospel Proclamation
February 22, 2006

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- Adjunct Instructor, Fall 2017
History of Christianity
College of Bible and Ministry
Lipscomb University
- Adjunct Instructor, Summer 2017
Doctorate of Ministry course, *Hermeneutics: Scripture and Cultural Engagement*
Hazelip School of Theology at Lipscomb University
- Visiting Instructor, 2016-2017
Co-taught *God, Creation, and Re-Creation* with John Mark Hicks (Fall 2016)
Taught *History of Christianity* (Spring 2017)
College of Bible and Ministry
Lipscomb University
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Fall 2013
M.Div. Seminar and Project
Vanderbilt Divinity School. Supervising Professor: Bruce Morrill.
- Guest Lecturer at Lipscomb University
Lectured on “Biblicism and Patriarchy”
Professor Lee Camp’s *Biblical Ethics* course
September 30, 2013

- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Maymester 2013
Worship in the Methodist Tradition: Practicum in Worship.
Vanderbilt Divinity School. Supervising Professor: Dr. M. Douglas Meeks.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Spring 2013
Constructive Theology II
Vanderbilt Divinity School. Supervising Professor: Dr. Bruce Morrill.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Fall 2012
Constructive Theology I
Vanderbilt Divinity School. Supervising Professor: Dr. M. Douglas Meeks.
- Adjunct Instructor, 2010-2011
English 1010 (Composition I), English 1020 (Composition II)
Department of English, Division of Humanities
Columbia State Community College
- Adjunct Instructor, Fall 2010
English 1010 (Composition I)
Department of English
Lipscomb University
- Adjunct Instructor, Spring 2010
English 1010 (Composition I)
Department of Language, Literature, and Philosophy
Tennessee State University
- Full-time Instructor, 2007-2008
English 111 (Composition I), English 113 (Composition I and Grammar), and English 211 (Composition II)
Department of English
Harding University
- Adjunct Instructor, 2006-2007 academic year; Summer 2007
English 111 (Composition I) and English 100 (Developmental Grammar and Composition)
Department of English
Harding University
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Spring 2006
English 107 (Composition I)
Department of English
Abilene Christian University

- Student Teacher, Spring 2004
Junior level English
Cabot High School in Cabot, Arkansas

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, ACTIVITIES, AND AFFILIATIONS:

- Member, American Academy of Religion
2013 – present
- Peer Reviewer for *Harvard Theological Review*
May, 2016
- Planning Committee, Theology Graduate Students Group, Christian Scholars' Conference
2013 – 2016
- Invited participant on the “Expert Teaching Assistant” Panel and “Practice and Pedagogy Leader” for *Teaching Assistant Orientation*
Hosted by The Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University
August 19, 2015
- Member, Search Committee for Cal Turner Chancellor’s Chair of Wesleyan Studies at Vanderbilt University
Chaired by Dr. Emilie M. Townes, Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School
Fall 2014
- Writing Assistant, Center for Evaluation and Program Improvement
Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
May 2009 – Aug 2009.
Responsibilities included research, report, and writing literary reviews evaluating the U.S. Military’s post-deployment mental health screening process; some copy editing.
Supervisor: Dr. Melanie Leslie; melanie.w.leslie@vanderbilt.edu.
- Co-director of Harding University English Department Senior Symposium
April 13, 2007; October 26, 2007; November 30, 2007
- Editor at *Resource Publications & Truth for Today World Mission School* in Searcy, AR
Spring 2007
Resource Publications is a profit-based organization that collects, edits, and distributes Biblical commentary in the United States. *Truth for Today World Mission School* is its non-profit counterpart that edits and distributes Biblical commentary internationally.
Supervisor: Dr. Eddie Cloer; ecloer@harding.edu.

- University Writing Tutor
Harding University Writing Lab
Fall 2006
Abilene Christian University Writing Center
Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006
Supervisors:
Dr. Ken Hammes, Harding University; khammes@harding.edu.
Dr. Cole Bennett, Abilene Christian University; cole.bennett@acu.edu.
- Graduate Assistant in developing *Inscription Conference* website
Abilene Christian University
Fall 2005
Inscription is a conference for teachers, writers and readers on the Christian teaching of writing, rhetoric and literature.
<http://www.acu.edu/sponsored/inscription.html>
Supervisor: Dr. Christian Willerton; chris.willerton@acu.edu.
- Professional Licensure: Secondary Education, English specification.
Awarded by the state of Arkansas, May 2004

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Member, Adult education committee at Otter Creek Church of Christ
2016 – present
Contact: Eric Livingstone, Community Life Minister; eric@ottercreek.org
- Adult educator/ Sunday school teacher at Otter Creek Church of Christ
Periodically, 2013 – present
Contacts: Eric Livingstone, Community Life Minister; eric@ottercreek.org
Patrick Chappell, College and Young Adult Minister; patrick@ottercreek.org
- Board member for *Christian Services Foundation*, a non-profit organization responsible for collecting and distributing funds for selected humanitarian relief and enhancement efforts.
2006 – present
Contact: Danny Smelser, M.D.; smelser.j@juno.com
- Volunteer writing tutor for ESL college students amongst immigrant population in Nashville, TN
Organized through Otter Creek Church of Christ
2014 – 2015
Contact: Susan Reese; sgkreese@yahoo.com

- Teacher at Otter Creek Church of Christ's "Young Adult Conference"
Taught two-session class: "Gender Roles in Church and Society"
September 13, 2014
Contact: Patrick Chappell, College and Young Adult Minister; patrick@ottercreek.org
- Volunteer Creative Writing teacher at *The Campus for Human Development*, a religious non-profit organization committed to providing enhanced services to the homeless population in Nashville, TN.
2009 – 2010
(References available on request)
- Volunteer for *CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates* of White County, Arkansas. Advocates are trained community volunteers appointed by circuit court judges to speak in the best interest of children who are brought before the court for reasons of abuse or neglect.
Fall 2007 – Spring 2008
Contact: Belinda Curtis, 501-593-1755