

# DOROTHY DEAN

## Curriculum Vitae

329 Pleasant St  
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

(615) 604-1527  
[dorothy.c.dean@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:dorothy.c.dean@vanderbilt.edu)

## EDUCATION

### Degrees

2016 (Expected)      Ph.D., Religion (Concentration: Theological Studies; Minor Area:  
Philosophy)  
Vanderbilt University

Dissertation: *Theology of Dirt: A Constructive Proposal for a Phenomenological Eco-theology*

This work of constructive eco-theology uses Maurice Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology to problematize liberal theology's division of reality into God, Human, and World; this division has, arguably, negatively impacted human beings' relationship to the natural world. I seek to find out if it is possible to think "God" at all if "Human" and "World" are no longer categorically divided, and ultimately show how God can be conceptualized as an element of material phenomena.

Director: Ellen Armour

Comprehensive Exams:

Dissertation area paper (constructive theology): "Towards an eco-feminist theology of matter: a review of related literature."

Minor area paper (Continental philosophy): "Wild being, wild meaning: ecological aspects of Maurice Merleau-Ponty's ontology."

History of Christian theology (ancient to 1965)

Contemporary readings in the nature and tasks of theology

Doctrines (anthropology and soteriology; doctrine of God; pneumatology)

2009                      M.A., Theological and Philosophical Studies  
Drew University

Thesis: *Through an Infinite Nothing: Theism, Atheism, and the Abyss*

I use John Caputo's and Luce Irigaray's dualism-deconstructing philosophies to loosen the oppositional tension between atheism and theism, two terms frequently seen as mutually exclusive. The abysses in their work open up the gaps and flaws that are shared alike by theism and

atheism, allowing me to develop an undecidable “a-~~theism~~” – a negation of negating God.

Director: Catherine Keller

2006                      B.A., Religious Studies (Concentration: Modern Religious Thought)  
Oberlin College

### **Certifications**

2015                      Certificate in College Teaching: Mellon Certificate in Humanities  
Education

2014                      Vanderbilt Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies

### **PUBLICATIONS**

2011                      Dean, Dorothy. “Gender and the Question of Belief.” *Glossolalia* 3, no. 2  
(May): 17–25.

### **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

2010-present              Vanderbilt University Honors Fellowship

2010-present              Vanderbilt University Tuition Scholarship

2007-2008                Drew University Graduate Merit Scholarship

2002-2006                Oberlin Merit Scholarship

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Presenter**

2014                      “From the Ground Up: Towards a Unitarian Universalist Eco-Theology.”  
Unitarian Universalist Collegium. Oceanside, CA, 19-22 November.

2013                      “Theology in a Post-Christian Milieu: Is Liberal Theology’s Greatest  
Asset Also its Greatest Curse?” Liberal Theologies Group, American  
Academy of Religion. Baltimore, MD, 23-26 November.

- 2013 “Masculinity and Ecological Conservation, or: Why Middle Aged Men Are Afraid of the Environment.” philoSOPHIA. Banff, AB, Canada, 2-5 May.
- 2012 “Women, Food, and Use.” The Women and Food Workshop. Sponsored by Vanderbilt University and University of Alberta. Banff, AB, Canada, 14-17 November.
- 2011 “Baboon Morality: How Primatology Impacts the Doctrine of Original Sin” (version 2). Psychology, Culture and Religion Group, American Academy of Religion. San Francisco, CA, 19-22 November.
- 2011 “Baboon Morality: How Primatology Impacts the Doctrine of Original Sin” (version 1). philoSOPHIA. Nashville, TN, 5-8 May.

### **CAMPUS TALKS**

- 2013 “Expert Teaching Fellow,” returning invited panelist for Vanderbilt University’s Teaching Assistant Orientation. Nashville, TN, 15 August.
- 2013 Guest Lecture, “Introduction to Feminist Christian Theology.” For History of Christian Traditions (History 176) taught by Prof. Joel Harrington, Vanderbilt University. 15 April.
- 2012 “Expert Teaching Fellow,” invited panelist for Vanderbilt University’s Teaching Assistant Orientation. Nashville, TN, 16 August.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

#### **Teaching Fellow Experience**

\*Constructive Theology I (Divinity students) (Fall 2011, Fall 2013)

\*Constructive Theology II, (Divinity students) (Spring 2012, Spring 2015)

Religion, Sex, and Power (undergraduate students) (Spring 2014)

Women and Religion (undergraduate/Divinity student mix) (Fall 2012)

\* Sole instructor of weekly precept sessions

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- 2012 Co-founder and co-facilitator of “Vanderbilt Womanist/Feminist Discussion Group”
- 2011-2012 Vanderbilt Divinity School Antoinette Brown Lecture Committee

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- 2009-present Member, The American Academy of Religion

## **AREAS OF TEACHING EXPERTISE**

### **Primary expertise**

Modern religious thought, philosophy of religion, constructive theology

### **Secondary expertise**

Gender and religion, religion and ecology

## **LANGUAGES**

German (proficient in reading, fair in speaking)

French (proficient in reading)

Latin (fair in reading, with dictionary)

## **REFERENCES**

### **Ellen Armour**

E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Chair in Feminist Theology  
Vanderbilt Divinity School  
411 21st Avenue South, #215  
Nashville, TN 37240-1121  
Phone: (615) 322.2776 ext. 3-5536  
Email: [ellen.t.armour@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ellen.t.armour@vanderbilt.edu)

**Paul Dehart**

Professor of Theology  
Vanderbilt Divinity School  
411 21st Avenue South, #222  
Nashville, TN 37240-1121  
Phone: (615) 322.2776 ext. 3-7516  
Email: [paul.j.dehart@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:paul.j.dehart@vanderbilt.edu)

**Kelly Oliver**

W. Alton Jones Chair of Philosophy  
Vanderbilt University Department of Philosophy  
103 Furman Hall  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville TN 37240  
Phone: (615) 343-0334  
Email: [kelly.oliver@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kelly.oliver@vanderbilt.edu)