AXEL MARC OAKS TAKACS
Curriculum Vitae
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Seton Hall University - Department of Religion
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EDUCATION: Degree Granting

2019 Th.D. Harvard Divinity School: Comparative Theology, Islamic Studies
Dissertation Title: *Imagining Forth the Incarnation: A Theo-Poetics of the Flesh*

2010 M.T.S. Harvard Divinity School, Islamic Studies

2006 B.A. St. Louis University, Theological Studies; minors: History and Philosophy
2006 B.S. St. Louis University, Computer Science

EDUCATION: Non-Degree

2012 Al-Mustafa International University, Tehran, Iran (Islamic Shīʿah Theology)
2011 Iranian Institute of Philosophy, Tehran, Iran (Islamic Philosophy, in Persian)
2011 Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris, France
(Arabic and Persian language)
2010 Georgetown University/Muhammad V University of Rabat, Morocco
(Interreligious Theology, in Arabic)
2009 Institut Bourguiba des Langues Vivantes, Tunis, Tunisia (Arabic language)
2009 Texas A&M Tunisia Study Abroad Program, Tunis, Tunisia (Arabic Language)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2024 - **Assistant Professor of Comparative Theology and Interreligious Studies**,
Seton Hall University, Department of Religion
Affiliate Faculty: Women and Gender Studies Program
Director: College of Arts and Sciences Mission and Formation (2025 -)
Director: Lewinson Center for the Study of Labor, Inequality, and Social Justice (2025 -)

2025 - **Editor-at-Large**, Interreligious Studies Media, a non-profit corporation
(www.interreligiousstudies.org)

2016 - **Editor-in-Chief**, *Journal of Interreligious Studies* (www.irstudies.org)
An academic, open-access, peer-reviewed journal of Interreligious Studies Media

2023 - 2024 **Assistant Professor,** Molloy University, Theology and Religious Studies

2019 - 2023 **Faculty Member**, Seton Hall University, Department of Religion

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

A Catholic-Muslim Theo-Poetics of the Flesh: Incarnation, Imagination, and the Beauty of God's Appearance, in progress.

EDITED VOLUMES

2025 *Interreligious Studies and Secondary Education: Pedagogies and Practices for Living and Learning in a Religiously Plural World*, co-edited with Lucinda Allen Mosher and Christine Gallagher (Interreligious Studies Press).

2023 *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Comparative Theology: A Festschrift in Honor of Francis X. Clooney, SJ*: 44 essays co-edited with Joseph Kimmel (Wiley-Blackwell).

2020 *Deep Understanding for Divisive Times: Essays Marking a Decade of the Journal of Interreligious Studies*, co-edited with Lucinda Allen Mosher, Or Rose, and Mary Elizabeth Moore (Newton Center, MA: Interreligious Studies Press, 2020).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES OR CHAPTERS

2026 "The *Madhhab-i ʿishq* from Watershed to Intellectual Stream in Post-Classical Islamic Philosophy: The Case of God's Creative Act in Fakhr al-Dīn ʿIrāqī and Nūr al-Dīn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān Jāmī ," manuscript submitted to *Islamic Intellectual Traditions* for review

2026 "Planting a Shoot at World's End: A Politico-Ecological Theological Aesthetics of Ethical Interruption," *Journal of Religious Ethics* (submitted, under review)

2026 "Barriers to Access, Ambiguity of Cure: A Comparative Theological and Praxis-Oriented Exploration of Disability in a Gospel and Quranic Narrative," co-authored with Kimberly E. Oaks Takacs, in *De-Ableizing Religion and Disability: Survival, Resistance, Flourishing* (Routledge) ed. by Heike Peckruhn and Kirk VanGilder

2026 "Comparative Theological Entanglements from the Old World to the New World: Toward a Catholic-Muslim Decolonial Theology," Chapter 6 in *De/colonizing Theologies: Glocal Histories, Contemporary Challenges, Theoretical Reflections*, eds. R. Sanchez, J. Gruber, R. Mendoza, N. Vukic, G. Ladner (Peeters Publishing, 2026): 101–122

2025 "Islamic-Christian Comparative Theology Today," in *Concilium* 2025/4, Special Issue, "New

Frontiers of Comparative Theology," ed. Catherine Cornille et alia: 76-86.

2025 "Response to Moyaert, Ali, and Herberger," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 60(2), 315-327 https://doi.org/10.1353/ecu.2025.a963983

2024 "Confluences of the Islamic in Hans Urs von Balthasar's Theological Aesthetics: Toward a Comparative Theo-Poetics with Islam," in *Modern Theology* Vol. 40, No. 3, pp. 650-677.

2023 "Theological Aporia and the Cultivation of Desire: Reading Eriugena's *Creatio Ex Nihilo* Through an Islamic Theo-Poetics," *Theological Studies* Vol. 84, No. 4 (December), pp. 679–707

2023 "Prophet Muḥammad Between Lived Religion and Elite Discourse: Rethinking and Decolonizing Christian Assessments of the *uswa ḥasana* through Comparative Theological Aesthetics," *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* Vol. 34, No. 3, pp. 245-284

2022 "Drawing Near to God, Drawing Near to Others: On Fratelli Tutti, Friendship (*Walāya*), and Muslim-Christian Co-Resistance," *Studies in Interreligious Dialogue*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (September): 33-65 (10.2143/SID.32.1.3290943)

2022 "Undoing and Unsaying Islamophobia: Toward a Restorative and Praxis-Oriented Catholic Theology with Islam," *Horizons* vol. 48, no. 2 (February) (doi.org/10.1017/hor.2021.61)

2021 "Transposing Metaphors and Poetics from Text to World: The Theo-Poetics of Lāhūrī's 'Mystical Commentary' on Ḥāfiẓ's Love Lyrics," *Journal of Sufi Studies* Vol. 9, No. 1 (March): 106–144.

2020 "From Indifference to Dwelling in Difference: Catholic-Muslim Marriages and Families and the Non-Hegemonic Reception of Muslim Migrants." *Journal of Moral Theology* Vol. 9, No. 2 (June): 115-146.

2014 "Beyond the Intellect: Perpetual Expansion and Transformation in the Anthropocosmic Vision of Thomas Gallus and the Akbarian Tradition," *Journal of Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society* 55: 71-107.

2013 "Mary and Muhammad: Bearers of the Word—Their Roles in Divine Revelation," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 48:2 (Spring): 220-43

2011 "Becoming the Word: Theosis in the Eucharist and Qur'an," *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 46:1 (Winter): 22-40.

2010 "Mary: Prototypical Mystic, the Marian Lauds of Jacopone da Todi," *The Cord,* Vol 60, Issue 1 (Jan-Mar): 32-39.

BOOK CHAPTERS

2027 "Rooted Openness: Confessional Comparative Theology as a Framework for Critical Interreligious Studies at Catholic Universities," in *Interfaith and Faith-based Universities: Context, Values, & Practices*, ed. by Amir Hussain and Michael MacKay

2023 "Perceiving Divinity, Cultivating Wonder: A Christian-Islamic Comparative Theological Essay on Balthasar's *Gestalt*," in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Comparative Theology: A Festschrift in Honor of Francis X. Clooney, SJ*, edited by Axel Takacs and Joseph Kimmel (Wiley and Blackwell, 2023), 326-344

2023 "Introduction" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Comparative Theology: A Festschrift in Honor of Francis X. Clooney, SJ*, edited by Axel Takacs and Joseph Kimmel (Wiley and Blackwell, 2023), xvii-xxviii

2022 "Toward a Praxis of Undoing and Unsaying: Catholic Theology, Interreligious Studies, and Anti-Muslim Bigotry," in the *Georgetown Companion to Interreligious Studies*, edited by Lucinda Mosher (Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2022), 197-210.

2022 "Comparative Theology and Interreligious Studies: Embracing and Transgressing the Dialogical Relationships among Religious Traditions", Chapter 30 in the *Brill Companion to Comparative Theology*, edited by Pim Valkenberg: 563–582

2017 "An Interpreter and Not a Judge: Insights into Christian-Islamic Comparative Theology," in *How To Do Comparative Theology*, Ed. Francis X. Clooney & Klaus von Stosch (New York: Fordham University Press, 2018), 98-121.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

2024 "Migrant Spirituality and Social Salvation," Spirituality Topic Session, Proceedings to the 78th Annual Convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America, vol. 78, 138-139.

2022 "Remembering the Past and Imagining the Future of Christian-Muslim Relations: The Creative and Destructive Power at the Borders," Plenary Response, Proceedings to the 76th Annual Convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America, *Thinking Catholic Interreligiously*, June 9-12, vol. 76, 11-21

2021 "Textual Journeys in Comparative Theology - Pre-Convention Meeting," co-authored with Daniel Scheid, Proceedings of the Catholic Theological Society of America, vol. 75, 172-173

BOOK REVIEW ESSAYS

2027 *Encounters: Dialogue, Antisemitism, and the Israeli–Palestinian Divide*, by Benjamin Sax, review

essay as part of a Review Symposium for *Religious Studies Review*

2024 "Selfing and Othering Between Theology and History: A Constructive Engagement with Marianne Moyaert's *Christian Imaginations of the Religious Other: A History of Religionization*, in *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 59.4: 587-598.

2024 "Returning to the Central Question of the Humanities: What Does It Mean to be Human and to Share Human Consciousness?," review essay of *Metaphysical Institutions: Islam and the Modern Project*, by Caner Dagli, in *Journal of Interreligious Studies*, No 43: 115-132

2023 *Circling the Elephant: A Comparative Theology of Religious Diversity*, by John Thatamanil, in *Journal of Interreligious Studies* no. 38, pp. 124-135

2022 *Sculpting the Self: Islam, Selfhood, and Human Flourishing*, by Muhammad U. Faruque, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 33, no. 3, pp. 313-320

2021 *Religious Hatred: Prejudice, Islamophobia, and Antisemitism in Global Context*, by Paul Hedges, in *Journal of Interreligious Studies*, no. 33, pp. 103-110.

2020 *Muhammad Reconsidered: A Christian Perspective on Islamic Prophecy,* by Anna Bonta Moreland, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations,* 31, no. 3, 341-348.

2018 *Rethinking Ibn 'Arabi*, by Gregory Lipton, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 30, no. 1, 105-11.

2017 *What Is Islam?: The Importance of Being Islamic*, by Shahab Ahmed, in *Journal of Interreligious Studies and Intercultural Theology*, Vol 1, Issue 1, March

BOOK REVIEWS

2026 *Witnessing God: Christians, Muslims, and the Comparative Theology of Missions,* by Alexander E. Massad, in *Religious Studies Review*, Religious Studies Review, 52: 203–204.

2026 *A Jewish Trinity: Contemporary Christian Theology through Jewish Eyes*, by Alan Brill, in *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations* 20(1). doi.org/10.6017/scjr.v20i1.21119

2025 *Religion of Love: Sufism and Self-Transformation in the Poetic Imagination of 'Aṭṭār*, by Cyrus Ali Zargar, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 35(4): 417-419.

2024 *Toward an Islamic Theology of Nonviolence: In Dialogue with René Girard*, by Adnane Mokrani, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 35(2), 190–192

2024 *The Poetics of Spiritual Instruction: Farid al-Din 'Attar and Persian Sufi Didacticism*, by Austin

O'Malley, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 35(2), 197-199

2024 *The Formation of Post-Classical Philosophy in Islam*, by Frank Griffel, in *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*, March 25.

2024 *Sufis and Sharīʿa: The Forgotten School of Mercy*, by Samer Dajani, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 35(1), 114–116.

2023 *Hajj to the Heart: Sufi Journeys across the Indian Ocean*, by Scott Kugle, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 34(2): 196-200.

2023 *Translating Wisdom: Hindu-Muslim Intellectual Interactions in Early Modern South Asia*, by Shankar Nair, in *Journal of Interreligious Studies*, no. 38, 112-117

2022 *La théologie comparée: vers un dialogue interreligieux et interculturel renouvelé?*, ed. Christophe Chalamet, Elio Jaillet, and Gabriele Palasciano, in *Theological Studies* 83.4 (December), 648

2022 *The Horizons of Being: The Metaphysics of Ibn al-ʿArabī in the* Muqaddimat al-Qayṣarī, translation and Commentary by Mukhtar H. Ali , in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 33:3: 311-313

2022 *Theopoetics and Religious Difference*, by Marius van Hoogstraten, in *Journal of Interreligious Studies*, no. 34: 104-109.

2021 *Decolonial Futures: Intercultural and Interreligious Intelligence for Theological Education*, by Christine J. Hong, in *Journal of Interreligious Studies*, no. 33: 113-116.

2021 *People of the Book: An Interfaith Dialogue about How Jews, Christians and Muslims Understand Their Sacred Scriptures*, by Dan Cohn-Sherbok, George D. Chryssides, and Usama Hasan, in *Modern Believing: The Journal of Theological Liberalism* 62.4: 434-436

2021 *Understanding Religion: Theories and Methods for Studying Religiously Diverse Societies*, by Paul Hedges, in *Journal of Interreligious Studies*, no. 32: 90-93

2021 *Crossing Confessional Boundaries: Exemplary Lives in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Traditions*, by John Renard, in *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*

2021 *Christian Flesh*, by Paul Griffiths, in *Horizons,* Vol. 48, Issue 1: 223-224.

2021 *The Other Prophet: Jesus in the Qur'an*, by Mouhanad Khorchide and Klaus von Stosch, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 31, no. 4: 452-456.

2018 *Spiritual Grammar: Genre and the Saintly Subject in Islam and Christianity*, by Dominic Longo, in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, Vol 29, Issue 3, pp. 407-409

2015 *Prayer: Christian and Muslim Perspectives*, edited by David Marshall and Lucinda Mosher, in *Theological Studies*, Vol 76, Issue 1, March: 226-227

2013 *In Search of the Lost Heart: Explorations in Islamic Thought*, by William C. Chittick, edited by M. Rustom, et al., in *Islamic Sciences*, Vol 11, Issue 2, Winter: 165-168

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021 *AAC&U + IFYC Institute on Teaching and Learning for Campus-wide Interfaith Excellence Grant:* Applied and won invitation to attend workshops and panels toward transforming campuses into model environments for interfaith cooperation; included $10,000 grant for implementing plans to increase interreligious curricular and co-curricular events at Seton Hall University.

2011-2013 Junior Fellow at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School

2009 FLAS Summer Language Fellowship

INVITED LECTURES, TALKS, RESPONSES, & WORKSHOPS

2026 Panelist and Respondent to Book Panel, Benjamin Sax's *Encounters: Dialogue, Antisemitism, and the Israeli–Palestinian Divide,* Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit, Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion (Denver; Nov 21–24).

2026 "Ongoing Revelations, Living Traditions: A Catholic-Islamic Comparative Theology," Georgetown University, March 31.

2024 Panelist and Respondent to Book Panel, Marianne Moyaert's *Christian Imaginations of the Religious Other: A History of Religionization*, Annual Meeting of the Association of Interreligious/Interfaith Studies, San Diego, Nov 22

2024 Respondent to Austin O'Malley's book talk (*The Poetics of Spiritual Instruction*), Adab Colloquium, Middle East Institute (Columbia University), September 27.

2024 "Excavating Islamic Fragments in Hans Urs von Balthasar: From Creatio Ex Nihilo to Comparative Theo-Poetics," Theology, Religious Studies and Philosophy Research Seminar Series, Dublin City University, March 14

2023 Response to panel, "Interreligious Dialogue: Borders and Transgressions," Interreligious and

Interfaith Studies Unit, Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion (San Antonio, TX; Nov 17-21)

2022 "Remembering the Past and Imagining the Future of Christian-Muslim Relations: The Creative and Destructive Power at the Borders," Response to Plenary by Amir Hussain, Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention: "Thinking Catholic Interreligiously," Atlanta, Georgia, June 9-12.

2021 "Supremacist Theological Entanglements: Christianity, Supersessionism, Racism, and Islamophobia", Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University and Georgetown Walsh School of Foreign Service, October 21

2021 Response to "Universal Salvation: Isaac of Nineveh and his Christian and Muslim Readers", paper delivered by John Zaleski at the Boston Colloquy in Historical Theology, Boston College, Aug 5-7.

2016 "The Seven Valleys of ʿAṭṭār's *Manṭiq al-ṭayr* and the Bewildering Experience of Passionate Love", presented at *Summit 30* by the Attar Foundation, in Tehran, Nishapur, Shiraz, and Isfahan, Iran, April 24 to May 4

2016 "Ḥāfiẓ Shīrāzī: The Master Poet from the School of Love (*madhhab-i ʿishq*)", presented at *Summit 30* by the Attar Foundation, in Tehran, Nishapur, Shiraz, and Isfahan, Iran, April 24 to May 4

2015 "'Nothing is worshipped except through passion': Ibn ʿArabī, Ḥāfiẓ, and the Many Forms of Meaningful Love", workshop led at the *Annual Conference of the Ibn ʿArabī Society*, October.

2014 "An Interpreter and not a Judge: Ibn ʿArabī's Spiritual Insights into Reading, Writing, and Practicing Comparative Theology;" at Universität Paderborn, Germany: symposium on "Methods and Criteria for Comparative Theology" August.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2027 "Listening to the Social Poets: Comparative Theology, Theo-Poetics, and the Cries of *los Descartados*," Catholic Theological Society of America 81st Annual Convention (Comparative Theology Session), Louisville, KY, June 10–13.

2026 "Barriers to Access, Ambiguity of Cure: A Comparative Theological and Praxis-Oriented Exploration of Disability through Gospel and Qur'anic Narratives," College Theology Society Annual Convention at Villanova University, May 28–31

2025 “Tradition and Propriety of Rituals in the (Omnipresent) Face of God: Ordinary (Supernatural) and Extraordinary (Natural) Means of Experiencing the Divine Presence,” Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention (Comparative Theology Session), Portland, OR, June 12-15.

2024 “Who saves Whom?: Nishnaabeg Grounded Normativity and *Creatio ex Nihilo* for a Practice of Deep Reciprocity,” Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention (Creation/Eschatology Session), Baltimore, June 13 - 16

2023 “‘Poetry is Half of Prophethood’: Exploring the Islamic Traditions Through the Arts, Literature, and Imagination,” College Theology Society Annual Convention at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT, June 1-4.

2023 “Race-Making from the Old World to the New World: Toward a Catholic-Muslim Decolonial Theology,” INSeCT Twin Conference: De/Colonizing Theologies. Glocal Histories, Contemporary Challenges. KU Leuven, 27 – 30 March 2023.

2022* “Being Affected to Affect the World: Suffering and Imagination in the Franciscan Traditions (Christianity) and the School of Love (Islam),” Passions and the Mystical: Between Affecting and Being Affected (Nijmegen, Netherlands 1-2 December. - *WITHDRAWN

2022 "‘You are standing on red ground!’: Restoring Trampled Land in Nishnaabeg Cosmologies of Relation in Dialogue with Christian and Islamic Sources,” Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion, Co-Sponsored Mysticism Unit and Open and Relational Theologies Unit, Denver, CO, November 19-22.

2021 “‘The heart is the faculty that is beyond the stage of the intellect:’ The Heart, Imagination, and Suffering in an Islamic Theo-Poetics,” The International Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference at Villanova, October 15-17

2021 “‘I am with those who are broken-hearted’: Spirituality, Imagination, and the Disruption of Neoliberalism”, Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention (Spirituality Session), June 10-13

2021 “Perceiving Divinity in Jesus and Beyond: A Christian-Islamic Exercise in Interreligious Reading,” Presented and led discussion for the Textual Journeys in Comparative Theology session at the Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, June 10-13

2020 “The Whence, Whither, and Wherefore of Comparative Theology,” organizer and participant of a roundtable discussion at the Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion (Comparative Theology Unit), Boston, MA, November 21-24

2020 "Writing Difference, Reading the World: A Roundtable of Journals Reconsidering the Borders of Ecumenism, Interfaith, and Politics," Panel Participant (as Editor of *Journal of Interreligious Studies*) at the European Academy of Religion, Bologna, Italy, June 22-25

2020 "Queering Religions in the Classroom: Gender and Sexuality in the Construction of 'World Religions'", Conference on Women and Gender, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, March 13 (Cancelled—COVID-19)

2019 "Imagining Forth the Incarnation: A Comparative Islamic Theo-Poetics of the Flesh", Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention (Comparative Theology Session) Pittsburg, PA, June 6-9

2019 "Eriugena's *veluti*: The 'as it were' or Metaphor of the Phenomenal World," Mystical Theology Network's Annual Conference entitled "Metaphor, Making, and Mysticism", Boston College, Feb 28 - Mar 3

2018 "'No one is good but God alone': Encountering the Flesh in the Word and the Word in the Flesh", Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion, Wildcard Session panel entitled, "Incarnate Materialisms: Critically Engaging Non-Dualist Anthropologies in Theological Discourse". Denver, CO, November 17-20

2018 "From Restrictive Ideology to Explorative Theology: Comparative Theology and the Unmasking of Hegemony," College Theology Society Annual Meeting at St. Catherine's University, St. Paul, MN, May 31 - June 3

2017 "Abū al-Ḥasan Khatamī Lāhūrī's Commentary on the Love Lyrics of Ḥāfiẓ Shīrāzī: The Mystico-Poetics Between the Seen and Unseen," Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion, Islamic Mysticism Unit, November 18-21

2017 "Between Sainthood and Friendship in Christianity and Islam: The Role Hagiographies Play in the Drama of Life," in panel entitled, "Agents of Aesthetic Encounters with Holiness: Hagiography as a Lens on the Theological-Aesthetic Development in Islam and Christianity," Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion, Comparative Theology Unit, November 18-21

2017 "What is 'Theological' in Islam?: The Import of Shahab Ahmed's *What Is Islam?* (2016) on the Discipline of Comparative Theology," College Theology Society Annual Meeting at Salve Regina University, Newport, RI, June 1-4

2017 "Liminality and Subjectivity in Comparative Theology", presented at the Biennial Conference for the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Tulane (New Orleans, Louisiana), May 14-17

2016 “Mysticism from Text to World: Metaphor as Theophanic Perception”, presented at *Mysticism in Comparative Perspective*, a conference of the Mystical Theology Network at Glasgow University, Scotland, December 14-16

2016 “The Ambiguity of Divine Presence: Metaphor as a Means to Divine Perception”, Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion, Comparative Theology Unit, November 19-22

2016 “Islamic-Christian Comparative Studies and the Predominance of Scriptural Discourse”, Sixth Annual Fordham Theology Graduate Student Association Conference (*Taking Liberty With Texts: The Power and Pitfalls of Reading Scriptures as Liberating*) April

2015 “Theophanic Perception: Christic Vision from Text to World”, paper on Johannes Scotus Eriugena presented at the Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies, December

2015 “Cultivation of Desire: Rhetorical Methods and Cosmology in the *Ghazal*s of Hāfiẓ of Shīrāz”, part of seminar entitled “Permutations of Desire in Persian Literature” at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference, March

2014 "A New Way Forward in Islamic-Christian Interreligious Conversation: The Merciful (Islamic) and the Gracious (Christian) God;” at Boston College Conference: “Engaging Particularities XII” March

2012 “Teaching Wisdom in Christian Religious Education: From Morality and Dogma to Self-Knowledge and Wisdom;” at Boston College Conference: "Engaging Particularities X” - March 30-April 1.

2005 “Personalism in the Married and Family Life;” Conference on Marriage and Family Ethics at St. Louis University

CONFERENCE PRESIDER/MODERATOR

2025 Presiding over “Comparative Theology and Protestant Traditions,” panel at the Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion (Comparative Theology Unit), Boston, MA; Nov 22-25

2024 Presiding over “Humility, Truth, and Pneuma: Exercises in Buddhist-Christian Comparative Theology,” panel at the Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion (Comparative Theology Unit), San Diego, CA; Nov 23-26.

2023 Presiding over “Comparative Theology and the Islamic Traditions,” panel at the Annual

Conference for the American Academy of Religion (Comparative Theology Unit), San Antonio, TX; Nov 17-21

2022 Invited Panel Moderator, Conference Title: "From Violence to Peacebuilding," Panel: "Francis' Magisterium and Peacebuilding," The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., May 23-24.

2021 "Agency, Liberation, Transformation: Feminist Comparative Theological Perspectives," Panel Presider, Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion (Comparative Theology Unit), San Antonio, TX, November 20-23

2021 "Comparative Nondualisms: Deep Relationality in an Unequal World," Panel Presider, Annual Conference for the American Academy of Religion (Comparative Theology Unit and Open and Relational Theologies Unit), San Antonio, TX, November 20-23

PUBLIC LECTURES: GENERAL AUDIENCE

2025 "Shared Historical and Theological Sources of Contemporary Antisemitism and Islamophobia," invited by [REDACTED] Interfaith Clergy Association, a local organization December 10

2025 "Immigration and Catholic Social Teaching," a lecture and discussion for the parishioners of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the larger community, Maplewood, NJ, June 22.

2023 "Interreligious Roots of the Civil Rights Movement and the Multireligious America It Created," a lecture and discussion for the parishioners of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the larger community, Maplewood, NJ, Feb 26

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY & UNIVERSITY

2025 - **Faculty Senate**, Member, Seton Hall University
University College Core Committee
Instructional Technology Committee

2025 - **College of A&S Bylaws Committee**, Seton Hall University

2016 - 2026 **Steering Committee Member** for Comparative Theology Unit of the American Academy of Religion, **Co-Chair** 2022 - 2026

2024 - Steering Committee Member of **Institute for Communication and Religion,** Seton Hall

2024-2025	Alternate, **Core Curriculum Committee,** Seton Hall
2023 - 2024	Faculty Moderator, **Delta Epsilon Sigma**, the national scholastic honor society for students, faculty, and alumni of colleges and universities with a Catholic tradition, Molloy University Chapter
2021 - 2024	**Co-developed Muslim-Christian Relations Minor**, Seton Hall University
2021 - 2024	**Member** of Administrative Team for the Spirituality Session of the Catholic Theological Society of America
2021 - 2023	**Faculty Advisor,** Muslim Student Association, Seton Hall University • Provide support and guidance for programming developed and organized by the Muslim Student Association of Seton Hall University.
2017 - 2022	**Co-Convener** for Comparative Theology Section of the College Theology Society
2019 - 2021	**Member**, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at Seton Hall University
2021	**Presenter**, "Inter-religious Panel on the After-life", presenting Islamic and comparative theological perspectives, Seton Hall, Nov 2
2021	**Co-organized Workshop**, "Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, White Supremacy and US Culture: The Call for Interfaith 'Upstanding'" • I worked with a team on developing a three-part workshop co-sponsored by the Boston University Tom Porter Program on Religion & Conflict Transformation and the *Journal of Interreligious Studies*.
2021	**Co-organized Conference** "Growing in Spirit: Exploring Interreligious Education at the High School and Undergraduate Level", with *Journal of Interreligious Studies*
Ongoing	**Peer Reviewer** *Theological Studies* *Culture and Religion* *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* *Journal of Religion* *Religions* *Horizons* *Philosophy East and West*

2010-2016 **Co-founder, Editor-in-Chief,** *Journal of Comparative Theology*

AWARDS

2014 Derek Bok Center Certificate of Excellence and Distinction in Teaching (Fall)
2014 Derek Bok Center Certificate of Excellence and Distinction in Teaching (Spring)
2013 The Muhyiddin Ibn ʿArabi Society 2013 Young Writer Award

TEACHING (Seton Hall University) *Developed as New Course for Department

**Disability Theologies from Interreligious Perspectives,* Department of Religion, Spring 2026

Religions of the World, Department of Religion, offered every semester from the Fall of 2019

Islam and Christianity in Dialogue: Theology and History, Department of Religion, Fall 2019 & 2021

**Pluralism in Multireligious America: The Politics of Inclusion,* Department of Religion, Spring 2021, Fall 2026

Islamic Spirituality and Mysticism, Department of Religion, Fall 2020, Spring 2026

Islamophobia: Theology, History & Contemporary Contexts*, Department of Religion, Spring 2022

Arts and Literature of Islam and Muslim Cultures*, Department of Religion, Fall 2022

Women, Gender, and Islam*, Department of Religion, Spring 2023, Spring 2025

Interfaith Studies*, Department of Religion, co-developed with Alan Brill

TEACHING (Molloy University)

Religions of the World, Fall and Spring 2023

Introduction to Theology and Religious Studies, Fall and Spring 2023

Islam, Spring 2023

TEACHING (Harvard)

Critical Ecclesiologies, Harvard College, Fall 2018.

Power, Authority, and Orthodoxy in Christianity: From the Sacred to the Secular, Harvard College, Fall 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Harvard Teaching Fellow)

Religion in America's Political Conscience and at the Ballot Box, with Professor EJ Dionne (Fall 2018, Fall 2017)

Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies, Head Teaching Fellow with Professor Ali Asani (Spring 2017, Spring 2015; course in the Gen Ed curriculum)

Incarnation and Desire, with Professor Courtney Lamberth (Fall 2016)

Introduction to Islamic Mysticism: The Sufi Tradition, with Professor Ali Asani (Spring 2016)

Scriptures and Classics, with Professor William Graham (Fall 2014, Fall 2013)

Hindu Goddesses and the Virgin Mary, with Professor Francis X. Clooney, SJ (Fall 2014)

For the Love of God and His Prophet: Religion, Literature, and the Arts in Muslim Cultures, with Professor Ali Asani (Spring 2014; course in the Gen Ed Curriculum)

Mysticism and Literature, with Professor Luis Girón Negrón (Spring 2014)

Theological French for Reaching, with Pascale Torracinta (Summer 2013-2018)

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT (Harvard)

Jan 2018-May 2019 **Teaching Fellow Liaison**, *Harvard Divinity School*

- I work with Teaching Fellows in the Study of Religion at Harvard (HDS and FAS), offering pedagogical training, workshops, and discussions about best practices in teaching.

2016-2019 **Residential House Tutor,** Kirkland House of Harvard College

- I serve as a mentor for Harvard undergraduate students by offering academic advising, professional and career guidance, writing tutoring, and various forms of community support to the residents of Kirkland House. My wife and I were the first to serve as Interfaith Relations Tutors at the house.

2014-2019 **Academic Technology Consultant**

- I serve as a consultant for professors concerning their course websites; in consultation with them, I offer various ways to use their course sites and technology

as best as possible for their courses' needs.

2013-2015 **Resident Proctor**, Center for the Study of World Religions

- I was a member of this academic community from 2011-2015. The community consists of 20-25 students in Masters or Doctoral programs. I coordinated residential activities, meetings, and orientations as a Resident Proctor

OTHER PERTINENT EMPLOYMENT

2006-2008 **Theology Teacher**, Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School

- I taught 10th grade Scripture, 12th grade Comparative Religions, and 8th grade Church History.

2006-2008 **Campus Minister**, Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School

- I aided in planning liturgies and retreats. In addition, I planned and lead domestic and international service-learning trips. I was in charge of various local and national social action and social service trips as well, and organized local volunteer opportunities at the Catholic Worker House.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

College Theology Society
Catholic Theological Society of America
American Academy of Religion
Association for Interreligious/Interfaith Studies (*ex officio* Board Member)
European Academy of Religion
Mystical Theology Network
The Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society

LANGUAGES

English (native)
French (highly proficient in reading, writing, and speaking)
Italian (highly proficient in reading, writing, and speaking)
Arabic (highly proficient in reading)
Persian (highly proficient in reading)
Latin (highly proficient in reading)
Spanish (highly proficient in reading)
Koine Greek (proficient in reading)

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

- Board Member, Together We Bloom, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit empowering young children with disabilities and their families through equitable access to connection, communication, and community.
- Religious Education Teacher at St. Joseph's Catholic Parish (Maplewood, NJ), 2024 - ongoing
- Local community organizer for various social, environmental, and racial injustices (often via SOMA Justice, St. Joseph Parish, or Together We Bloom)
- Co-Founder and Participant in St. Joseph's Workers4Justice, St. Joseph Parish, Maplewood, NJ
- Religious Justice Committee Member for SOMA Action, NJ.
- Marriage Minister at St. Cecilia's Parish, Boston, MA.
- Winter, Spring, and Summer volunteer at the student-run Harvard Square Homeless Shelter (2010-2019)
- Catholic Worker House volunteer as a teacher advisor for High School students (2006-2008)