

Curriculum Vitae  
Updated December 2021

## Demian Marc Wheeler, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology and Religious Studies  
Director of Advanced Studies  
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities  
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Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114  
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### EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Union Theological Seminary • New York, New York Dissertation: "Pragmatic Historicism and Its Problems" Advisor: Gary Dorrien	2014
M.Phil.	Union Theological Seminary • New York, New York Consortium: Theology Area of Specialization: American Theological Liberalism	2012
M.A.	Iliff School of Theology • Denver, Colorado With Distinction Concentration: Theology	2004
B.S.	University of Valley Forge • Phoenixville, Pennsylvania <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> Major: Pastoral Ministry	1999

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020-Present

Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology and Religious Studies  
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities • Saint Paul, Minnesota

2018-Present

Director of Advanced Studies  
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities • Saint Paul, Minnesota

2017-2020

Assistant Professor of Philosophical Theology and Religious Studies  
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities • Saint Paul, Minnesota

2015-2017

Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities • Saint Paul, Minnesota

2014-2015

Adjunct Lecturer

Marymount Manhattan College • New York, New York

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Religion within the Limits of History Alone: Pragmatic Historicism and the Future of Theology*. Albany, New York: State University of New York Press, 2020.

- Reviewed by Nancy Frankenberry in *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* (42.2: 2021)

### Edited Volumes

*Conceiving an Alternative: Philosophical Resources for an Ecological Civilization*, co-edited with David E. Conner. Anoka, Minnesota: Process Century Press, 2019.

- Reviewed by Kevin Schilbrack in *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* (15.2: 2021)
- Reviewed by Mary Keller in *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* (41.2-3: 2020)

### Journal Articles

“The Spirituality of Size: The Religious Qualities of Pantheistic God Metaphors,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 42, No. 1 (January 2021): 8-31.

“The Religious Qualities of Naturalistic God Metaphors: Introducing the Debate” (co-authored with Daniel J. Ott), *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 42, No. 1 (January 2021): 5-7.

“Bernard Loomer as a Bridge between Whitehead and Tillich: Towards a Ground-of-Being Process Theology,” *The Bulletin of the North American Paul Tillich Society* 44, No. 1 (January 2018): 22-29.

“Is a Process Form of Ecstatic Naturalism Possible? A Reading of Donald Crosby,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 37, No. 1 (January 2016): 85-100.

“American Religious Empiricism and the Possibility of an Ecstatic Naturalist Process Metaphysics,” *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* 8, No. 2 (June 2014): 156-181.

“Big History and the Size of God: Holistic Historicism as a Pathway to Religious Naturalism,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 34, No. 3 (September 2013): 226-247.

## Book Chapters

“Coronavirus, Pantheistic Naturalism, and the Problem of Evil: A Post-Pandemic Theology,” in *Threshold Dwellers in the Time of Global Pandemic*, edited by Eleazar S. Fernandez. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, Forthcoming.

“Seizing a Whiteheadian Alternative: A Retrieval of the Empirical Option in Process Thought,” in *Conceiving an Alternative: Philosophical Resources for an Ecological Civilization*, edited by Demian Wheeler and David E. Conner. Anoka, Minnesota: Process Century Press, 2019. 115-147.

“Introduction” (co-authored with David E. Conner), in *Conceiving an Alternative: Philosophical Resources for an Ecological Civilization*, edited by Demian Wheeler and David E. Conner. Anoka, Minnesota: Process Century Press, 2019. i-iv.

“*Deus sive Natura*: Pantheism as a Variety of Religious Naturalism,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Religious Naturalism*, edited by Donald A. Crosby and Jerome A. Stone. New York: Routledge, 2018. 106-117.

## Encyclopedia Entries

“Empirical Theology,” in *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2016.

“Mathews, Shailer,” in *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2016.

“Smith, Gerald Birney,” in *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, edited by George Thomas Kurian and Mark A. Lamport. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2016.

“Lyman, Eugene William,” in *The Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers*, edited by John R. Shook. Bristol, England: Thoemmes Continuum, 2005.

## Book Reviews

Review of *American Immanence: Democracy for an Uncertain World*, by Michael S. Hogue. *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* 15, No. 1 (March 2021): 114-116.

Review of *Deep Pantheism: Toward a New Transcendentalism*, by Robert S. Corrington. *The Journal of Religion* 98, No. 3 (July 2018): 401-403.

Review of *Pluralism: The Future of Religion*, by Kenneth Rose. *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 38, No. 2 (May 2017): 238-244.

Review of *Process-Relational Philosophy: An Introduction to Alfred North Whitehead*, by C. Robert Mesle. *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 30, No. 3 (September 2009): 330-335.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Graduate Courses Taught (United Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary)**

Atheisms and A/theologies  
Black Theology  
Constructive Theology (Residential and Hybrid)  
God  
Historical Theology I  
History of Christian Theologies (Residential and Hybrid)  
History of Modern Theologies (Residential and Hybrid)  
Jesus  
Introduction to Theology  
Public Theology (D.Min. Course)  
Radical Theologies and the Challenge of Atheism  
Religious and Theological Interpretation  
The Sacredness of Nature  
Unitarian and Universalist Theologies  
Varieties of Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism  
Varieties of Religious Naturalism  
What is Religion?  
World Religions

### **Undergraduate Courses Taught (Marymount Manhattan College)**

Faith and Doubt  
Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

### **Teaching Fellowships (Union Theological Seminary)**

American Theological Liberalism 1930-2005, with Gary Dorrien  
Foundations in Christian Theology I, with James Cone  
Loosening Canon, with Hal Taussig  
Process Theology, with John Thatamanil

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

2015-2017

Postdoctoral Fellowship  
The Louisville Institute • Louisville, Kentucky

2014

The Robert Wood Lynn Fellowship (awarded for promise of excellence in teaching)  
Auburn Theological Seminary • New York, New York

2007-2011

Graduate Fellowship

Union Theological Seminary • New York, New York

2009

Armour/Lewis Family Foundation Scholarship

Union Theological Seminary • New York, New York

2008

Atherton Sinclair Burlingham Scholarship

Union Theological Seminary • New York, New York

2002

Dean's Award for Academic Excellence

Illiff School of Theology • Denver, Colorado

2001-2003

The Master of Arts Scholarship

Illiff School of Theology • Denver, Colorado

2001

The Gift of Hope Scholarship

Illiff School of Theology • Denver, Colorado

1998

Biblical Studies Achievement Award in Greek

University of Valley Forge • Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

1997

Biblical Studies Achievement Award in Hebrew

University of Valley Forge • Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

1997

Award for Excellence in Preaching

University of Valley Forge • Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

1996

National Dean's List

University of Valley Forge • Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

1995-1998

Dean's List

University of Valley Forge • Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PROGRAMS

June 2022

“Atheisms, Atheologies, Naturalistic Theologies, and Religious Naturalisms” (program co-chair)  
Annual Meeting of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought  
Salt Lake City, Utah

June 2019

“The Spirituality of Size”  
Annual Meeting of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought  
Asheville, North Carolina

November 2017

“God is the World: Bernard Loomer as a Bridge between Whitehead and Tillich”  
Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion  
Boston, Massachusetts

June 2015

“Seizing a Whiteheadian Alternative: A Retrieval of the Empirical Option in Process Thought”  
Tenth International Whitehead Conference  
Pomona College • Claremont, California

April 2015

“Is a Process Form of Ecstatic Naturalism Possible? A Reading of Donald Crosby”  
Fifth International Congress on Ecstatic Naturalism  
Drew University • Madison, New Jersey

April 2013

“American Religious Empiricism and the Possibility of an Ecstatic Naturalist Process Metaphysics”  
Third International Congress on Ecstatic Naturalism  
Drew University • Madison, New Jersey

June 2012

“Big History and the Size of God: Holistic Historicism as a Pathway to Religious Naturalism”  
Annual Meeting of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought  
Manitou Springs, Colorado

August 2008

“The Theological Historicism of Reinhold Niebuhr and the Sustainability of Democratic Ideals”  
International Meeting of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought  
Assisi, Italy

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

November 2021

“Top Ten Reasons Why I am a Pragmatic Historicist” and “Response to My Interlocutors”

*Religion within the Limits of History Alone* Book Event and Panel Discussion

United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

October 2021

“The Theological Implications of Religious Diversity”

Faculty Favorite Lecture Series

United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

October 2021

“Spiritual but not Supernatural: The Path of Religious Naturalism”

Sunday Service

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • Ashland, Wisconsin

November 2019

“Varieties of Naturalism”

Adult Education Program

First Unitarian Society • Minneapolis, Minnesota

September 2019

“Spiritual but not Supernatural: The Path of Religious Naturalism”

Sunday Service

St. Croix Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin

April 2019

“Religious Multiplicity and Religious Pluralism”

When One Religion Isn't Enough: A Panel Discussion with Duane Bidwell

United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

March 2019

“Liberal Piety and the Congregational Theologian”

Sermon for the Ordination of Andrea Johnson

Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • Bloomington, Minnesota

February 2018

“Is Christianity the One True Religion? Exploring Some Theological Options”

First Sundays Adult Education

Elim Lutheran Church • Robbinsdale, Minnesota

October 2017  
“Spiritual but not Supernatural: The Path of Religious Naturalism”  
Adult Education Program  
First Unitarian Society • Minneapolis, Minnesota

September 2017  
“Old Chicago”  
Installation Address  
United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

July 2017  
“Religious Naturalism: A Theology for UU Humanists”  
Sunday Assembly  
First Unitarian Society • Minneapolis, Minnesota

May 2016  
“Progressive Theology Amid the Spiritual Revolution”  
Presentation to the Board of Trustees  
United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

April 2016  
“The Sacredness of Nature: An Introduction to Religious Naturalism”  
Adult Enrichment Program  
The House of Hope Presbyterian Church • Saint Paul, Minnesota

April 2016  
“Earth Day Reflection”  
Community Chapel  
United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

September 2015  
“Life is More Than Pizza: A Vision for Progressive Theology”  
Convocation Address  
United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

April 2009  
“Why the Doctoral Program Matters: A Personal Statement from a Union Ph.D. Student”  
Presentation to Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee  
Union Theological Seminary • New York, New York

## LANGUAGES

English (Native Language)  
German (Reading Proficiency with Dictionary)



French (Reading Proficiency with Dictionary)  
Greek (Reading Proficiency with Dictionary)  
Hebrew (Reading Proficiency with Dictionary)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

The American Academy of Religion  
The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought  
Religious Naturalist Association

## **INSTITUTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Ongoing Committee Work (United Theological Seminary)**

Academic Council  
Educational Planning Committee  
Faculty Administration Committee  
Institutional Review Board  
Student Review and Policy Committee

### **Search Committees (United Theological Seminary)**

2021-2022

World Religions Search Committee

2020-2021

Interim President Search Committee

2020-2021

United Methodist Search Committee

2018-2019

Social Transformation Search Committee

### **Seminary Service (United Theological Seminary)**

2021-2023

Academic Mentor for Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow (Andrew Packman)

2020-2021

Faculty Liaison to Student Leadership Collective

2019-2021

Innovation Task Force

2019-2020  
Faculty Co-Facilitator of Theology on Tap

2015-2017  
Faculty Facilitator of Theology Lunch

### **Professional Service**

2021-Present  
Editorial Advisory Board • Wildhouse Publications

2020-Present  
Editorial Board • American Journal of Theology and Philosophy

2015-Present  
Board of Directors and Secretary • Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought

2014-Present  
Webmaster • Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (iarpt.org)

2013-2014  
Systematic Theology Search Committee • Union Theological Seminary

### **OTHER ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

2001-2003  
Research Assistant for Delwin Brown, William Dean, Edward Antonio, and Donald Messer  
Iliff School of Theology • Denver, Colorado

2001  
Tutor  
Iliff School of Theology • Denver, Colorado

1997-1998  
Tutor  
University of Valley Forge • Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

### **RELEVANT NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

2004-2007  
Education and Youth Director  
All Saints' Episcopal Church • Loveland, CO

1999-2000  
Pastoral Assistant  
First United Methodist Church • Pottstown, PA

## REFERENCES

### Supervisors and Colleagues

Kyle Roberts  
Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean • United Theological Seminary  
kroberts@unitedseminary.edu

Jennifer Awes-Freeman  
Assistant Professor of Arts and Theology • United Theological Seminary  
jaws-freeman@unitedseminary.edu

Justin Sabia-Tanis  
Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics and Social Transformation • United Theological Seminary  
jsabia-tanis@unitedseminary.edu

### Professors and Advisors

Gary Dorrien  
Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics • Union Theological Seminary  
gdorrien@uts.columbia.edu

John Thatamanil  
Associate Professor of Theology and World Religions • Union Theological Seminary  
jthatamanil@uts.columbia.edu

Sheila Greeve Davaney  
Harvey H. Potthoff Professor of Theology Emerita • Iliff School of Theology  
sdavaney@gmail.com

### Scholars and Mentors

Nancy Frankenberry  
John Phillips Professor Emeritus in Religion • Dartmouth College  
Nancy.K.Frankenberry@dartmouth.edu

Robert Corrington  
Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Philosophical Theology • Drew University  
rcorring@drew.edu

Daniel Ott  
Associate Dean of Academic Initiatives • Monmouth College  
dott@monmouthcollege.edu