

Curriculum Vitae
Updated October 2022

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 in Progress

God is the Whirlwind: Pantheistic Naturalism and the Problem of Evil. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, Forthcoming (by 2025).

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.

Edited Volumes

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

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 Age of Global Pandemic*, edited by Eleazar S. Fernandez. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2022. 9-63.

“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
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
Iliff School of Theology • Denver, Colorado

2001-2003
The Master of Arts Scholarship
Iliff School of Theology • Denver, Colorado

2001
The Gift of Hope Scholarship
Iliff 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

November 2023

“Wildman’s Effing Theodicy”

Panel on the Work of Wesley J. Wildman Sponsored by the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion

San Antonio, Texas

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”

Open and Relational Theologies Unit and Tillich: Issues in Theology and Culture Unit

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

February 2023

“Ash Wednesday for Religious Naturalists”
Community Chapel
United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

September 2022

“Now and Then Conversation: Demian Wheeler and Mary Farrell Bednarowski”
60th Anniversary Kickoff Event
United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

March 2022

“A Historicist Reading of *The Good Shepherd*”
Book Event and Panel Discussion of Jennifer Awes Freeman’s *The Good Shepherd*
United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, Minnesota

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 2017

“Charge to the Graduates”

Commencement

United Theological Seminary • Saint Paul, 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 and Rotating 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

Search Committee for Johnson-Fry Chair in World Religions and Intercultural Studies

2020-2021

Search Committee for Interim President

2020-2021

Search Committee for United Methodist Studies Professor

2018-2019

Search Committee for Social Transformation Professor

Seminary Service (United Theological Seminary)

2022-2023

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

2022

Academic Dean Review Committee

2021-2023

Academic Mentor for Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow (Andrew Packman)

2021-2023

Admissions Committee

2020-2021

Faculty Liaison to Student Leadership Collective

2019-2021

Innovation Task Force

2019-2020

Faculty Co-Facilitator of Theology on Tap

2018

Campus Move Visioning Committee

2015-2017

Faculty Facilitator of Theology Lunch

Professional Service

2022-Present
Board of Advisors
Religious Naturalist Association

2021-Present
Editorial Advisory Board
Wildhouse Publications

2020-Present
Editorial Board
American Journal of Theology and Philosophy

2015-Present
Secretary
Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought

2015-Present
Board of Directors
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
Associate Professor of Arts and Theology • United Theological Seminary
jawes-freeman@unitedseminary.edu

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

Gary Green
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Social Transformation • United Theological Seminary
ggreen@unitedseminary.edu

Advisors and Professors

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

Paul Knitter
Emeritus Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions & Culture • Union Theological Seminary
pknitter@gmail.com

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

Donald Crosby
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy • Colorado State University
donald.crosby@att.net

Daniel Ott
Dean of the School of Theology, Humanities, and Performing Arts • Eastern Mennonite University
daniel.ott@emu.edu

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