

Brian Bantum, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Theology | Seattle Pacific University | 3307 3rd Ave W Seattle, WA 98119
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Professional Experience

Associate Professor of Theology
Seattle Pacific University: 2009-present

Related Experience

Christian Leadership Conference Design Team Co-Leader, Forum for Theological Exploration (2014-2017)
Developed learning objectives, conference structures, and mentoring models for doctoral students of color;
faculty mentor 2014, 2016.

Chair, Faculty Diversity Committee, Seattle Pacific University (2014-2015) Co-wrote and shepherded the
Opportunity Hire Initiative, advising departments in the program, coordinating process and evaluating
applications, communicating initiative aims and process to wider faculty.

Cultural Engagement Task Force (2013-2015) Developed learning objectives and CUE structures; coordinated
with Director of General Education and First Year Task Force to implement CUE goals.

Education

Duke University, Graduate Program in Religion
Ph.D., Theology, Spring 2009
Dissertation, Mulatto Theology: Race, Discipleship and Interracial Existence

Duke University, The Divinity School
M.T.S., Theology, Spring 2002
Magna Cum Laude
Thesis, A New Rhythm: The Anthropology of Hans Urs von Balthasar

Houghton College
B.A., History, Spring 1997
Thesis, The Theological Formation of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Publications

Books:

The Death of Race: Building a New Christianity in a Racial World. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (forthcoming)

Redeeming Mulatto: A Theology of Race and Christian Hybridity. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2010.

Current Projects:

God With Us, We With God: An Illuminated Theology
Bodies of Christ: Theological Anthropology from In Between
The Imaged Body (a theology of the body's iconicity in the contemporary world)

Articles:

"Review: Souls of Mixed Folk by Michelle Elam," Arts (Arts in Religious and Theological Studies) 26, no. 2 (2015).

"Here Am I: Moses and the Meaning of our Bodies," Ex Auditu. Pickwick Publications, 2014.

"The Threefold Man: Johannes Kaspar Lavater, Physiognomy, and the Creation of the Western Icon" Racial
Saints: Molly Basset and Vincent Lloyd, eds. London: Routledge, 2014.

"A Future Unwritten: Blackness Between the Religious Invocations of Zadie Smith and Heidi Durrow," South Atlantic Quarterly Vol. 112, No. 4 (2013).

"'This is Me:' Ronald Prezbylowski, Mis-Performance and Transformation," in Corners in the City of God: The Wire and Theology. Jonathan Tran and Myles Wertz, eds. Cascade: Eugene, OR, 2013.

"Discipleship and Identity: Race, Gender, and the Human Situation," Gender and Christianity. Jack Levison and Priscilla Pope-Levison, eds. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012.

"To Those Who Are Distant and Those Who Are Far Away: Atonement, Identity, and Identification," Ex Auditu Vol 26. Pickwick Publications (2011), 128-144.

"Black Theology or Black Religion? Discipleship as a Theological Method," in Black Theology: An International Journal Vol. 8, No.2 (2010).

"Why Christians Can't be Post-Racial: Christian Existence in the Murky Waters of Race and Place" in The Other Journal 16, August 17, 2009. www.theotherjournal.com.

Presentations

"Does America Hate Its Poor," community presentation hosted by Minority Association of Pre-Professional Health Students (MAPS), Seattle Pacific University, February 23, 2015.

"Race in America after Ferguson," Community Forum, Seattle Pacific University, November 20, 2014.

"Discipleship: What's Race Got to Do With It?" Community Forum, Bluffton University, Bluffton OH, March 2014.

"Here Am I: Moses and the Meaning of our Bodies," North Park Theological Seminary Theology Symposium, North Park Theological Seminary, September 2014.

"Asians and Asian Americans in Conversation with the New Black Theology," Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meetings, Seattle, WA, January 2014.

"Recovery and Critique: The Turn to Tradition in Contemporary Black Theologies," Society of Christian Ethics Annual meeting, Seattle, WA, January 2014.

"Critical Whiteness, Theological Explorations," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 24, 2013.

"Theological Reflections on The Wire," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 24, 2013.

"Theology to and From: What is Mulatto Theology?" American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL November 19, 2012.

"Redeeming Mulatto: Theology and Hybridity," Faculty Forum, Westmont College, February 2012.

"The Bodied Word: Theology, Discipleship and the Problem of the Visible Body," Center for Applied Christian Ethics, Wheaton College, February 2012.

"Paradigm Shift," A site-specific art-installation, with Roger Feldman, Seattle Pacific University, Winter 2011.

"Redeeming Mulatto: A Book Presentation," John Perkins Center Community Forum, Seattle, WA, April 2011.

"The Mulatto Jesus: Evangelical Theology Between the Margins and the Center," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2010.

"To Those Who Are Far and Those Who Are Near: Atonement, Identity, and Identification," North Park Theological Seminary Theology Symposium, North Park Theological Seminary, September 2010.

"Discipleship and Identity: A Theological Consideration of Race, Gender, and the Human Situation," Gender and Christianity: Lilly Fellows Summer Seminar, Seattle Pacific University, June 30, 2010.

"Race and Discipleship," Passionate Faith: A Bible, Youth and Culture Conference and Youth Leaders Forum, Seattle, WA, May 2, 2010.

"Death by Misunderstanding: Nella Larsen and Social Death," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2007.

"Who Do You Say I Am: Black Theology and Discipleship," American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Sand Diego, CA, November 2007.

"Race, Biology and the Mystery of Mixture," To Be or Not To Be: Searching for Self in the Genome, Conference, Duke University, October 2006.

Public Writing

"To Be A Father Like My Mother," in Father Factor: American Christian Men on Fatherhood and Faith. Campbell, R., ed. Ashland: White Cloud Press, 2014.

"LIVING BY The Word." Christian Century 132, no. 2 (January 21, 2015): 18-19.

"Preaching Reflections on Michael Brown and Ferguson - Odyssey Networks." Odyssey Networks. December 23, 2014. <http://www.odysseynetworks.org/on-scripture-the-bible/preaching-reflections-michael-brown-ferguson/>.

"Doing Theology As Though Our Bodies Mattered." Syndicate Theology. August 24, 2014. <https://syndicatetheology.com/commentary/doing-theology-as-though-our-bodies-mattered/>.

"New Birth and the Realities of Race," Covenant Companion, September 2012.

"The Living Word: May 6, May 13," Christian Century, May 2, 2012, Vol. 129, No. 9.

"Why Theology Needs Art," Response Magazine Seattle Pacific University. Autumn 2011.

"A Reflection on Being Biracial and Christian," Etc. Magazine. Autumn 11, Seattle Pacific University, 12-13.

"A Letter to My Son," Divinity Magazine, Winter 2011, Volume 11, Number 2.

"What is the Black Church: Reflections on Rev. Wright, Sen. Obama, and Race in America," in Gatherings Vol. 6.1 (Summer 2008), 12-13.

Fellowships and Grants

Seattle Pacific University Center for Biblical and Theological Education (Art-Installation) Fall 2011
 Seattle Pacific University Center for Biblical and Theological Education (Living Theology) Fall 2011
 Dissertation Fellow, The Fund for Theological Education, 2008-2009
 Predoctoral Fellow, Ford Foundation, 2006-2009
 Doctoral Fellow, The Fund for Theological Education, 2005-2007

Courses Taught

Seattle Pacific University

Undergraduate level courses:

Introduction to Christian Theology
Introduction to Christian Theology (arts emphasis)
Christianity and Society
Christian Identity and Formation
Christology
Introduction to Christian Ethics
Theology of Karl Barth
Introduction to Christian Reconciliation
Theology, Art and the Body
University Scholars: Modernity

Graduate level courses:

Race, Ethnicity and Theology
Introduction to Theology: Christology
Theology of Karl Barth
Gender and the Body

The Duke Divinity School United Methodist Course of Study

Introduction to Contemporary Theology
Introduction to Christian Ethics
Christian Approaches to War and Peace
Race and the Christian Life

University Service

Faculty Diversity Committee, 2012-2015 (chair, 2014-2015)
First Year Curriculum Task Force, 2013-2014
Cultural Engagement Task Force, 2012-2013
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2010-present
Asian American Ministry Program Faculty Advisory Committee, 2010-present
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2009-2010

Ecclesial Teaching/Service

Speaker, "Leadership in Multicultural Contexts," Evangelical Covenant Church Mid-Winter Meetings, January 2014.
Sermon, "You Must Be Re-Born," Wheaton College, African American Church Series, February 2012.
Community Group Leader, Quest Church, Seattle, WA, 2010-present.
Sermon, "Blessed are the Pure in Heart" Quest Church, July 24, 2011.
Core Team Leader, Faith and Race Depth Class (Faith and Race: Education), May 2011-14
Sermon, "I Saw a Beast," Gathering Chapel, Seattle Pacific University, February 16, 2010.
Core Team Member/Presenter, Faith and Race Course/Conference, Quest Church, Seattle WA, October 2009.

Memberships

American Academy of Religion
International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture

Editorial

Associate Editor, Journal of Literature and Theology, 2013-present
Advisory Team, Mentoring Planning Team, The Forum for Theological Exploration, 2013-present
Editorial Advisory Committee, The Other Journal, 2010-2015
African American Lectionary Core Team, 2012-2013