

Brian Bantum, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Theology • Seattle Pacific University • 3307 3rd Ave W Seattle, WA 98119
bantum@spu.edu • (206) 281-2546

Professional Experience

Associate Professor of Theology
Seattle Pacific University: 2009-present

Education

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

Duke University 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."

Areas of Research and Writing

Christology, theological anthropology, identity, race, mixed-race, art and theological method, critical theory, cultural studies, baptism

Publications

Books:

The Death of Race: Building a New Christianity in a Racial World. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016.

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

Current Projects:

A Novel God: An Illuminated Theology
The Imaged Body: The Iconic Body in a Visual World

Articles

"You Can't Go Home Again: Retrieval and Mulattic Theology," Theologies of Retrieval: Exploration and Appraisal. Darren Sarisky, ed. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2018.

"Review: Souls of Mixed Folk by Michele 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" Sainthood and Race: Holy Flesh, Marked Flesh. 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 Prezbylewski, 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).

Invited Lectures

"Clothed in Flesh: The Artist, Liberation, and the Future of Barthian Theology." Plenary. 2018 Karl Barth Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary. Princeton, NJ. June 2018.

"Unruly Gaps: Towards a Theology of Visual Life." Keynote. Princeton Youth Forum. Princeton Theological Seminary. Princeton, NJ. April 2018.

"True Ornamentation: The Making of the Western Icon." Keynote. Princeton Youth Forum. Princeton Theological Seminary. Princeton, NJ. April 2018.

"The Artists Will be My Priests: A Theology of the Iconic Body." 2018 Weter Lecture. Seattle Pacific University. Seattle, WA. April 2018.

"There is Life in the Tomb: Discipleship in a Racialized World." Mannoia Lecture. Greenville University, Greenville, IL. February 2018.

"Holy Difference in a Divided World." Redding Lecture. Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY. February 2018.

"Conjuring Chaos: Jesus, Race, and the Hope of Disruptive Bodies." Keynote Address. Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Asbury Theological Seminary, March 2017.

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

Scholarly Presentations

"Hybridities and the Future of Being Human." Workgroup on Constructive Theology. Vanderbilt University, April 2017.

"Birth of the Mestizo: Diego Rivera's "Arrival of Cortes" as Borderland Creation," Arts and Literature Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

"Can Theology be Literary? Should it?" International Society Literature and Religion Conference, University of Glasgow, September 2016.

"Does America Hate Its Poor," Community Conversation of 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.

"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

"Bodies in the Vernacular" The Christian Century 134. no. 7 (March 29, 2017): 26-29.*

*2017 award of excellence (first place) in the long-form theological reflection category by Association of Church Presses

"Need to Confess: Review of America's Original Sin, The Justice Calling, and The Third Reconstruction," Christian Century 133, no. 17 (August 17, 2016): 28-30.

"A Black Lives Matter: Seven Writers Assess the Movement," Christian Century 133, no. 6 (March 16, 2016): 26-27.

"The Third Day," The Other Journal 25 (December 24, 2015): 16-20.

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

"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.

"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.

"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.

Courses Taught

Seattle Pacific University

Undergraduate 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 (Texts and Contexts)
- Are Mixed People the Future? Introduction to Critical Mixed Race Studies

Seminary courses:

- Theology, Race, and Culture
- Introduction to Theology: Christology
- Theology of Karl Barth
- Gender and the Body
- Theology, Art, and the Body
- Public Theology

Thesis Advisor:

- K. Barnes, "The Communication of Limits: Christ, the Communicatio Idiomatum, and the Identity of People With Disabilities" (2016)
- S. Keough, "Mary a Woman: Sex and Situation in the Incarnation" (2016)
- N. Johnson, "Eucharistic Undoings: Ecstatic Participation and Divine Incorporation in the Spirit" (2015)

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

- Co-Director, Cultural Studies and Social Justice Major, September 2017
- Cultural Engagement Workshop Facilitator, June 2017, September 2017
- 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

Fellowships and Grants

- 2018 Weter Lecture Award, Seattle Pacific University, 2017-18
- 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

Editorial

Associate Editor, Journal of Literature and Theology, 2013-present
 Black Theology Group Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2015-present
 Mentoring Consortium Team, The Forum for Theological Exploration, 2013-present (co-lead, 2015-present)
 Editorial Advisory Committee, The Other Journal, 2010-2015
 African American Lectionary Core Team, 2012-2013

Peer Reviewer:

Journal of Literature and Theology
 Modern Theology
 Political Theology
 MELUS: Mixed Ethnic Literature of the United States
 Journal of American Academy of Religion
 Baylor University Press
 Brill
 Palgrave MacMillan
 Bloomsbury Press

Memberships

American Academy of Religion
 International Society for Religion, Literature, and Culture
 Workgroup on Constructive Theology, 2017-present

Editorial

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

Select Ecclesial Teaching/Service

"Art, Embodiment, and the Life of the Church" Cascadia Arts and Worship Conf., February 2017 (workshop)
 Faculty Retreat, Seattle Pacific University, September 2014 (sermon)
 Evangelical Covenant Church Mid-Winter Meetings, January 2014 (workshop)
 Wheaton College, African American Church Series, February 2012 (sermon)
 Chinese Alliance Church, Seattle, WA May 2012 (sermon)
 Community Group Leader, Quest Church, Seattle, WA, 2010-present.
 Quest Church, Seattle, WA, July 2011 (sermon)
 Core Team Leader, Faith and Race Depth Class (Faith and Race: Education), May 2009-14
 Chapel, Seattle Pacific University, February 2010, October 2014 (sermon)

References

available upon request