Jason P. Roberts
Senior Lecturer of Christian Theology, Department of Religion, University of Georgia, Athens
Curriculum Vitae, Updated February 2021

EDUCATION

2013   **Marquette University**   Ph.D., Religious Studies

Dissertation: "Emerging in the Image of God: From Evolution to Ethics in a Second Naïveté Understanding of Christian Anthropology"
Director: Jame Schaefer, Ph.D.

Abstract: Found in the primeval history in Genesis, the biblical concepts of the *image of God* and the *knowledge of good and evil* remain integral to Christian anthropology. This study employs French philosopher Paul Ricoeur's notion of "second naïveté" understanding to demonstrate the hermeneutical significance of contemporary biocultural evolutionary theory for reinterpreting and reappropriating these biblical myth-symbols as terms equipped to encapsulate a fruitful and intellectually honest conceptual framework for constructing, conducting, and evaluating theological anthropology and ethics today. Engaging scholarship from the interrelated disciplines of evolutionary psychology, cognitive linguistics, and emergence, this integration of natural-scientific and theological understandings develops a hermeneutical lens for the purpose of recasting a biblically-based picture of human uniqueness and the ends for which *Homo sapiens* live, move, and have their being. Viewed through this lens, the opening chapters of Genesis describe human beings as creatures wrought of the creation and embedded within it to the same extent as all other creatures. Though ordinary in every other aspect, human creatures are unique in that they have emerged with an ambivalent condition of freedom through which they bear the vocation to re-present the creative beneficence of the God who shares power and does not create through violence.

Areas of specialization: Christian theology and anthropology; interfacing natural science and theology; theological ethics; hermeneutics, general and biblical

Areas of interest: environmental ethics; liberation theologies and ethics; anthropology-based theological ethics; trinitarian theology; divine action; the theology and anthropology of Philip Hefner and Karl Rahner; emergence; conceptual integration theory; biocultural evolution; evolutionary psychology; biblical exegesis and interpretation

2008   **Marquette University**   M.A., Systematic Theology

M.A. Essay: "Toward a Relational Understanding of Original Sin: A Reformulation in Light of Trinitarian Theology and Evolutionary Science"
Readers: Jame Schaefer, Ph.D.; Robert Masson, Ph.D.

2004   **Ashland University**   B.A., Religion
Ashland, Ohio   *summa cum laude, gamma alpha kappa*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2014-present   Lecturer of Christian Theology, Department of Religion, University of Georgia
RELI 1001; 1001E; 2001H: "Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam"
RELI 4090/6090: "Trinity: The Christian Doctrine of God"
RELI 4095/6095: "Christianity and Sustainability"
RELI 4103/6103: "Catholic Theological Perspectives"
RELI 4109/6109: "Christian Anthropology: Past, Present, Future"
RELI 4120/6120: "Figures in American Catholicism"
RELI 4530/6530: "Theology and Culture: Christianity and the Natural Sciences"
RELI 4800: "Reading and Research in Religion: Christianity and Transhumanism"

2013-2014   Adjunct Instructor, Department of Theology, Marquette University
                 THEO 1001: "Introduction to Theology"

2007-2008   Full-time teaching assistant for Robert Masson, Ph.D., Marquette University
                 THEO 2420 (formerly 164): "Bridging the Racial Divide: Faith and Justice"; co-facilitated
                 "service learning" project interacting with Milwaukee residents

PRINT PUBLICATIONS

"Emerging in the Image of God to Know Good and Evil," *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 46, no.2 (2011): 471-81.

"Informed by Grace: Terrence Deacon, Karl Rahner, and Emergence," *Theology and Science* 13, no.1 (2015): 96-116.

"'Fill and Subdue'?: Imaging God in New Cultural and Ecological Contexts," *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 50, no.1 (2015): 42-63

"From 'Is' to 'Ought': Contemporary Anthropological Approaches to Theological Ethics," *Philosophy, Theology and the Sciences* 4, no.2 (2017): 203-227.

"Conceptual Blending, the Second Naïveté, and the Emergence of New Meanings," *Open Theology* 4, no.1 (2018): 29-45.

"Conceptual Blending, Human Distinctiveness, and the Image of God," in *Putting God on the Map: Theology and Conceptual Mapping*, edited by Jakob Rinderknecht and Erin Kidd, 69-102 (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2018).

In progress with Philip Hefner and Mladen Turk, *Created to be Creators: Human Becoming in an Age of Science, Technology, and Faith* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books).

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

"Karl Rahner, Terrence Deacon, and the Emergence of the *imago trinitatis*," from *Zygon Center for Religion and Science* (ZCRS) *Fifth Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: Religion and Science: Past, Public, and Present*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, March 15, 2013
http://zygoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/symposium05_Roberts.pdf?c19f2d

"Dust, Breath, and Blood: The Image and Likeness of God as a Product of Nature," from *Zygon Center for Religion and Science Fourth Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: Sacred Soil, Living Water, Holy Air: Science, Spirituality, and the Elements of Earthly Life*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, October 21, 2011
http://zygoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/symposium04_Roberts.pdf?c19f2d

"'Fill and Subdue'?: Imaging God in a New Social and Ecological Context," from *ZCRS Third Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: What is Our Human Future?*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, March 25, 2011
http://zygoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/symposium03_Roberts.pdf?c19f2d

PRESENTATIONS

"The Created Co-Creator…Redeemer…Sustainer: Rehabilitating Symbols of Divine and Human Relating," at *AAR-SBL Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Annual Meeting: Rapid Religious Change*, University of Georgia, Athens, February 29, 2020.

"Liberating Theologies, Hermeneutics, and the Second Naïveté," at *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, AAR-SBL Joint Session, "Contextual Readings with Ricoeur," San Antonio, Texas, November 19, 2016

"Conceptual Blending, Human Distinctiveness, and the Image of God," at a special invited session on conceptual mapping and theology, College Theology Society 61st Annual Convention, *An Unexpected Wilderness: Seeking God on a Changing Planet*, University of Portland, Oregon, May 29, 2015

"Christianity and Sustainability," at *Sustainability in Religion and Philosophy*, panel discussion sponsored by Peace by Piece, University of Georgia, Athens, April 21, 2015

"Conceptual Blending, Human Uniqueness, and the Image of God," at *Center of Theological Inquiry Summer Young Scholars Workshop on Evolution and Human Nature in Honor of J. Wentzel van Huyssteen*, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, June 2-6, 2014

"Evolutionary Psychology: Friend or Foe?" at *American Academy of Religion Upper Midwest Regional Meeting, Religion and Science Section*, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 4-5, 2014

"The Genesis Cosmology, Anthropocentrism, and 'Healing a Broken World,'" at *Loyola University Chicago & Marquette University 12th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium*, Faculty-Student Panel Discussion, "Theology and Christian Ethics in the Midst of Ecological Concern," Chicago, Illinois, February 15, 2014

"The Peril and Promise of the Genesis Cosmology for Healing a Broken World," at *The Shape of a Sustainable World: Research, Teaching and Community Endeavors at Marquette University to Meet the Challenges and Needs of a Sustainable Future*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, January 8, 2014

"Terrence Deacon and Philip Clayton: Can Consensus Emerge?" at *American Academy of Religion Upper Midwest Regional Meeting, Religion and Science Section*, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 5-6, 2013

"Karl Rahner, Terrence Deacon, and the Emergence of the *imago trinitatis*," at *ZCRS Fifth Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: Religion and Science: Past, Public, and Present*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, March 15, 2013

"Conceptual Integration in Science, Theology, and Theology and Science," at *American Academy of Religion Upper Midwest Regional Meeting, Religion and Science Section*, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 30-31, 2012

"Dust, Breath, and Blood: The Image and Likeness of God as a Product of Nature," at *ZCRS Fourth Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: Sacred Soil, Living Water, Holy Air: Science, Spirituality, and the Elements of Earthly Life*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, October 21, 2011

"From 'Is' to 'Ought': Contemporary Anthropological Foundations for Theological Ethics, a Proposal," at *American Academy of Religion Upper Midwest Regional Meeting, Religion and Science Section*, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 1-2, 2011

"'Fill and Subdue'?: Imaging God in a New Social and Ecological Context," at *ZCRS Third Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: What is Our Human Future?*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, March 25, 2011

"The Fall to Ambivalence: 'The Knowledge of Good and Evil' in the Evolution of the 'Image of God,'" at *Sixth Annual Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference: Ambivalence*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, February 25-26, 2011

"From 'Is' to 'Ought': Contemporary Anthropological Foundations for Theological Ethics, a Proposal," plenary address at *Marquette University—Loyola University Chicago Graduate Theological Colloquium*, Marquette University, February 19, 2011

"They Have 'Become Like One of Us': Evolution, the Image of God, and the Knowledge of Good and Evil—an Original Sin?," at *ZCRS Second Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: What Makes us Human? How Do Our Ideas about Human Nature Relate to God, the Sacred, or the World?*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, April 16, 2010

"Metaphoric Process in Canon and Context: Genesis 1 &2 and the *Enuma Elish*," at *Marquette Scripture Project and Wade Chair Symposium*, Marquette University, September 25, 2009

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2014-present   University of Georgia Faculty Learning Community, "Sustainability across the Curriculum"
- Monthly workshops during the 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 academic years
- Presented on *Nourished Planet: Sustainability in the Global Food System*, chapter. 4 (2019-2020)
- Presented on Athens-area para-church ministries addressing UN Global Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger (2018-2019)
- Contributed presentation on "Resilience as a Social and Economic Virtue" from the perspective of Christian theology and ethics (2017-2018)

University of Georgia Office of Online Learning, Online Learning Fellows, 2016-2017
- Worked with UGA instructional designers to update RELI 1001E to be "Quality Matters" compliant
- Worked with UGA instructional designers to scale up RELI 1001E to be offered to a section of up to 60 students with TA assistance in Summer 2017 and beyond

University of Georgia Sustainability across the Curriculum Faculty Development Workshop
- Two-day workshop sponsored by the UGA Office of Sustainability, May 6-7, 2015; May 11-12, 2016; May 9, 2017
- Conferred with faculty from multiple departments on how to integrate sustainability education into course curriculum
- Revised RELI 4103 course to incorporate additional material and objectives concerning sustainability

University of Georgia Franklin College Online Learning Faculty Cohort
- Instructional fellowship to design and implement online course for at least three summer terms beginning 2015 (RELI 1001E: "Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam")
- Interactive training with UGA Office of Online Learning in person and online

2012-2014   Marquette University, Center for Teaching and Learning Workshops:
- The Shape of a Sustainable world (cf., "Presentations"), January 8, 2014
- Info Graphics: Present Research and Complex Information in Easily Understood Graphics, April 18, 2013
- Designing and Assessing Multi-Media Projects, April 10, 2013
- Managing Mobile Devices in Your Classroom, February 13, 2013
- Copyright and Fair Use: What You Need to Know, November 20, 2012
- Talking about Religion, October 10, 2012
- Faculty and Community Partners Forum: Service Learning and the Millennial Student, September 26, 2012
- Thinking about Learning Styles, September 19, 2012
- Teaching Well Using Technology, September 11, 2012

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

2019   Christianity and Sustainability Research Sharing
- Shared results of RELI 4095 student research with local clergy research volunteers

- Provided research volunteers with data interpretation and book in thanks for participation

2019   UGA CURO Honors Student Mentoring
- Directed CURO research presentation
- CURO Directed Study Course (RELI 4960H)

2018   Guest Lecturer for (Dr. Krista Capps, UGA) ECOL 1000: "Is Religion Sustainable?," August 27

2017-present   Oconee Presbyterian Church
- Adult education facilitator
- Musician (choral; instrumental)

2016   Panel Discussion on the Papal Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, sponsored by the UGA Environmental Ethics Certificate Program, April 5

2015   Faculty Panel Discussion on Science and Faith for UGA students, sponsored by the Departments of Religion and Biology, October 21

2011-2013   ZCRS Hyde Park Religion and Science Student Society Liaison

2008-2013   Marquette University Department of Theology incoming graduate student mentor

2010-2014   Reformation Lutheran Church "Master Builder"
Facilitating building projects with inner city community members through St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church's "Heart of the City" partnership
- "Angel Gardens" raised beds, shelter, sign, benches, and compost bins
- "Reformation Garden Angels" sustainable honey sale display

2009-2014   St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Adult Education Committee
Adult Education Forums:
- "Original Sin: Human Condition or Christian Construction? Yes"
  April 13, 2014
- "Who Does John Say that 'I Am'?,"
  December 15, 2013
- "Cooperating with God's Creation: A Christian Response to Environmental Degradation," with Dr. Jame Schaefer, Marquette University, Dept. of Theology
  April 28, 2013
- "Films on Friday" documentary film viewing and discussion, *Flock of Dodos: The Evolution-Intelligent Design Circus*
  October 26, 2012
- "The Place of Scripture in Contemporary Christian Ethics,"
  February 20, 2011
- "From 'Is' to 'Ought': How Human Nature Can Inform Christian Ethics," with Associate Pastor Margaret Schoewe
  February 13, 2011
- "Natural Science and Theology: How Do They Relate?"
  November 21, 2010
- "Natural Science and Theology: Where is God if Darwin Was Right?"
  November 28, 2010
- "The Book of Faith: Four Methods for Reading the Bible," historical-critical section, with Senior Pastor Gary Erickson et al.
  January 17, 2010
- "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," with Senior Pastor Gary Erickson and Associate Pastor Chris Manke

September 27, 2009

AWARDS

Zygon Center for Religion and Science

2011   First Place Paper, "'Fill and Subdue'?: Imaging God in a New Social and Ecological Context," at *ZCRS Third Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: What Is Our Human Future?*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, October 21, 2011

2010   Second Place Paper, "They Have 'Become Like One of Us': Evolution, the Image of God, and the Knowledge of Good and Evil—an Original Sin?," at *ZCRS Second Annual Student Symposium on Science and Spirituality: What Makes us Human? How Do Our Ideas about Human Nature Relate to God, the Sacred, or the World?*, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, April 16, 2010

Marquette University

2011   Dissertation Scholarships
2007-2009   Tuition Scholarships
2007-2008   Full-Time Teaching Assistantship

Ashland University

2004   Salutatorian
2002-2004   Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Academic Honors Award, Department of Religion
2003-2003   Klingensmith Endowed Scholarship; James Fredo Endowed Scholarship
2001-2003   Department Academic Award
2001-2002   Gar Endowed Scholarship
2000-2002   Presidential Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2011-2016   American Academy of Religion
2012-present Society of Christian Ethics

LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge of biblical Greek and Hebrew, Latin, French, and German