

## CURRICULUM VITAE

RICHARD EDWIN DEMARIS  
Professor, Department of Theology  
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### TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Special Interests: Early Christian Ritual Life  
Archaeology and the New Testament World  
New Testament Literature: Pauline Letters, Mark, Luke-Acts

Areas of Competence: Social Sciences and Religion  
Christian Origins  
Greco-Roman Religions and Culture  
Biblical Literature and History  
Apocalypticism and Millennialism

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pontifical Biblical Institute: •The New Testament in Its Ritual World  
Visiting Professor (2008)

Valparaiso University: Department of Theology:  
Professor (2005-present) •The World of the New Testament  
Associate Professor (1995-2005) •New Testament Introduction  
Assistant Professor (1990-1995) •Jesus and the Gospels  
Instructor (1988-1990) •Understanding the Bible  
•Senior seminar: Religious Sacrifice  
College of Arts and Sciences Humanities Seminar:  
•End of the World: Apocalyptic Past and Present  
Honors College:  
•Texts and Contexts: Traditions of Human Thought  
•Topics in Sacred Texts and Theological Classics

### RESEARCH, CURRENT AND PUBLISHED

Books: *Alte Texte in neuen Kontexten: Wo steht die sozialwissenschaftliche Exegese?* Edited with Wolfgang Stegemann. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, forthcoming (fall 2011).  
*Understanding the Social World of the New Testament.* Edited with Dietmar Neufeld. London: Routledge, 2010.  
Review: *RBL* 04/2011.  
*The New Testament in Its Ritual World.* London: Routledge, 2008.  
Reviews: *BMCR* 2008.10.17; *JSNT* 31/5 (2009) 21-2; *TLZ* 134 (2009) col. 1338-9; *CBQ* 71 (2009) 399-401; *BTB* 39 (2009) 167-8; *Theol* 113 (2010) 58-9; *SR* 39 (2010) 306-7; *AUSS* 48 (2010) 126-8; *NedTT* 64 (2010) 257-8.

- The Colossian Controversy: Wisdom in Dispute at Colossae*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement 96. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.  
Reviews: *CBQ* 57 (1995) 800-1; *JBL* 114 (1995) 752-4; *TLZ* 120 (1995) col. 240-2; *RelSRev* 21 (1995) 240; *NedTT* 50 (1996) 336-7; *RSR* 85 (1997) 105-6; *TRu* 68 (2003) 397-9.
- Chapters:
- “Conitration and Correction or Elimination and Purification in 1 Corinthians 5?” Pp. 39-50 in *The Social Sciences and Biblical Translation*. Edited by Dietmar Neufeld. Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series 41. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.
- “Battesimo di Gesù e teoria del rito.” Pp. 57-74 in *Il nuovo Gesù storico*. Edited by Wolfgang Stegemann, Bruce J. Malina, and Gerd Theissen. Introduzione allo studio della Bibbia, Supplementi 28. Brescia: Paideia Editrice, 2006.
- “Can We Reread Paul Together Any Longer? Joseph A. Fitzmyer’s View of Pauline Justification in Context.” Pp. 93-105 in *Rereading Paul Together: Protestant and Catholic Perspectives on Justification*. Edited by David E. Aune. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2006.
- “Judges—(Dis)honor and Ritual Enactment: The Jephthah Story: Judges 10:16-12:1.” With Carolyn S. Leeb. Pp. 177-90 in *Ancient Israel: The Old Testament in Its Social Context*. Edited by Philip F. Esler. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.
- “Archaeology and New Testament Interpretation.” Pp. 9-13 in *Methods of Biblical Interpretation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2004.
- “Die Taufe Jesu im Kontext der Ritualtheorie.” Pp. 43-52 in *Jesus in neuen Kontexten*. Edited by Wolfgang Stegemann, Bruce J. Malina, and Gerd Theissen. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2002.
- “The Baptism of Jesus: A Ritual-Critical Approach.” Pp. 137-57 in *The Social Setting of Jesus and the Gospels*. Edited by Wolfgang Stegemann, Bruce J. Malina, and Gerd Theissen. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.
- “Cults and the Imperial Cult in Early Roman Corinth: Literary Versus Material Record.” Pp. 73-91 in *Zwischen den Reichen: Neues Testament und Römische Herrschaft*. Edited by Michael Labahn and Jürgen Zangenberg. Texte und Arbeiten zum neutestamentlichen Zeitalter 36. Tübingen: Francke-Verlag, 2002.
- Articles:
- “Backing away from Baptism: Early Christian Ambivalence about Its Ritual.” *Journal of Ritual Studies* 26 (2012) forthcoming. Special Issue: The Denial of Ritual. Edited by Ute Huesken.
- “Possession, Good and Bad—Ritual, Effects and Side-Effects: The Baptism of Jesus and Mark 1:9-11 from a Cross-Cultural Perspective.” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 80 (2000) 3-30.
- “Baptisms and Funerals, Ordinary and Otherwise: Ritual Criticism and Corinthian Rites.” *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 29 (1999) 23-34.

- “Corinthian Religion and Baptism for the Dead (1 Corinthians 15:29): Insights from Archaeology and Anthropology.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 114 (1995) 661-82.
- “Demeter in Roman Corinth: Local Development in a Mediterranean Religion.” *Numen: International Review for the History of Religions* 42 (1995) 105-17.
- “Element, Elemental Spirit.” Vol. 2, pp. 444-5 in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Edited by David N. Freedman. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- “Philosophy.” Vol. 5, p. 346 in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Edited by David N. Freedman. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Review Essays: *Urban Religion in Roman Corinth: Interdisciplinary Approaches*, edited by Daniel N. Schowalter and Steven J. Friesen, in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 125 (2006): 614-17.
- Corinth: The First City of Greece: An Urban History of Late Antique Cult and Religion*, by Richard M. Rothaus, in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 121 (2002) 769-73.
- Reviews: *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*, by Everett Ferguson, in *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 41 (2011) 101-2.
- The Power of Sacrifice: Roman and Christian Discourses in Conflict*, by George Heyman, in *Biblica* 90 (2009) 294-6.
- Wisdom and Spiritual Transcendence at Corinth: Studies in First Corinthians*, by Richard A. Horsley, in *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 39 (2009) 169-70.
- Stewards, Prophets, and Keepers of the Word: Leadership in the Early Church*, by Ritva H. Williams, in *Interpretation* 62 (2008) 344.
- Biblical Mourning: Ritual and Social Dimensions*, by Saul M. Olyan, in *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 36 (2006) 42.
- Corinth: The First City of Greece: An Urban History of Late Antique Cult and Religion*, by Richard M. Rothaus, in *Religious Studies Review* 28 (2002) 370.
- Palestine in the Time of Jesus: Social Structures and Social Conflicts*, by K. C. Hanson and Douglas E. Oakman, in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 120 (2001) 765-7.
- Die liminale Theologie des Paulus: Zugänge zur paulinischen Theologie aus kulturanthropologischer Perspektive*, by Christian Strecker, in *Religious Studies Review* 26 (2000) 380, and in *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 31 (2001) 79.
- Interpreting Early Hellenistic Religion: A Study Based on the Mystery Cult of Demeter and the Cult of Isis*, by Petra Pakkanen, in *Numen* 46 (1999) 221-2.
- Portraits of Paul: An Archaeology of Ancient Personality*, by Bruce J. Malina and Jerome H. Neyrey, in *Bible Review* 13, no. 4 (Aug. 1997) 16-18.
- The Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, by James D. G. Dunn, in *Themelios* 22, no. 2 (Jan. 1997) 64-5.

- Colossians & Philemon*, by Robert W. Wall, in *Critical Review of Books in Religion* 7 (1994) 270-2.
- Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*, by Richard R. Melick, Jr., in *Critical Review of Books in Religion* 7 (1994) 237-8.
- Revelation and Redemption at Colossae*, by Thomas J. Sappington, in *Journal of Biblical Literature* 112 (1993) 544-6.
- The Pauline Letters*, by Leander E. Keck and Victor Paul Furnish, in *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* NS 7 (1986) 85-6.

#### MAJOR PRESENTATIONS

- “Was the Gospel of Mark a Therapeutic Ritual Script?” Context Group Annual Meeting, Portland, Ore., 2010.
- “Banishing Baptism from Early Christian Traditions,” Ritual Studies Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, 2009.
- “Gospel as Ritual: The Question of Mark’s *Sitz im Leben* Reframed,” Workshop on Ritual in Early Judaism and Early Christianity, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies (University of Helsinki) and Network for the Study of Early Christianity in Its Greco-Roman Context (University of Oslo), Helsinki, Finland, 2009.
- “Introduction to *Understanding the Social World of the New Testament*,” Context Group Annual Meeting, Niagara, N.Y., 2009.
- Response to reviews of *The New Testament in Its Ritual World*, Ritual in the Biblical World Consultation, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, Mass., 2008.
- “Review of Gerald A. Klingbeil’s *Bridging the Gap: Ritual and Ritual Texts in the Bible*,” Ritual in the Biblical World Consultation, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, Calif., 2007.
- “Contested Waters: Was Baptism a Rite of Inversion in Its Roman Context?” Context Group Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., 2007.
- “The Preindustrial City and Early Roman Corinth: Correlating Data and Definition.” Catholic Biblical Association International Meeting, Loyola University, Chicago, Ill., 2006.
- “Jesus Jettisoned: Gospel Composition and the Marcan Passion Narrative through a Ritual Lens.” International Meeting on Early Christian Writings in Context, Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain, 2006.
- “The Go-Away Jesus: The Marcan Passion Narrative through a Ritual Lens.” Context Group Annual Meeting, Portland, Ore., 2006.
- “(Dis)honor and Ritual Enactment in the Jephthah Story.” With Carolyn S. Leeb. St. Andrews Conference on Old Testament Interpretation and the Social Sciences, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland, 2004.
- “Paul’s Omphalos: 1 Corinthians as a Test Case for Pauline Coherence.” Catholic Biblical Association International Meeting, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif., 2003.
- “Perilous Passage: Redescribing Baptism in the Jesus Movement.” Context Group Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., 2003.
- “Justification by Faith in Pauline Thought: A Response to Joseph A. Fitzmyer.” Rereading Paul Together: Colloquium on the Modern Critical Study and Teaching of Pauline Theology in Educational, Ecumenical Contexts, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., 2002.

- “The Religious Topography of Early Roman Corinth: What Pausanias Did Not Tell Us.” Archaeological Excavations and Discoveries: Illuminating the Biblical World Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, Colo., 2001.
- “Order, Purity, and Ritual in 1 Corinthians.” Context Group Annual Meeting, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., 2001.
- “Cults and the Imperial Cult in Roman Corinth: Righting the Written Record.” New Testament Seminar, European Association for Biblical Studies Meeting, Universiteit Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands, 2000.
- “Politics, Religion, and Water: The Control and Use of Water in Greek and Roman Corinthia.” Archaeology of Religion in the Greco-Roman World Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, Mass., 1999.
- “The Baptism of Jesus from a Ritual Critical Standpoint.” Internationales Symposion: Jesus in neuen Kontexten. Sozialwissenschaftliche Perspektiven der Jesusforschung. Evangelische Akademie, Tutzing, Germany, 1999.
- “Christian Baptismal Practices in Early Roman Corinth” and “Baptism for the Dead in a Mediterranean Ritual Context.” Brigham Young University & Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, Provo, Utah, 1998.
- “Excommunication, Execration, or Execution? Ritual Analysis of 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. Social Scientific Criticism of the New Testament Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla., 1998.
- “Marking the Threshold: Corinthian Baptism in Its Ritual Context.” Context Group Annual Meeting, Portland, Ore., 1998.
- “Baptisms and Funerals, Ordinary and Otherwise: Toward Ritual Criticism of Baptism at Corinth.” Social Scientific Criticism of the New Testament Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Calif., 1997.
- “What Kind of Magic Is Baptism? Rites among Corinthian Christians from a Ritual Critical Standpoint.” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, 1996.
- “Corinthian Religion and Baptism for the Dead (1 Corinthians 15:29).” Archaeology of the New Testament World Group, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 1993.
- “Demeter in Roman Corinth.” Greco-Roman Religions Group, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Calif., 1992.
- “‘According to the Elements of the World’ (Colossians 2:8): The Colossian Opponents’ Wisdom and the Sapiential Tradition in Hellenistic Judaism.” Israelite and Early Christian Wisdom Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Kansas City, Mo., 1991.
- “Whence Comes Wisdom? The Crux of Conflict at Colossae.” Israelite and Early Christian Wisdom Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, New Orleans, La., 1990.
- “Knowledge Is Power: Reexamining the Relationship between Apocalyptic Christianity and Early Catholicism.” American Academy of Religion Midwest Annual Meeting, Kalamazoo, Mich., 1990.
- “Pythagoreanism and Colossians: Assessment of a Proposed Background for the Colossian Hymn and Philosophy.” Society of Biblical Literature Midwest Annual Meeting, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., 1984.

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Organizer (with Wolfgang Stegemann), Internationales Neutestamentlertreffen, Evangelische Akademie, Tutzing, Germany, 2009
- Steering Committee, Ritual in the Biblical World Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual National Meeting, 2007-present
- Editorial Advisory Committee, *Religious Studies Review*, 2007-present
- Co-chair, Social-Scientific Criticism of the New Testament Section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual National Meeting, 2005-present
- Editor, *Religious Studies Review*, 2004-2007 (edited vol. 30, nos. 1-4; vol. 31, nos. 1-4; vol. 32, nos. 1-4; vol. 33, nos. 1-4)
- Participant, Tall Hisban Excavations (affiliate of Madaba Plains Project), Jordan, 2004
- Book Review Editor, *Religious Studies Review*, 1995 & 1999-2003 (edited vol. 21, nos. 1-3; vol. 25, nos. 1-4; vol. 26, nos. 1-4; vol. 27, nos. 1-4; vol. 28, nos. 1-4; vol. 29, nos. 1-4)
- Organizer (with David E. Aune and David G. Truemper), Colloquium on the Modern Critical Study and Teaching of Pauline Theology in Educational, Ecumenical Contexts, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., 2002
- Organizer and host, American Academy of Religion Midwest Annual Meeting, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., 1994
- Treasurer, Executive Committee, Council of Societies for the Study of Religion, 1992-2009
- President, Archaeological Institute of America, Valparaiso Society, 1992-1995, 2000-2005, 2009-2011; Vice-President, 1997-2000
- Institutional Representative, American Schools of Oriental Research, 1992-1995 & 1997-2000
- Staff member, Ohio State University Excavations at Isthmia, Greece, 1992, 1994, 1998 & 1999
- Co-chair, Biblical Studies and Sacred Texts Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Midwest Meeting, 1991-1995

### PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Society of Biblical Literature      | Context Group of Biblical Scholars           |
| Catholic Biblical Association       | European Association of Biblical Studies     |
| Association of Ancient Historians   | American Academy of Religion                 |
| Archaeological Institute of America | Int'l. Assoc. for the Study of Ancient Baths |

### HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Valparaiso University Summer Research Grant, 2009
- Valparaiso University Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award nominee, 2008
- Catholic Biblical Association Visiting Professor to the Pontifical Biblical Institute, 2008
- Valparaiso University Summer Research Grant, 2005
- Valparaiso University Alumni Association Faculty Development Award, 2004
- Valparaiso University Expense Grant, 2004
- Valparaiso University Committee to Enhance Learning and Teaching Grant, 2004
- Lilly Endowment Curriculum Development Grant, 2003
- Valparaiso University Committee to Enhance Learning and Teaching Travel Grant, 2001
- Valparaiso University Alumni Association Faculty Grant, 1999
- Valparaiso University Summer Research Grant, 1996 & 1998

Catholic Biblical Association Young Scholars' Fellowship, 1995-1996  
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar (Rome), 1995  
Valparaiso University Summer Research Grant, 1995  
Catholic Biblical Association Archaeological Research Stipend, 1994  
Visiting Senior Associate, American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1992, 1994,  
& 1996  
Ziegler Family Research Fund for the Humanities Summer Grant, 1992  
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar (Athens and Corinth), 1991  
Catholic Biblical Association Memorial Stipend, 1984-1988  
German Academic Exchange Service Summer Stipend, 1981  
Columbia University President's Fellowship and Merit Fellowship, 1980-1986  
Princeton Seminary Senior Fellowship in New Testament, 1980  
Protestant Church in Germany Stipend, 1977  
Fund for Theological Education Fellowship, 1976-1980

#### EDUCATION

Ph.D., Columbia University-Union Seminary, Religion, New Testament, 1990  
M.Phil., Columbia University-Union Seminary, Religion, New Testament, 1986  
M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary, Biblical Studies, 1980  
B.A., University of Illinois at Urbana, Philosophy and Religion, 1976

#### DISSERTATION

"The Reconstruction of the Colossian Philosophy." Advisor: Robin Scroggs

#### FIELD EXAMS

Doctoral Level: New Testament history, literature, and thought (passed with distinction)  
Authority and leadership in the early churches  
Apocalyptic thought in early Judaism and Christianity  
Johannine literature, Jewish wisdom, and gnostic thought  
Master's Level: Theory and method in the study of religion  
Western religions (passed with distinction)  
Eastern religions (passed with distinction)