

## MATTHEW W. PUFFER

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY | CHRIST COLLEGE  
Mueller Hall 126 | 1300 Chapel Drive | Valparaiso IN 46383  
[matthew.puffer@valpo.edu](mailto:matthew.puffer@valpo.edu) | (219) 464-6386

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

Assistant Professor of Humanities and Ethics, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY	2016–
Catherine of Siena Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY	2015-16
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN CULTURE	2014-15

### EDUCATION

---

Ph.D. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Religious Studies (Theology, Ethics, and Culture)	2014
Dissertation “Augustine on the Image of God: An Ethical Analysis”	
Committee James Childress, Charles Mathewes, Margaret Mohrmann, Paul Dafydd Jones, Rebecca Stangl	
M.Div. PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	2009
B.S. NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, Chemical Engineering	1999

### HONORS AND AWARDS

---

German-American Bonhoeffer Research Network, Federal Republic of Germany	2017-19
Paul Ramsey Fellow, The Center for Bioethics and Culture	2017-19
Summer Research Fellowship, Valparaiso University	2017
Faculty Development Grant, Villanova University	2016
Doctoral Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture	2013-14
Junior Fellow, University of Virginia Society of Fellows	2013-14
Teaching Award, Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant	2014
Teaching Fellowship, Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life	2013-14
Doctoral Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture	2012-13
Teaching Award, The Society of the Purple Shadows	2012
Environmental Ethics Fellowship, Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life	2012
Graduate Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture	2011-12
The Outstanding AAR Graduate Paper Award, AAR Southeast Region	2011
Charles Bryant Fund Doctoral Fellowship	2009-10
PTS Grant, Princeton Theological Seminary	2007-09

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Edited Volumes

With Charles Mathewes and Mark Storslee, *Comparative Religious Ethics: Critical Concepts in Religious Studies*, 4 Vols, New York: Routledge, 2015.

### Peer-reviewed Articles

“Human Dignity After Augustine’s *Imago Dei*: On the Sources and Uses of Two Ethical Terms,” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 37:1 (2017): 65-82.

“Retracing Augustine’s Ethics: Lying, Necessity, and the Image of God,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 44:4 (2016): 685-720.

“Taking Exception to the *Grenzfall*’s Reception: Revisiting Karl Barth’s Ethics of War,” *Modern Theology* 28 (2012): 478-502.

“Bonhoeffer’s Ethics of Election: Discerning a Late Revision,” *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 14 (2012): 255-276.

### Book Chapters

With Nicola Bulled, “Introduction: Thinking Through Resistance” in *Thinking Through Resistance: A Study of Public Oppositions to Contemporary Global Health Practice*, edited by Nicola Bulled, Advances in Critical Medical Anthropology Series. New York: Routledge, 2017.

“The ‘Borderline Case’ in Bonhoeffer’s Political Theology” in *Dem Rad in die Speichen fallen: Das Politische in der Theologie Dietrich Bonhoeffers/A Spoke in the Wheel: The Political in the Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, eds. Kirsten Busch Nielsen, Ralf Wüstenberg, and Jens Zimmermann. Gütersloher, Germany: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 2014.

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the Theology of Karl Barth” in *Karl Barth in Conversation*, eds. David Congdon and Travis W. McMaken. Eugene, Ore.: Pickwick, 2014.

### Works in Progress

“Karl Barth and War” in *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Karl Barth*, edited by George Hunsinger and Keith Johnson (under contract with Wiley Blackwell).

*Augustine On the Image of God: An Ethical Analysis* (in conversation with Oxford University Press).

*Comparative Religious Ethics: A Reader*, with Charles Mathewes and Mark Storslee (in conversation with Georgetown University Press).

### Book Reviews

Michael J. S. Bruno, *Political Augustinianism: Modern Interpretations of Augustine’s Political Thought*, *Political Theology* (forthcoming).

Claudia Welz, *Humanity in God’s Image: An Interdisciplinary Exploration*, *Reading Religion* (forthcoming, 2017).

Robert Jenson, *A Theology in Outline: Can these bones live?*, *Modern Theology* (forthcoming, 2017).

Jesse Couenhoven, *Stricken by Sin, Cured by Christ*, *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (forthcoming, 2017).

Matthew Drever, *Image, Identity, and the Forming of the Augustinian Soul*, *Reviews in Religion & Theology* 21:3 (2014).

- Daniel L. Migliore, *Commanding Grace: Studies in Karl Barth's Ethics*, Center for Barth Studies (2012).
- Keith Clements, *The SPCK Introduction to Bonhoeffer* and D. Densil Morgan, *The SPCK Introduction to Karl Barth*, *Theology* 114:1 (2011).
- Gary M. Simpson, *War, Peace and God: Rethinking the Just-War Tradition*, *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 9:1 (2009).
- Robert B. Stewart, *Intelligent Design: William A. Dembski & Michael Ruse in Dialogue*, *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 8:10 (2008).

### Other Publications

- Five Questions with Jesse Couenhoven on *Stricken By Sin, Cured By Christ*, Symposium Ethics (<http://symposiumethics.org/2015/10/13/stricken-by-sin-cured-by-christ/>).
- Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* 7<sup>th</sup> ed., OUP, 2013. "Instructor Resources" and "Student Resources," with Laura Alexander and Travis Pickell ([www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199924585/?view=usa](http://www.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199924585/?view=usa)).
- Ruth Gaare Bernheim, James F. Childress, Alan Melnick, and Richard J. Bonnie, *Essentials of Public Health Ethics*, Jones & Bartlett, 2013. "Instructor Resources," with Betsy Mesard and Travis Pickell ([www.jblearning.com/catalog/9780763780463/](http://www.jblearning.com/catalog/9780763780463/)).
- "Reintegration of Biological and Environmental Issues in Bioethics," "Faith Healing and Refusal of Medical Care," "Conflicts of Interest or Ethical Quandaries?" "Therapeutic Privilege: Its Moral Status," "Acting in the Patient's Best Interests," "Access to Liver Transplantation: Is Moral Responsibility a Relevant Criterion?" *BioLaw* (2010).

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

---

- 2018 "Three Rival Interpretations of Bonhoeffer's *Ethics*: Divine commands, moral law, and borderline situations" *Society of Christian Ethics*, Portland.
- 2017 "Three Rival Versions of Bonhoeffer's *Ethics*" Early Career German- American Bonhoeffer Research Network, Union Theological Seminary, New York.
- 2017 "Three Rival Versions of Bonhoeffer's *Ethics*" King's College, University of Aberdeen.
- 2017 "Augustine and Childress on Justifying War" Praxis Award in Professional Ethics Academic Symposium, Villanova University.
- 2017 "*Fides Quarens Intellectum*: On the possibility of the knowledge of God in Anslem and Barth" Christ College Symposium, Valparaiso University.
- 2016 "Human Dignity and Global Eco-ethics: Is the *analogia relationis* still of any use?" XII International Bonhoeffer Congress: Engaging Bonhoeffer in a Global Era, Basel, CH.
- 2016 "The Problems of Anthropocentrism and Future Generations: Is Bonhoeffer's *analogia relationis* of any use?" *Radix: A Fellowship for Protestant Ethics*, Baylor University.
- 2016 "Response to Timothy Hanchin, 'Educating in Caritas: Towards a hermeneutics and pedagogy of friendship in Catholic higher education'" Ethics Colloquium, Villanova University.

- 2016 "Response to John Bowlin, 'Tolerance Troubles: Vice, Virtue, or Craft'" Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Colloquium, LaSalle University.
- 2016 "Dignity, Development, and the Imago Dei," *Society of Christian Ethics*, Chicago.
- 2015 "The Future of Human Dignity," Joint Session of Religion and Humanism Group and Comparative Religious Ethics Group at the *American Academy of Religion*, Atlanta.
- 2015 "Augustine's Scriptural Reimagining of the Image of God," *Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference*, Villanova.
- 2015 "Augustine on the Image of God: An Ethical Inquiry" *Augustine and Politics Colloquium*, High Point University.
- 2015 "Response to Albert Shin, 'Cultivating Conscience: The Amiable Virtues,'" Ethics Colloquium, Villanova University.
- 2015 "(Ad)Ventures in Assisted Reproduction: A thought experiment," Guest presentation with Travis Pickell for "Reproductive Ethics and Law" course at University of Virginia Law School.
- 2015 "Retracing Augustine's Ethics: Lying, Necessity, and the Image of God," Workshop presentation at Ethics for Lunch, Ethics Program, Villanova University.
- 2014 "Reflections on John Evans's *Definitions of the Human*," Respondent, *Virginia Center for the Study of Religion*, Charlottesville.
- 2014 "Western Trinitarian Thought: Augustine," Guest lecture for "Introduction to Christian History" course at the College of William & Mary.
- 2014 "The Environmental Ethics of Holmes Rolston III," Guest lecture for "Religion, Ethics, and the Environment" course at the University of Virginia.
- 2013 "Job Market Realities, Strategies, and Opportunities," Presider and Organizer, Special Topics Forum at the *American Academy of Religion*, Baltimore.
- 2013 "Human Dignity After the Image of God," Constructive Theologies Section at the *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Greenville, SC.
- 2013 "Preparing for the Job Market," Presider and Organizer, Graduate Student Session at the *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Greenville, SC.
- 2012 "Augustine and Barth on the Image of God and the Responsibility to Protect," Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group at the *American Academy of Religion*, Chicago.
- 2012 "Contours of Islamic Ecotheology: Past and Present," Guest lecture for "Ecotheology" course at Mary Washington University.
- 2012 "On the Image of God and the Responsibility to Protect," *Society for the Study of Christian Ethics*, Cambridge, UK.
- 2012 "The 'Borderline Case' in Bonhoeffer's Political Theology," XI International Bonhoeffer Congress: Reconsidering the Political in the Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Sigtuna, SE.
- 2012 "Reflections on Nigel Biggar's *In Defence of War*," Respondent, *Virginia Center for the Study of Religion*, Charlottesville.

- 2012 “Comparative Religious Ethics: Status Quaestionis,” with Charles Mathewes and Mark Storslee, *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Atlanta.
- 2011 “Planning/Hosting Grad Student Conferences,” Moderator, *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Atlanta.
- 2011 “Three Rival Versions of Bonhoeffer’s Ethics,” Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group at the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco.
- 2011 “Revisiting Karl Barth’s Ethics of War,” Karl Barth Society of North America at the *American Academy of Religion*, San Francisco.
- 2011 “The Death of an All-Too-Human God: Barth and Feuerbach on the Essence of Christianity,” Guest lecture for Chad Wellmon’s “The Death of God” course at the University of Virginia.
- 2011 “Reinterpreting Bonhoeffer’s Ethics: Embracing Guilt No More,” New Conversations in Bonhoeffer’s Theology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2011 “Revisiting Barth on War: Taking Exception to the Grenzfall’s Reception,” Ethics, Religion, and Society Group at the *Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion*, Louisville.
- 2010 “Reconciling Rosenzweig’s and Gadamer’s Phenomenology and Hermeneutics?” Respondent, Phenomenology and Scripture Group at the *American Academy of Religion*, Atlanta.
- 2010 “Augustine and Bonhoeffer on Treacherous Truth-Telling,” Treachery and Traitors: Third Annual UVa. History Graduate Students Conference, Charlottesville.
- 2008 “Bonhoeffer’s Doctrine of Election in His Theological Ethics,” X International Bonhoeffer Congress: Between Fundamentalism and Secularism, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2008 “Faith and Suffering in Hebrews,” New Testament Epistles Group at the *Society of Biblical Literature* Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, New Brunswick, NJ.

## TEACHING

---

### VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

Texts and Contexts I: Traditions of Human Thought  
 Texts and Contexts II: Traditions of Human Thought  
 The Christian Tradition  
 Engineering for the Common Good

### VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

The Good Life: Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems (6x Seminar; 2x Online)

### UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Business, Ethics, and Society	Instructor (5x)
Ethics and Law of Human Subject Research	Assistant Instructor with Lois Shepherd
Human Dignity: The Sources and Uses of a Concept	Assistant Instructor with Chad Wellmon
Religion, Ethics, and the Environment	Assistant Instructor with James Childress
Religious Ethics and Moral Problems	Teaching Assistant for Charles Mathewes
Theology, Ethics, and Medicine	Teaching Assistant for James Childress (2x)

## RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

---

### AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

<i>Reading Religion</i> Editorial Committee	2017-18
AAR Membership Task Force	2014-15
AAR Graduate Student Committee	2012-14
AAR Southeast Executive Boardmember, Student Director	2012-14

### VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

Fulbright Scholarship Interview Committee	2016-17
Writing Intensive Course Committee, Christ College	2016-17

### VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Ethics Program Committee	2015-16
--------------------------	---------

### UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Research Associate, UVa Center for Global Health	2014-15
Research Assistant to James Childress	2010-13
Research Assistant to Chad Wellmon	2009, 2013
On-site Coordinator, NEH Summer Seminar: "The Study of Religion"	2011
Organizer and Inaugurator, <i>Virginia Graduate Colloquium on Theology, Ethics, and Culture</i>	2011
Grants Awarded: <i>Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, Society for Scriptural Reasoning, UVa Department of Religious Studies, UVa Graduate School of Arts &amp; Sciences</i>	

### PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Research Assistant to Daniel Migliore	2009
Research Assistant, Center for Barth Studies	2008-09
Coordinator, Karl Barth Conference, "Barth on Religion and the Religions"	2009
Student Representative, PTS Accreditation Self-study Committee	2008-09
Field Education Internship, Tower Hill First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank	2007-08
Assistant Editor, <i>Princeton Theological Review</i>	2007-08