

Elizabeth Sweeny Block

Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics
Department of Theological Studies
Saint Louis University
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Ethics, 2013

The University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL

Qualifying Examinations: Philosophical Ethics; Theological Ethics; Ethics and the Social Sciences; Modern and Contemporary Religious Thought

Dissertation: “The Virtue of Conscience: Valuing the Labor of the Moral Life”

Adviser: William Schweiker

Readers: Kathryn Tanner (Yale University) and Cristina L. H. Traina (Northwestern University)

Master of Theological Studies, 2003

Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA

Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Psychology, 2001

Georgetown University, College of Arts and Sciences, Washington, DC

TEACHING

Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics, 2014–present

Saint Louis University, Department of Theological Studies

Adjunct Faculty, 2010–2014

Dominican University, Department of Theology and Pastoral Ministry and Honors Program

Teaching Assistant, The University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL, Winter and Spring 2008

Assistant for Professor William Schweiker’s two-term master’s and doctoral level course, *History of Theological Ethics*.

Teaching Assistant, Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA, Spring 2003

Assistant for Professor Elizabeth M. Bounds’ master’s level course, *Introduction to Christian Ethics*.

ACADEMIC HONORS and AWARDS

Martin Marty Center Junior Fellowship, The University of Chicago Divinity School, 2010–2011

Graduate Tuition and Stipend, The University of Chicago Divinity School, 2004–2006

John E. and Jessica A. Gaus Scholarship, Graduate Tuition and Stipend, The University of Chicago Divinity School, 2003–2004

Graduate Tuition and Stipend, Emory University, Candler School of Theology, 2001–2003

Alpha Sigma Nu, National Jesuit Honor Society, inducted 2001

Theta Alpha Kappa, National Honor Society for Theology and Religious Studies, inducted 2001

RESEARCH INTERESTS and TEACHING COMPETENCIES

- Christian Ethics
- Philosophical Ethics
- History of Theological Ethics/Christianity
- Roman Catholic Theology, Fundamental Moral Theology, and Catholic Social Teaching
- Feminist Theological Ethics
- Just War Theory
- Marriage, Family, and Sexuality
- Moral Psychology and Moral Development
- Health Care Ethics

SCHOLARSHIP

Academic Presentations

“A Call to Action: Global Moral Crises and the Inadequacy of Inherited Approaches to Conscience,” to be delivered at the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 2017

“More Human or Less? Thinking Theologically and Ethically about Social Media,” delivered as part of the New Voices Seminar, St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN, April 2015

“A Violation of Conscience? Religious Liberty, Freedom of Conscience, and the Affordable Care Act,” delivered at the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2015

“Apprehending Moral Norms through Roles and Relationships: Charles Curran and Carol Gilligan on Moral Deliberation,” delivered as a member of a panel entitled “Deliberation and Descriptions: Moral Psychology and Christian Ethics” at the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 2008

Publications

“A Call to Action: Global Moral Crises and the Inadequacy of Inherited Approaches to Conscience,” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 37, no. 2 (2017), forthcoming

“Moral Struggle,” a 4,000 word essay in the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, forthcoming

“Conscience,” *T&T Clark Companion to Christian Ethics*, ed. Tobias Winright, forthcoming

Contributing Author: “*Uti and Frui*,” in Willemien Otten, ed., *The Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

Interview

Interview with Charles Curran for the *Journal of Religious Ethics*, which appears online in conjunction with Linda Hogan’s book discussion on Charles Curran’s work, April 2013. The interview can be accessed here: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1467-9795](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1467-9795)

Book Reviews

Agnes M. Brazal and Maria Teresa Davila, eds., *Living with(out) Borders: Catholic Theological Ethics on the Migrations*

of Peoples (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2016), in *Horizons*, forthcoming

Kathryn Lilla Cox, *Water Shaping Stone: Faith, Relationships, and Conscience Formation* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2015), in *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, forthcoming

Michael Budde and Karen Scott, eds., *Witness of the Body: The Past, Present, and Future of Christian Martyrdom* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2011), in *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 33, no. 1 (2013): 211-212

Diana Fritz Cates, *Aquinas on the Emotions: A Religious-Ethical Inquiry* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2009), in *The Journal of Religion* 92, no. 1 (2012): 140-141

Julie Hanlon Rubio, *Family Ethics: Practices for Christians* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2010), in *Religious Studies Review* 37, no. 4 (2011): 275-276

James F. Keenan, S.J., *A History of Catholic Moral Theology in the Twentieth Century: From Confessing Sins to Liberating Consciences* (New York: Continuum, 2010), in *The Journal of Religion* 91, no. 1 (2011): 118-120

John Witte, Jr. and Eliza Ellison, eds., *Covenant Marriage in Comparative Perspective* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2005), in *Religious Studies Review* 34, no. 4 (2008): 265-266

Community Presentations

“The Christian Perspective on the Syrian Refugee Crisis,” delivered as a participant in a panel entitled “A Faith-Based Approach to the Syrian Refugee Crisis,” Saint Louis University Atlas Week, April 5, 2016

“Ethical Reflections on Pope Francis’ *The Joy of the Gospel*,” First Tuesdays at Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, Saint Louis, March 2015

“Theological Perspectives on Abortion,” Saint Louis University Theology Club, October 2014

Community Publications and Blogs

“Morality and the Zika Virus,” *Just Mission: Special Edition*, published by the Saint Louis University Faith and Justice Collaborative, April 22, 2016

“Student Engagement Technique: Liven Up Class Discussions with the IF-AT Form,” The Notebook, The Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning, Saint Louis University, October 8, 2014. <http://www.slu.edu/blogs/ctl/2014/10/08/student-engagement-technique-liven-up-class-discussions-with-the-if-at-form/>

COURSES TAUGHT

Saint Louis University

Christian Ethics (formerly Christian Moral Life)
 Freedom of Conscience
 A Posthuman Future? The Ethics of Technology
 Christian Morality and Health Care
 History of Moral Theology (masters)

Dominican University

Understanding the Christian Life

The Good Life: Morality, Conscience, and Virtue
 Sexual Ethics
 Ethics for Ministry: Living in Right Relationships in Faith (masters; online)

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor William Schweiker, 2006–2012

Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics and Director of the Martin Marty Center, The University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL

Research Assistant to Professor Darlene Fozard Weaver, 1999–2000

Formerly Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics at Georgetown University and currently Associate Professor of Theology and Director of the Center for the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Intern, United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, Campaign for Human Development, 2000
 Intern at the United States Catholic Bishops' domestic, anti-poverty, social justice program. Developed educational resources, participated in planning youth and young adult programs, and corresponded with diocesan offices around the country.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Participant in "Teach to the Mission" three session workshop, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning, Saint Louis University, January, March, and May 2015

Participant in the following workshops at the Borra Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, Dominican University, River Forest, IL:

- Two-Day Integrated Course Design Workshop with L. Dee Fink, August 2011
- Strategies for Seminars: Insights, Oversights, and Best Practices, February 2011
- Fostering Creativity in the Classroom, November 2010
- Student Engagement Techniques, February 2010
- Introduction to Blackboard (Learning Management System), January 2010
- Motivating Students to Do the Reading: Strategies for Course Design, December 2009

Completed the following online course in June 2012: Dominican University's *Online Instruction Course* with accompanying text, Susan Ko and Steve Rossen, *Teaching Online: A Practical Guide*, 3rd ed. (New York: Routledge, 2010)

Participant in the following workshop at The University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL:

- College Course Design with Dr. Lucy Pick, April 2009

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Convener of the Junior Faculty Caucus, Society of Christian Ethics, 2017 and 2018 annual meetings

Professional Conduct Committee, Society of Christian Ethics, 2015-2018

Alumni Interviewer, Georgetown University Alumni Admissions Program, 2005–present

Interview local applicants to Georgetown University. Submit detailed interview reports to the Office of Admissions. Represent Georgetown University at college fairs for high school students.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, August 2016 – present

M.A. Committee, Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, January – June 2016

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Saint Louis University, St. Francis Xavier College Church

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Society of Christian Ethics
Catholic Theological Society of America
College Theology Society