

Recent and Upcoming

Events, Articles, Books, and Calls for Work

THEOPOETICS is currently seeking book reviewers for future issues. Below are a few recent titles. For more information and to view a fuller, more complete list of available titles or to request a review copy, please [visit our website](#).

Recent Books

Theopoetics of the Word: A New Beginning of Word and World.

Gabriel Vahanian, 2014: Palgrave Macmillan.

ISBN: 9781137440624

Way to Water: A Theopoetics Primer.

L. Callid Keefe-Perry, 2014: Cascade Books.

ISBN: 9781625645203

The Limits and Possibilities of Post-metaphysical God-Talk:

A Conversation Between Heidegger, Levinas, and Derrida

J. A. Meylahn, 2013: Peeters Publishers

ISBN: 9789042928961

Faith, Hope, and Poetry

Malcolm Guite, 2012: Ashgate.

ISBN: 9781409449362

Recent Article

“Shades of Lament: Phenomenology, Theopoetics, and Pastoral Theology”

Phil Zylla

Pastoral Psychology 12/2014; 63(5-6). DOI: 10.1007/s11089-014-0616-2

ABSTRACT: This article describes an exercise that integrates the use of writing lament poetry with the teaching of pastoral theology. The intent is to expand the poetic imagination of graduate students in formation for Christian ministry with a skillset that transcends specific techniques of pastoral care (listening, empathy, moral engagement, etc.). This article expands pedagogical practice in pastoral theology by incorporating phenomenological insight with poetic imagination in a pattern of attention–assimilation–voicing–acting. The aim is to cultivate a more robust set of dispositions that enable pastoral attention, the assimilation of complexity, the ongoing development of compassion, and the actions that pertain to this life orientation of the ministering person. The article interacts with descriptions of phenomenological research by Luigini Mortari and Max van Manen, noting key elements of convergence with the theopoetic movements of the pattern employed. The lament poems from the course are published separately but are available [here](#). Reflection on these poems reveals eight moods of lament that emerge from this pedagogical exercise in pastoral theology.

Defended Dissertation

Prophetic Pastoral Care in the Aftermath of Trauma: Forging A Constructive Practical Theology of Lived Religion From Organized Trauma Response Ministries

Michelle Anne Walsh

Boston University School of Theology

December, 2014

[Full text](#) (ProQuest)

ABSTRACT: Violent traumatic events impact communities and demand ministerial responses that are not only pastoral in nature but also prophetic, challenging institutional and sociocultural roots of violence through vision and analysis. There is a noticeable gap in qualitative studies of the prophetic pastoral practices of organized trauma response ministries in addressing violence. This dissertation addresses this gap through qualitative case studies of two trauma response ministries operating in diverse cultural contexts.

The dissertation forges a beginning constructive practical theology of trauma from the voices, experiences, and practices of survivors and their trauma response ministry providers, lifting up the need for an intercultural approach and examining the results for untapped theological resources for constructive practical theologies of trauma. By integrating trauma studies into lived religion approaches, this dissertation conceptualizes survivors' use of material objects, rituals, and surroundings to enact a 'theopoetics of material religion.' This theopoetics captures the constructive theological significance of survivors' use of material objects, rituals, and surroundings for prophetic and performative testimony and witness.

The introduction and chapter one make the case that addressing the problem of violent trauma in the American context calls for an approach rooted in prophetic pastoral care practices, one that is attentive to the particular contextual realities and resources of communities living in the aftermath of trauma. Using a lived religion methodological approach enhanced by trauma studies and a theo-poetics of material religion, chapter two presents a case study of an inner-city lay-led trauma response ministry that serves family survivors of homicide. Chapter three presents a case study of a denominational-based trauma response ministry's services to a suburban congregation following a gun assault. Chapter four illustrates the theological themes witnessed in each case study and places these in intercultural dialogue. The final chapter engages current constructive theologies of trauma and brings the insights of the case studies to bear on interpretations of theology in the aftermath of trauma. The dissertation begins to forge of a constructive practical theology of trauma and concludes with strategic recommendations for constructive practical theologians, pastoral care providers, and social and ecclesial structures.

Defended Thesis

“The Poetics of the Encounter: Animals, Ethics, and God”

Brandi Estey-Burtt

Theology and Religious Studies, Atlantic School of Theology,
March, 2014

[Full text](#)

ABSTRACT: Despite growing interest in the past two decades, animal ethics remains a relatively minute area of theology. Some writings have emerged in theological circles arguing for animal rights or even for how to conceive of

animals in terms of conventional theological notions such as souls and salvation. However, not many examine ideas and ways of living and being with animals in the ordinary, even mundane, situations of daily life. I suggest we need to cultivate ethical imagination in our interaction with animals, and that one way to do this involves coming face-to-face with them and being attentive to our embodiment. I draw on philosopher Emmanuel Levinas as well as theo-poetics to represent the ethical experience of the encounter. Texts such as *The Lives of Animals and Disgrace* by JM Coetzee provide examples of ethical and theological imagination in day-to-day encounters with animals.

Upcoming Lectures

Theopoetics and Peace Studies: Title TBA

Theopoetics and Quakerism: Title TBA

Callid Keefe-Perry

<http://esr.earlham.edu/>

March 2-6, 2015