

PETER CAPRETTO

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care in Religion and Culture
Phillips Theological Seminary
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **Vanderbilt University**, Religion, Psychology, and Culture, 2013 – 2019
Minors: Philosophy and Theological Studies
Dissertation: “Social Recognition and the Ethics of Empathy in Pastoral Theological Anthropology: A Phenomenological and Relational Psychoanalytic Study”
Committee: Bonnie Miller-McLemore, Ellen Armour, Kelly Oliver, Volney Gay
- M.A. **Vanderbilt University**, Religion, Psychology, and Culture, 2013 – 2016
- C.P.E. **Nashville Clinical Pastoral Education Partnership**, Four Units, 2012 – 2013
Residency Project: “Empathy and Silence in Pastoral Care for Traumatic Grief and Loss”
- M.T.S. **Vanderbilt Divinity School**, Theological Studies, 2010 – 2012
Thesis: “Husserl, Kohut, and Marion on the Problem of Empathy”
- B.A. **Allegheny College**, Philosophy and Religious Studies (*Phi Beta Kappa*), 2006 – 2010
Minors: Psychology and German
Thesis: “Rereading Wittgenstein through Marion’s Reductions of the Subject” (Honors)
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

- 2020 – Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care in Religion and Culture, Phillips Theological Seminary
- 2018 – 2020 Adjunct Faculty in Leading the Church through Care, Lexington Theological Seminary
- 2017 – 2020 Adjunct Faculty, Belmont University, Honors Program
- 2018 – 2019 Visiting Faculty Extern, Belmont University, College of Theology and Christian Ministry
- 2016 – 2017 Graduate Writing Fellow, Vanderbilt University Writing Studio
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FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- 2013 – 2019 Fellowship in Theology and Practice, Lilly Endowment and Vanderbilt University
- 2017 – 2018 Dissertation Fellowship, Louisville Institute
- 2016 – 2017 Graduate Writing Fellowship, Vanderbilt University Writing Studio
- 2013 Liston O. Mills Award, Outstanding Work in Pastoral Theology, Vanderbilt University
- 2010 – 2012 Dean’s Scholar, Full-Tuition Merit Scholarship, Vanderbilt Divinity School
- 2010 Phi Beta Kappa, Allegheny College
- 2010 Departmental Honors for Thesis in Philosophy, Allegheny College
- 2010 Henry J. Voegtly Prize, General Excellence in Religious Studies, Allegheny College
- 2010 Phi Sigma Iota, International Foreign Language Honor Society, Allegheny College
- 2010 Psi Chi, International Honor Society in Psychology, Allegheny College
- 2009 Outstanding Junior in Philosophy, Allegheny College

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Book

- 2018 *Trauma and Transcendence: Suffering and the Limits of Theory*. Edited with Eric Boynton. New York: Fordham University Press.
Reviewed by A. W. Klink in *Choice Reviews* 56, no. 7 (Mar 2019): 939; by Edwin E. Gantt in *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology* (Apr 2020); by Heather M. DuBois in *Theological Studies* 81, no. 2 (Jun 2020)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2018 “Sovereignty and Its Defenses: Psychic Retaliation and the Theologico-Political in Derrida’s *Death Penalty Seminars*.” *Political Theology* 19, no. 2 (February): 126 – 140.
- 2017 “On Not Operationalizing Disability in Theology.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 85, no. 4 (December): 889 – 919.
- 2015 “Empathy and Silence in Pastoral Care for Traumatic Grief and Loss.” *Journal of Religion and Health* 54, no. 1 (February): 339 – 357.
- 2014 “The Wonder and Spirit of Phenomenology and Theology: Rubenstein and Derrida on Heidegger’s Formal Distinction of Philosophy from Theology.” *The Heythrop Journal* 55, no. 4 (July): 599 – 611.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- 2018 “The Psychic Economy and Fetishization of Traumatic Lived Experience.” In *Trauma and Transcendence: Suffering and the Limits of Theory*, edited by Eric Boynton and Peter Capretto, 195 – 219. New York: Fordham University Press.
- 2018 “The Limits of Trauma and Transcendence,” co-authored introduction with Eric Boynton. In *Trauma and Transcendence: Suffering and the Limits of Theory*, edited by Eric Boynton and Peter Capretto, 1 – 14. New York: Fordham University Press.
- 2017 “Foucault and Derrida on Interiority and the Limits of Psychoanalyzing Sexuality and Madness.” In *Monsters and Memories: Psychology, Trauma, and Narrative*, edited by Eric Severson and David Goodman, 229 - 253. New York: Routledge.
- 2016 “Loved Objects, Manic Depression, and Abjection: The Truth of Pathology in Klein and Kristeva.” In *In the Wake of Trauma: Psychology and Philosophy for the Suffering Other*, edited by Eric Severson, Brian Becker, and David Goodman, 199 – 219. Pittsburgh, PA: Duquesne University Press.

Book Reviews and Review Essays

- 2020 “Nobody Cares: The Trap of Empathizing with the Religious Right,” review of *The End of Empathy: Why White Protestants Stopped Loving Their Neighbors*, by John W. Compton. *Los Angeles Review of Books*, September 12.

- 2019 “What Is the Hegelian Social Ethical Response to the Bad-Faith Troll?,” review of *Hegel’s Social Ethics: Religion, Conflict, and Rituals of Reconciliation*, by Molly Farneth. *Syndicate*, July 22.
- 2015 *Toward Mutual Recognition: Relational Psychoanalysis and the Christian Narrative*, by Marie Hoffman, *Religious Studies Review* 41, no. 1 (March): 8.
- 2013 *Living Consciousness: The Metaphysical Vision of Henri Bergson*, by G. William Barnard, *Religious Studies Review* 39, no. 2 (June): 76 – 77.

Other Scholarly Publications

- 2021 “Mirror, Christianity.” In *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Volume 19, *Midrash and Aggada – Mourning*, edited by Constance M. Furey, Joel Marcus LeMon, Brian Matz, Thomas Chr. Römer, Jens Schröter, Barry Dov Walfish and Eric Ziolkowski, 338 - 340. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2021.
- 2020 “Narrating Secularism in the Continental Philosophy of Religion: Onishi and the Enduring Consequences of the Secularization Thesis.” *Religious Studies Project*, January 16.
- 2009 “On Who is Crying: A Response to Mr. Coate.” *Proceedings of the Kent State University May 4th Philosophy Graduate Student Conference* 8, ISSN: 1546-6663.
- 2009 “Weil and Levinas’ Departure from Theodicy.” *Proceedings of the Kent State University May 4th Philosophy Graduate Student Conference* 8, ISSN: 1546-6663.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2021 “When the Metaphors Stop Working: Trauma, Moral Injury, and Descriptions of the Impossible,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November
- 2021 “The Ideological Conflict of Empathic Freedom in Intersubjective Relation,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Boston, MA, September
- 2019 “Social Melancholy and the Ethics of Empathy,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Boston, MA, October
- 2018 “Race and the Danger of Well-Intentioned Empathy,” Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN, October
- 2017 “Psychoanalysis and the Fetishization of Trauma in the Continental Philosophy of Religion,” Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, Memphis, TN, October
- 2017 “The Phenomenological Problem of Interpersonal Recognition in Ethical Normativity,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Boston, MA, October

- 2016 “Recognizing Trauma: Obstacles of Social and Political Empathy for Marginalized Suffering in Contemporary Theological Anthropology,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November
- 2016 “Brentano and Freud on the Psychic Economy of Exteriority,” Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, Salt Lake City, UT, October
- 2015 “Caring without Condescension, or On Not Operationalizing Disability in Theology,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, November
- 2015 “The Limits of Sex, Madness, and Interiority in Foucault and Psychoanalysis,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, October
- 2015 “James and Heidegger on the Boundaries of Lived Experience in the Study of Religion,” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, TN, March
- 2014 “Sovereignty and Its Defenses: Psychoanalytic Conflict and the Theologico-Political in Derrida’s *The Death Penalty*,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November
- 2014 “From Solipsism to Empathy: Husserl and Marion on Intersubjectivity and the Broadening of External Intuition,” Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, New Orleans, LA, October
- 2014 “The Latent Ideologies of Lived Experience in Practical Theology,” Center of Theological Inquiry’s Young Scholar Workshop on Religious Experience and Moral Identity, Princeton, NJ, June
- 2014 “The Origin(al) Imperative of Mary in Mark’s Gospel: Kristeva and Derrida on Mark 3:20-35,” The Kristeva Circle, Nashville, TN, March
- 2013 “Therapeutic Silence at the Margins of Grief and Loss,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD, November
- 2013 “Loved Objects, Manic Depression, and Abjection: The Truth of Pathology in Klein and Kristeva,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, October
- 2012 “Psychoanalysis, Alterity, and Pneumatology: A Phenomenological and Theological Approach to Empathy and Ethics in Kohut,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November
- 2012 “The Wonder and Spirit of Phenomenology and Theology: Rubenstein and Derrida on Heidegger’s Formal Distinction of Philosophy from Theology,” Midwest Regional Conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Conway, AR, March
Revised Paper also Presented at Annual Meeting of the Wesleyan Philosophical Society, Nashville, TN, March

- 2011 “Marion’s Reduction of Subjectivity and the Possibility of Phenomenological Psychology,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, October
- 2011 “Heidegger and Wittgenstein on Hermeneutic Circularity and the Domain of Religious Belief,” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Louisville, KY, March
- 2010 “Wittgenstein on Hermeneutic Limitation: Forms of Life and the Rejection of Religious Explanation,” Louisiana State University’s Third Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, February
- 2009 “Amartya Sen’s Model of Justice and Economic Coercion,” Ohio State University’s Second Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, Columbus, OH, May
- 2009 “Weil and Levinas’ Departure from Theodicy,” Kent State University’s 16th Annual May 4th Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Kent, OH, March
- 2008 “Shannon Sullivan and Sallie McFague on Racism and Sin,” Examining Whiteness Philosophy Conference, Meadville, PA, April

INVITED PRESENTATIONS, RESPONSES, AND CONFERENCE SERVICE

- 2021 Moderator, Panel on “Anti-Racist Pedagogies,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November
- 2021 Moderator, Panel on “Racialized Interiority,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, held virtually, September
- 2021 Moderator, Keynote Speaker Panel on “Responding to Conquered Bodies and Destroyed Lives,” with George Tinker, Laurel Schneider, and Lee Butler Jr., Remind and Renew Conference, Tulsa, OK January
- 2020 Invited Presentation, “The Golden Rule: Political Empathy,” Kentucky Council of Churches, Lexington, KY, held virtually, October
- 2019 Moderator, Panel on “Racialized Interiority,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, held virtually, September
- 2017 Moderator, Panel on “The Intersection of Subjectivity and the Ethical: Buber, Levinas and Kohut,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, October
- 2015 Respondent to Elizabeth Lanphier, “Legal Ethical Love: Another Model of Recognition through Hegel’s Account of Marriage,” Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN, October

- 2015 Moderator, Presentation on “Jean-Louis Chrétien’s Call and Response: Therapeutic Implications of Contact with the Divine,” from Philip Brownell, with Response by Jeffrey Bloechl, Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, October
- 2015 Moderator, Panel on “Discourses of Power: Foucault, Lacan, and Feminist Theory,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, October
- 2015 Respondent to Karen Barad, “Ecology of Death: The Politics of Mourning and Remembering the Future,” Eco-Deconstruction: Derrida and Environmental Ethics, Nashville, TN, March
- 2015 Presider, Workshop by Kate Ott and Kristen Leslie on “Technology as Meaning Making in Teaching: Evaluating a Bi-Located, Synchronous Seminary Course,” Pedagogical Possibilities: New Paradigms in Teaching for Ministry, Nashville, TN, June
- 2013 Moderator, Panel on “Envy, Abjection, and the Origin of the Subject: Klein, Kristeva, and Lacan,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, October
- 2012 Moderator, Panel on “Mercy, Justice, and the Historical Jesus,” Midwest Regional Conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Conway, AR, March
- 2011 Moderator, Panel on “Diagnosis and Phenomenological Psychology: Freud, Jaspers, Lacan, Loewald, and Heidegger,” Psychology and the Other’s Bi-Annual Conference, Cambridge, MA, October
- 2009 Respondent to Matthew Coate, “On Crying,” Kent State University’s 16th Annual May 4th Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Kent, OH, March

GRANTS

- 2021 – 2022 Cohort Grant for Early Career Theological Educators, Wabash Center
- 2020 – 2021 Participation Grant, Early Career Theological Educator Digital Salon, Wabash Center
- 2013 – 2019 Graduate Student Travel Grant, Several Times, Vanderbilt University
- 2015 Summer Research Grant, Vanderbilt University
- 2014 Summer Language Study Grant, Vanderbilt University
- 2014 Participation Grant, Center for Theological Inquiry, John Templeton Foundation
- 2010 James F. Sheridan Jr. Memorial Fund for Student Research, Allegheny College
- 2008 Grant for Revitalization of Philosophical Forum, Allegheny College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Phillips Theological Seminary

- “Grief, Loss, Death,” Spring 2022
- “Theory and Practice of Spiritual Care,” Spring 2021; Spring 2022
- “Trauma-Informed Care,” Fall 2021
- “Empathy and the Ethics of Pastoral Care,” Fall 2020; Fall 2021

“Independent Study: Moral Injury and LGBTQ+ Conversion ‘Therapy’,” Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

Lexington Theological Seminary

“Trauma and Recovery,” April 2020

“Political Pastoral Theology,” January 2020

“Loss and Grief,” May 2019

“Empathy in Pastoral Care and Counseling,” Spring 2019

Belmont University

“Honors Seminar: The Ethics of Empathy and Social Recognition,” Fall 2017, Spring 2020

“First-year Seminar: Ways of Knowing,” Fall 2019 (two sections)

“Junior Cornerstone: Intro to New Testament,” Fall 2018, Fall 2019

Theses Directed

Leah Hodgkiss, “Looking to the Root: The Dangers of Miscommunication Theory in a Culture of Sexual Violence,” Belmont University, Honors Program, Fall 2018

Vanderbilt University

Teaching Associate, “Psychology of Religious Ritual and Myth,” Spring 2015

Teaching Associate, “Constructive Christian Theology I,” Fall 2014

Teaching Fellow, “Traversing Our National Wound: Immigration and the US/Mexico Border,” Summer 2014

Allegheny College

Teaching Assistant, “Of Gods and Monsters,” Fall 2007, Fall 2008

Training in Pedagogy

Practicum in Online Teaching of Religion, Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching, Spring 2018

Writing Consultant Skills and Pedagogy Training, Vanderbilt University Writing Studio, Summer 2016

Mellon Certificate in Humanities Education, Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching, Summer 2015

Educational Workshops Led

“Using Textual Evidence,” Vanderbilt University College of A&S, 2016 – 2017 (two sessions)

“Constructing Effective Theses,” Vanderbilt University College of A&S, Spring 2017

“Transitioning to College Writing,” Vanderbilt University College of A&S, Fall 2016 (four sessions)

“Negotiating Formative Moments in Writing,” Vanderbilt University Writing Studio, November 2016

“Writing Consultation with Unfamiliar Subjects and Genres,” Southeastern Writing Center Association Tutor Collaboration Conference, Nashville, TN (with Mary Catherine Cook), September 2016

“Writing Colloquy in Constructive Theology,” Vanderbilt Divinity School, October 2014

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2013 – 2015 Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee, Nashville, TN

2014 Guest Clinical Lecturer, “Empathy and Silence in Pastoral Psychotherapeutic Approaches to Grief and Loss,” St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville, TN

2014 Clinical Consultant, Belmont Church, Nashville, TN
2012 – 2013 Chaplain Resident, Alive Hospice, Nashville, TN
2011 Crisis Counselor, Family and Children’s Service, Nashville, TN

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Peer Reviewer

2018 *Journal of Global Catholicism*
2017 *Political Theology*

To the Academy

2021 – Steering Committee Member, Transformative Scholarship and Pedagogy Unit, American Academy of Religion

Phillips Theological Seminary

2021 – 2022 Committee Chair, Teaching with Technology Committee
2020 – Committee Member, Institutional Review Board
2020 – Committee Member, Library Committee
2020 – Committee Member, Professional Advisory Group
2020 – 2021 Committee Member, Teaching with Technology Committee

Vanderbilt University

2015 – 2020 Practical Theology Acquisitions Bibliographer, Vanderbilt University Divinity Library
2016 Skills Development Leader, Vanderbilt University Visions Program
2015 Research Assistant, Dr. Bonnie Miller-McLemore and Antoinette Brown Lecture
2014 – 2015 Graduate Fellow Representative, New Paradigms in Teaching for Ministry
2014 – 2015 Steering Committee Member, National Association of College and University Chaplains
2013 – 2014 Research Assistant, Faculty in Religion, Psychology, and Culture
2011 – 2012 Graduate Student Representative, Antoinette Brown Lecture Committee

Allegheny College

2009 – 2010 President, Philosophy Forum
2007 – 2010 Student Member, Academic Integrity Board
2007 – 2008 Selection Committee Chair, Lambda Sigma Honor Society
2007 Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Islam

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Academy of Religion
Society for Pastoral Theology
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences
Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

English	Native
German	Intermediate High
French	Novice High
Spanish	Novice High