

ELISABETH T. VASKO, PHD

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EDUCATION

Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University

J.D., Candidate, expected May 2027.

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL

Ph.D. in Theology, December 2009.

Boston College, Newton, MA

M.A. in Pastoral Ministry, May 2001.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

B.S. in Psychology, May 1999.

Graduated with Distinction

EMPLOYMENT

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Associate Professor of Theology, August 2016-present.

Carl G. Grefenstette Center, Affiliated Faculty, June 2021-present.

Director of Undergraduate Programs in Theology, June 2017-June 2017.

Assistant Professor of Theology, August 2009-August 2016.

Amate House, Chicago, IL

Program Coordinator, June 2003-June 2005.

Holy Family Parish, Inverness, IL

Director of Youth Ministry and High School Religious Education, June 2001- June 2003.

SCHOLARSHIP

Books

- *“Why We Can’t Wait:” Racism and the Church*, co-edited with Catherine Punsalan-Manlimos and Tracy Sayuki Tiemeier. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2023.
- *True Crime and the Justice of God: Ethics, Media and Forensic Science* with Lyndsie Ferrara. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2022.
- *Beyond Apathy: A Theology for Bystanders*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.

Book Chapters

- “White Solidarity on Campus and the Sin of Neutrality,” in *In Sheep’s Clothing: The*

Idolatry of White Christian Nationalism, eds. George Yancy and Bill Bywater, 279-288. Lanham, MD: Rowman Littlefield, 2023.

- “Pink Blankets, Moral Paralysis, Sexual Violence, and Christian Vocation.” in *Theologies of Failure*, eds. Roberto Sirvent and Duncan Reyburn, 171-183. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2019.
- “LGBT Bullying at the Crossroads of Christian Theology: Girard, Surrogate Victimage, and Sexual Scapegoating,” in *Violence, Transformation, and the Sacred: They Shall Be Called Children of God*, eds. Margaret R. Pfeil and Tobias L. Winwright, 38-53. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2012.

Articles

- “Getting Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable: Reflections on Long-Distance Running and Teaching” *Religious Studies News* March (2021): 40-45.
- “Bad Mothers, Mad Mothers’: Resisting the Theo-Logic of Stigma and Embracing Grace as Dis-Ease.” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 37, no. 1 (2017): 141-159.
- “Civic Learning and Teaching as a Resource for Sexual Justice: An Undergraduate Religious Studies Course Module.” *Teaching Theology and Religion* 20, no. 2 (2017): 162-170.
- “Musical Mashups: Examining Whiteness and the Politics of Social Location.” *Arts in Religious and Theological Studies* 26, no. 2 (2015): 35.
- “Teaching Race: Pedagogical Challenges in Predominantly White Undergraduate Theology Classrooms,” with Anna Floerke Scheid. *Teaching Theology & Religion* 17, no. 1 (2014): 27-45.
- “Holding Us Accountable: A Response to Karen Teel,” with Anna Floerke Scheid. *Teaching Theology & Religion* 17, no. 1 (2014): 46-47.
- “The Difference Gender Makes: Nuptiality, Analogy, and the Limits of Appropriating Hans Urs von Balthasar’s Theology in the Context of Sexual Violence.” *Journal of Religion* 94 (2014): 504-528.
- “Redeeming Beauty? Christa and the Displacement of Women’s Bodies in Theological Aesthetic Discourses.” *Feminist Theology* 21, no. 1 (2013): 195-208.
- “Listening & Speaking as Two Sides of the Same Coin: Reflections on Intercultural Feminist Learning,” co-authored with Kamaara, Eunice Karanja, and Jeanine Viau. *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 28, no. 2 (2012): 49-67.
- “Listening to Experience, Looking Towards Flourishing: Ethnography as a Global Feminist Theo/ethical Praxis,” co-authored with Browning, Melissa D., Edith Chamwama, Eunice Kamaara, Sussy Gumo Kurgat, Damaris Parsitau, Emily Reimer-Barry, and Jeanine Viau. *Practical Matters* 3 (2010): 1-25.
- “The Goods and Evils of a Globalized Context: African and American Women Doing Theology,” co-authored with Susan A Ross and Melissa D. Browning. *Concilium* 2009/1: 44-51.

Book and Session Reviews

- “Christ: Topic Session,” *CTSA Proceedings*, 72 (2017): 89.
- “Spirituality and the Scandal of the Mundane: Race, Racism, and Religious Identity.” *CTSA Proceedings* 71 (2016): 69-69.
- *Frontiers in Catholic Feminist Theology: Shoulder to Shoulder*, eds. Susan Abraham and Elena Procaro-Foley (Fortress Press, 2009) in *Anglican Theological Review* 93 no. 2

(2011): 327-328.

- Christ Our Companion: Toward a Theological Aesthetics of *Liberation* by Roberto S. Goizueta (Orbis, 2009) in *Anglican Theological Review* 93 no. 2 (2011): 340, 342-343.
- “Feminist Theologies, Catholicity & Mission in a Global Context.” *CTSA Proceedings* 65 (2010): 101-102.

Other Scholarship

- “Beyond Apathy: A Theology for Bystanders-Roundtable Discussion,” *Syndicate Network*, <https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/beyond-apathy/>.

Public Lectures and Professional Presentations (since 2009)

- “There is Enough to Go Around: Do You Have the Courage to See It, To Believe It?” Catholic Theology and Contemporary Universities. Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, June 9, 2023, Milwaukee, WI.
- “Catholic Social Teaching and Race,” Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA, May 12, 2022.
- “God Hears Our Cries: Sexual Violence in the Bible,” Parish Mission Presentation, Mary Queen of Peace, Pittsburgh, PA, April 4, 2022.
- “Under Pressure: How Can, and Should, Religiously Affiliated Colleges Respond to Student Mental Health Crises?” Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, June 11, 2021.
- “‘A Little Bit Slutty and A Little Bit Nutty’: Sexual Harassment, Faculty Incivility, and University Ethics,” College Theology Society Annual Convention, South Bend, IN, May 31, 2019.
- “What Becomes of Cain and Abel’s Mother: Ambiguous Loss in the Context of Family Violence.” Psyche, Soul, and Salvation: An Interdisciplinary Conference on the Intersection of Psychology and Christian Theology, St. Vincent’s College and the Journal of Moral Theology. Latrobe, PA, March 15, 2019.
- “Foul or Fair Play: The Ethics of Simulations in Undergraduate Theological Pedagogy,” Society of Christian Ethics Pedagogy Interest Group, Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, January 4, 2019.
- “Be Not Afraid: Intimate Partner Violence and the Call to Community.” A Time to Heal Banquet. Gender Relations Center, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, October 24, 2018.
- “Putting One’s Body on the Line in the Ordinary: A Response to Eric Martin.” College Theology Society Annual Meeting, St. Paul, MN, June 1, 2018.
- “Civic Teaching and Learning as a Resource for Theological Pedagogy.” College Theology Society Annual Meeting, St. Paul, MN, June 1, 2018.
- “Religion and Violence,” with Sharon Higginbotham. Gender Equity in Pittsburgh: Making Intersectional Change Happen, Women’s Institute, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA, November 4, 2017.
- “What Becomes of Cain and Abel’s Mother: Seeking Authentic Relationship in A World Wounded by Violence.” Invited Lecture for Blessed Are the Peace Makers: Re-imagining a World of Active Nonviolence, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, John Carroll University, September 30, 2017.
- “‘I Believe You’: Sexual Violence, Sin-Talk, and Christian Faith.” Invited lecture as part of Endowed Lecture Series, Called to Intervene: Violence, Spirituality, and Solidarity,

Center for Spirituality, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, South Bend, IN. February 23, 2017.

- "Learning to Sing Alleluia with a Broken Heart: Womanist and Feminist Experiences of Struggle and Grace." Associates of Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden, PA. November 12, 2016.
- "Sexual Violence and Communities of Trauma on American College Campuses: Challenges and Possibilities for Christian Ethics." Societas Ethica, Bad Boll, Germany. August 19, 2016.
- "From Bystander to Allies: Seeking Authentic Relationship in Community." Social Action Summer Institute, Xavier University, Chicago, IL. July 19, 2016.
- "Teaching Religion for Diversity." Center for Christian-Muslim Dialogue's Workshop for School Teachers, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. July 13, 2016.
- "Ordinary Evils & Ordinary Hopes in the Context of White Racism: Reflections on Spiritual Praxis," with Alexandra Ketter and Nicolas Kroger. Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, San Juan, Puerto Rico. June 10, 2016.
- "Bad Mothers, Mad Mothers: Maternal Mental Health and the Need for a New Ethic of Care." Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario. January 9, 2016.
- "Moving from Service Learning to Community- Engaged Learning: Refocusing on the Civic Aspects of Engagement," with Lina Dostillio. Creating a Culture of Engagement Conference, Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh, PA. October 9, 2015.
- "Not in My Backyard: Environmental Racism and Pope Francis' Call to Foster a Culture of 'Solidarity and Encounter.'" College Theology Society Annual Convention, Portland, OR. May 29, 2015.
- "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me? The Cross and the Challenge of Solidarity." St. John Neumann Parish, Pittsburgh, PA. March 22, 2015.
- "Perfectionism and Moral Innocence: Re-examining White Complacency in the 21st Century." Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies, Providence College, Providence, RI. February 25, 2015.
- "Confessing Whiteness? Re-thinking Sin-Talk in the Context of White Supremacy." Catholic Theological Society of American Annual Convention, San Diego, CA. June 7, 2014.
- "The Story of the Syro-Phoenician Woman (Mark 7: 24-30): Interpreting Christological Complacency in Contexts Marked by Social Privilege." College Theology Society Annual Convention, Latrobe, PA. May 31, 2014.
- "Violence against Women is a Christian Issue." Human Rights Film Festival Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. January 21, 2013.
- "Generations Reflect on Sacrosanctum Concilium: Questions from a Young Feminist." Catholic Theological Society of American Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO. June 9, 2012.
- "Critical Reflection: Lessons Learned from Teaching Racism and White Privilege in the Theology Classroom" with Anna Floerke Scheid. College Theology Society Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX. June 2, 2012.
- "Sacrifice, Scapegoats, and Bullying: Rethinking Passivity and Violence in Christian Atonement Theology." College Theology Society Annual Convention, New Rochelle, NY. June 4, 2011.
- "Passivity and Violence: A Theological Reflection on the Problem of Bullying." Journey Towards Healing: An International Dialogue, sponsored by Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health and the Office of the First Minister and Deputy Minister, Belfast, U.K.

March 11, 2011.

- “Navigating Feminist Space(s): Interdisciplinary Challenges and Opportunities in the Context of Catholic Higher Education.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Convention, Denver, CO. November 11, 2010.
- “Beauty and the Cross: The Framing of Attention to Suffering in Hans Urs von Balthasar’s Theology.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November 1, 2010.
- “Prophetic Vision and Mzungu Listening in Postcolonial Space: Lessons from a US-Kenya Immersion Project.” Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, Cleveland, OH. June 12, 2010.
- “Women’s Studies Meets Theology: Sex and Sacred Texts Take the Stage in the Classroom.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH. June 23, 2009.
- “Feminism/s and the Search for Solidarity in a Global Society: Reflections on a US-Kenya Immersion Program.” Globalization for the Common Good Conference, Chicago, IL. June 3, 2009.
- “Aesthetics and Eating: Barbara Kingsolver’s Animal Vegetable Miracle as a Resource for Christian Spirituality.” College Theology Society Annual Convention, South Bend, IN. May 29, 2009.
- “Erotic Love and the Attractiveness of Divine Beauty: Reflections on Sex, Gender, and Justice in Hans Urs von Balthasar’s Theology.” Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Student Conference, Evanston, IL. April 24, 2009.
- Response to Rebecca Meier Reo: “Interreligious Dialogue: A Lesson from Aloysius Pieris, S.J.” Marquette-Loyola Graduate Student Colloquium, Milwaukee, WI. February 7, 2009.

AWARDS

- Karl G. Grefenstette Faculty Scholar, Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Technology, Science & Law, 2021-2022.
- John G. Rangos Sr. Prize (2020) for “True Crime and the Justice of God,” Duquesne University.
- College Theology Society, recipient of Best Article published in Theology (2017) for “Mad Mothers, Bad Mothers: Resisting Stigma and Embracing Grace as Dis-Ease,” *Journal of Society of Christian Ethics*.
- Duquesne University Creative Teaching Award (2014) for the project: “Teaching Race in the Undergraduate Theology Classes in the Core Curriculum.”

Grants and Funding

- Paluse Grant, \$4500 for “Anti-Asian Bias during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Christian Ethics, Big Data, and Digital Literacy,” with Wenqi Zhou. Center for Catholic Faith and Culture, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, May 2022-May 2023.
- Grant for developing an interdisciplinary community-engaged conference on juvenile justice: \$10,000. Center for Community Engaged Teaching and Learning, Seed Fund, Duquesne University, August 2021-June 2022.
- Grant for developing Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning in Majors and Minors: Catholic Social Thought: \$12,500. Duquesne University, May 2016-August 2018. Team

members: Elisabeth T. Vasko (P.I.), Elizabeth Cochran, Sharon Higginbothan, Maureen O'Brien, Anna Floerke Scheid, Dan Scheid, and Darlene Weaver.

- Grant for Development of Service-Learning Courses in the Majors, 2013: \$1,250. McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. Summer 2013.
- Duquesne University Center for Teaching Excellence and Office for Academic Affairs Grant: \$1,755. May 2012.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Grant Competition. McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts: \$1,700. Project Title: "The State of Roman Catholic Theology of Religions and Interreligious Dialogue." Fall 2011. Collaborators: Iwuchukwu, Marinus, Aimee Light, Dan Scheid, and Elisabeth T. Vasko.

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching at Duquesne University

Soteriology: The Cross in Context (Ph.D.)

Christology (M.A., MAPM, MARE)

Christology and Power (Ph.D., cross-listed with WSG)

Graduate Supervision

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams (theological anthropologies, womanist/feminist theologies, christologies, sin and grace).

M.A. comprehensive exams

Ph.D. Dissertation Supervision (reader; 5 dissertations)

Undergraduate Teaching at Duquesne University

God, Race, and Theology

Is God Good? (Theodicy)

Just Sex? (Sexual ethics)

Theological Ethics

Racial Geographies and Social Ethics

Theological Views of the Person

Classical and Contemporary Theologies

Women and Christianity (cross-listed with WSG and African Studies, Community Engaged)

Christianity, Embodiment, and Violence (cross-listed with WSGS)

Christology and Sexual Violence

Theology, Media, and Pop Culture

Honors Theology

True Crime and the Justice of God (cross-listed with Forensic Science)

Undergraduate Teaching at Loyola University Chicago

Women and Religion

Undergraduate Research /Independent Studies

- Elisha Schoeneck (Spring 2023): "Micro is Not Meaningless: A Focus on Asian Women," presented Duquesne's 2023 URSS and won Honorable Mention, Chief Diversity Officer/Palumbo-Donahue School of Business and Gumberg Library Award for Undergraduate Research.

- Kayce Bogess (Spring 2021): *Turning a Blind Eye: A Catholic Perspective on Justice*, presented at Duquesne University Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium. Winner of Common Good Research Award.
- Sydney McCabe (Spring 2019): *Graduates, Gender, and Gentrification in Pittsburgh's Neighborhoods*, presented at Duquesne University Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium on April 6, 2019.
- Magdalen Flynn and Megan Kolides (Spring 2018): "Encouraging Sexual Assault Reporting by Increasing Transparency at Duquesne University," presented at Duquesne University Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium on April 11, 2018.
- Margaret Ballentyne (Spring 2016): "Say Yes to the Dress Goes to Church: A Feminist Theological Analysis of Pre-Cana Programs in the Mid-Atlantic Region," presented at Duquesne University's Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium on April 6, 2016. Winner of the Center for Catholic Intellectual Tradition Award.
- Kaitlyn Clem (Spring 2016): "Rioting Gender: Doctrinal Rhetoric in Post-Soviet Russia and the Implications for Human Rights," presented at Duquesne University's Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium on April 6, 2016. Winner of Phi Kappa Phi's Outstanding Research Award. Presented at National Undergraduate Research Conference, Spring 2017.
- Christina Semanchik: "Bullying with Divine Intervention," presented at Duquesne University's Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium, April 2013.

Workshops on Teaching (Selected)

- "Catholic Social Thought and Inclusive Pedagogy," Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA, May 12, 2022.
- "Lesson Planning for Time Management," Center for Teaching Excellence, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, February 23, 2022.
- "Best Practices for Community-Engaged Teaching and Research," co-facilitated with Dr. Sharon Higginbotham, COO of Bethlehem Haven. March 4, 2019
- "Activism, Political Resistance, and the Classroom," *Against Racial Injustice: Resistance, Protest, and Civil Disobedience: Day for Learning and Speaking Out*, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. March 18, 2018.
- "Strategies for Using Gender-Inclusive Language in the Classroom and Beyond." Panelist. Sponsored by the Women's and Gender Studies and the Center for Teaching Excellence. Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. February 13, 2018.
- *Diversity and Inclusion in Theological Pedagogy*: Workshop for Ph.D. students. Sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA. February -April 2015.

Training and Certification Pertaining to Teaching

- Classrooms Without Borders, "Poland Personally," POLAND, June 17-June 26, 2023
- Classrooms Without Borders, Educator "Marching Down Freedom's Road: From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter." Pittsburgh, PA. June 12- 17, 2021.
- Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom. CornellX. <https://courses.edx.org/certificates/2706a76df38f4e4ab75b6d0b5690f769> (November 2020).
- Inside/Out Prison Exchange Institute, Instructor Training. Wallingford, PA. July 28-August 3, 2014. The Inside/Out Program seeks to provide transformational learning experiences for men and women inside and outside of prison through dialogue across

difference and collaboration around issues of social concerns.

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACADEMY SERVICE

Elsinore Bennu Think Tank for Restorative Justice, member

ACAR, legal subcommittee, co-chair.

College Theology Society

2022 Convention Co-Chair with Tracy Tiemeier and Catherine Punsulan-Manlimos: “‘Why We Can’t Wait:’ Racism and the Church,” 2020-2022.

Psychology and Religion Co-Convener, 2011-2014.

Resolutions Committee, 2020-2021.

Board Member, 2017-2020.

Membership Committee Co-Chair

Committee on the Status of Caregivers

Peer Reviewer for Annual Publication

Catholic Theological Society of America

Women’s Consultation in Constructive Theology, Committee Member
2010-2016

Christology Section, Co-Convener, 2014-2017.

American Academy of Religion, Member

Society of Christian Ethics, Member

Peer Reviewer for a number of journals and publishers such as: *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, *Horizons* (Cambridge University Press), Rowman & Littlefield, *Theological Studies*

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY SERVICE (sample)

Theology Department

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, 2020-Present.

Director of Undergraduate Programs, 2015-2017.

M.A. in Theology Admissions Committee, 2012-2015.

M.A. in Theology Committee, Member, 2009-2015.

Undergraduate Committee member, 2021-present.

Theology Doctrine Comps Revision Committee, 2013-2014.

Phi Kappa Phi, Duquesne Chapter

Past President, 2019-2021.

President, 2016-2018.

President-Elect, 2014-2015.

Women’s and Gender Studies Steering Committee Member, 2016-Present.

University Diversity Hiring Advocate, 2022- present.

Title IX programming committee, member at large, 2016-2020.

Racial Equity Group, Center for Catholic Faith and Culture, 2018-2020.

Undergraduate Research Symposium, Judge 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019.

Office of Diversity Freshmen Orientation, Speaker, 2019.

American Chemistry Society, Speak Simply, Judge, 2017, 2018.

Center for Freshmen Development, Mentor, 2017.

Center for Teaching Excellence

Faculty Near-Peer Mentor, 2014-2015.

CTE New Faculty Orientation Advisory Group, 2012.

CTE Peer Reviewer for Multicultural Travel Grants, 2012.

McAnulty College Advisory Committee on Academic Integrity Appeals, 2013-2015, 2022-present.
CTER, Academic Learning and Outcomes Assessment on University Service Learning
(2012)