

Thomas A. Carlson
Department of Religious Studies
University of California
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Education

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	WILLIAMS COLLEGE
A.M., Religion, 1990	B.A., Religion, 1987
Ph.D., Theology, 1995	

Doctoral Exams: 1. History of Christian Thought through the Reformation
2. Modern and Contemporary Religious Thought: From the Enlightenment to the 20th Century
3. Selected Theologians: Pseudo-Dionysius and G. W. F. Hegel
4. Selected Topic: Phenomenology (Husserl, Heidegger, Levinas)
5. Theories of Religion in the Human Sciences

Languages Studied: French, German, Greek, Latin

Dissertation: "Finitude and the Naming of God: A Study of Onto-theology and the Apophatic Traditions"

Advisors: David Tracy and Bernard McGinn

Teaching and Employment

Areas of research and teaching include modern and postmodern philosophy; the history of Christian thought; religion and theory; religion and contemporary culture.

--Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, July, 1995-June, 1999

--Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, July, 1999-present

Awards and Honors

2006 Guest Researcher, Zentrum für Literatur- und Kultur-forschung (June-July, 2006)
2004 Residential Research Fellowship, University of California Humanities Research Institute (Irvine) (Spring and Fall, 2004, "Ethics of the Neighbor" residential research group)
2002 Regents' Humanities Faculty Fellowship (UCSB), Summer, 2002
2000 Outstanding Faculty Member Award (UCSB Residence Halls)
2000 Regents' Humanities Faculty Fellowship (UCSB), Summer, 2000
1999 Outstanding Faculty Member Award (UCSB Residence Halls)
1999 UCSB Foundation Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award
1998 Regents' Junior Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities (UCSB), Summer, 1998
1997 Outstanding Faculty Member Award (UCSB Residence Halls)
1997 Regents' Junior Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities (UCSB), Summer, 1997
1996 Regents' Junior Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities (UCSB), Summer, 1996
1996 Susan Colver Rosenberger Prize for Constructive and Original Research (U. of Chicago) (awarded every three years to the best dissertation written during that time)
1995 Finalist, Harper/Schmidt Teaching Fellowship (U. of Chicago--declined in order to accept job at UCSB)
1995 Ph.D. Dissertation, Passed with Distinction (U. of Chicago)
1995 UCSB Junior Faculty Nominee, NEH Summer Stipend Competition for 1996 (program suspended)
1994-95 William Rainey Harper Dissertation Fellow (U. of Chicago)
1993-94 Junior Fellow, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion (U. of Chicago)
1992 Ph.D. Qualifying Examinations, Passed with Distinction (U. of Chicago)
1991-92 Divinity School Fellow (U. of Chicago)
1989-93 Jacob K. Javits Fellow (national fellowship, held at U. of Chicago)
1987 Graves Prize, Best Essay in Religion, Williams College
1987 Harris Prize, Best Essay in Political Philosophy, Williams College
1987 Magna cum Laude, Williams College
1986 Phi Beta Kappa, Williams College

Publications

Books

Indiscretion: Finitude and the Naming of God. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999

The Indiscrete Image: Infinity and Creation of the Human, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming

Articles and Contributions to Books

"Religion and the Time of Creation: Placing 'the Human' in Techno-scientific and Theological Context," in Hent de Vries, ed., Why Religion? Concepts, Contexts, Compatibilities. New York: Fordham University Press, forthcoming

"Blindness and the Decision to See: On Revelation and Reception in Jean-Luc Marion," in Kevin Hart, ed., Counter-Experiences: Reading Jean-Luc Marion. South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press, forthcoming.

"Negative Theology and Deconstructive Ethics: Caputo's Reading of the Mystical," in David Goicoechea, ed., John D. Caputo: A Postmodern Phenomenology of the Cross, under submission

"Modernity and the Mystical: Science, Techno-science, Religion, and Human Self-Creation," in James Proctor, ed., Science, Religion, and the Human Experience. Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2005

"Unlikely Shadows: Transcendence in Image and Immanence," in Regina Schwartz, ed., Transcendence. New York: Routledge, 2004.

"Locating the Mystical Subject," in Michael Kessler and Christian Sheppard, eds. Mystics. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

"Postmetaphysical Theology," in The Cambridge Companion to Postmodern Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 2003.

"Caputo's Example," in Mark Dooley, ed. A Passion for the Impossible: John D. Caputo in Focus. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003.

"And Maker Mates with Made: World- and Self-Creation in Eriugena and Joyce," in Clayton Crockett, ed., Secular Theology, Routledge, 2001

"Absence," in Charles Winquist and Victor Taylor, eds., Encyclopedia of Postmodernism. New York: Routledge, 2001

"Altarity," in Charles Winquist and Victor Taylor, eds., Encyclopedia of Postmodernism. New York: Routledge, 2001

"Thomas J. J. Altizer," in Charles Winquist and Victor Taylor, eds., Encyclopedia of Postmodernism. New York: Routledge, 2001

"Jean-Luc Marion," in Charles Winquist and Victor Taylor, eds., Encyclopedia of Postmodernism. New York: Routledge, 2001

"Mark C. Taylor," in Charles Winquist and Victor Taylor, eds., Encyclopedia of Postmodernism. New York: Routledge, 2001

"Converting the Given into the Seen: Introductory Remarks on Theological and Phenomenological Vision," introduction to The Idol and Distance, New York: Fordham University Press, 2001

"Apophatic Analogy: On the Language of Mystical Unknowing and Being-toward-Death," in Walter Jost and Wendy Olmsted, eds., Rhetorical Invention and Religious Inquiry, Yale University Press, 2000

- "Consuming Desire's Deferral: A Theological Shadow in the Culture of Image," in Parallax, vol. 5, no. 1, 1999
- "Ethics, Religiosity, and the Question of Community in Emmanuel Levinas," in Sophia, vol. 37, no. 1, March-April, 1998
- "The Binds that Tie the Ethical and the Religious: Philosophy of Religion after Derrida," in Svensk Teologisk Kvantalskrift, vol. 74, 1998
- "The Poverty and Poetry of Indiscretion: Negative Theology and Negative Anthropology in Contemporary and Historical Perspective," in Christianity and Literature, vol. 47, no. 2, 1998
- "Possibility and Passivity in Kierkegaard: The Anxieties of Don Giovanni and Abraham," in Journal of the American Academy of Religion, vol. 62, no. 2, 1994
- "Thomas J. J. Altizer, L'auto-incarnation de Dieu," in Encyclopédie philosophique universelle, vol. 3, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1993
- "Alphonso Lingis, Des excès: Eros et culture," in Encyclopédie philosophique universelle, vol. 3, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1993
- "David Tracy, Pluralité et ambiguïté," in Encyclopédie philosophique universelle, vol. 3, Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1993

Reviews and Review Essays

- Review of J. P. Williams, Denying Divinity in Journal of Religion, vol. 83, no. 3, July 2003
- "God Tricks in the Scientific Study of Religion (Remarks Concerning Secular Theories on Religion: Current Perspectives)," review essay in The Bulletin, Council of Societies for the Study of Religion, vol. 31, no. 2, 2002.
- Review of Christopher Lamb and Dan Cohn-Sherbock, eds., The Future of Religion: Postmodern Perspectives: Essays in Honour of Ninian Smart, in Journal of Religion, Volume 81, Number 3, July 2001
- "Religion and 'the Postmodern'," review essay in Anglican Theological Review, vol. 82, no. 2, 2000
- "Historical Consciousness and Altizer's Genesis of God," review essay in Sophia, vol. 38, no. 1, March-April, 1999
- Review of Theology and Contemporary Critical Theory (by Graham Ward), Modern Theology, vol. 15, no. 1, January, 1999
- Review of The Gift of Death (by Jacques Derrida), in Journal of Religion, vol. 77, no. 2, 1997
- Review of Postmodern Theologies: The Challenge of Religious Diversity, in Anglican Theological Review, vol. 78, no. 4, 1996
- Review of Pseudo-Dionysius: A Commentary on the Texts and an Introduction to their Influence, in Journal of Religion, vol. 75, no. 1, 1995
- Review of The Poetry of Friedrich Nietzsche (by Philip Grundlehner), in Journal of the American Academy of Religion, vol. 57, no. 2, 1989

Translations

The Idol and Distance (by Jean-Luc Marion). New York: Fordham University Press, 2001

Reduction and Givenness: Investigations of Husserl, Heidegger, and Phenomenology (by Jean-Luc Marion). Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1998

God Without Being (by Jean-Luc Marion). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991

"The Idea of God" (by J.-L. Marion), in D. Garber and M. Ayers, eds., The Cambridge History of Seventeenth-Century Philosophy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998

"Proofs of the Existence of God" (by J.-R. Armogathe) in D. Garber and M. Ayers, eds., The Cambridge History of Seventeenth-Century Philosophy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998

"The Saturated Phenomenon" (by J.-L. Marion), in Philosophy Today, Spring, 1996

"Metaphysics and Phenomenology: A Relief for Theology" (by J.-L. Marion), in Critical Inquiry, vol. 20, no. 4, 1994

Lectures and Public Presentations

Year Topic/Place

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| 2006 | "Virtual Inheritance and the Anonymous Dead," invited lecture at an international workshop, "Das Nachleben der Toten im Erbe," at the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin, Germany |
| 2005 | "Genetic Technology, Human Property, and the Law of Inheritance: A Question of Religion," invited lecture at an international conference, "What Should Inheritance Law Be?" Zentrum für Literaturforschung, Berlin, Germany |
| 2005 | "Religion and the Time of Creation: Placing 'the Human' in Techno-scientific and Theological Context," invited lecture at an international conference "The Future of the Religious Past," sponsored by the Dutch National Scientific Organization (NWO), Amsterdam |
| 2005 | "Like Another God: Creating Humanity in Mystical Thought and Technological Culture," invited lecture, University of Chicago |
| 2004 | "Blindness and the Decision to See: On Revelation and Reception in Jean-Luc Marion," invited lecture, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada |
| 2004 | "Response To Arthur Kroker, 'When Technology Crashed to Earth'," at "Textologies: An Interdisciplinary Workshop on Multimedia Technologies, Ethics and Culture," McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario |
| 2004 | "Blindness and the Decision to See: On Revelation and Reception in Marion," University of Notre Dame, conference paper delivered at "In Excess: Jean-Luc Marion and the Horizon of Modern Theology" |
| 2004 | "Seeing and Believing: On Phenomenology and Theology in Recent Continental Thought," invited lecture, St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA |
| 2004 | "Between the Sacred and the Mystical: Humanity, Nature, and the Anxiety of Technological Networks," Faculty Lecture Series, Center for Information Technology and Society, UCSB |
| 2003 | "Global Responsibility and Self-Creativity in the Thought of Michel Serres," Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Atlanta) |

- 2003 "Negative Theology and Deconstructive Ethics: Caputo's Reading of the Mystical," The 14th Joyful Wisdom Conference: A Postmodern Phenomenology of the Cross in the Work of John D. Caputo, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada
- 2002 "A Response to Françoise Meltzer's For Fear of the Fire: Joan Arc and the Limits of Subjectivity," Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Toronto, Canada)
- 2002 Templeton Research Lecture, "Modernity and the Mystical: Science, Technology, and the Task of Human Self-Creation," University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2002 Chair, "'Global Religion' and the Pluralization of Public Spheres: A Roundtable with Jacques Derrida," culminating session of the conference "Cruelty, Death Penalty, the 'Return of the Religious,'" Stanford University
- 2002 "Modernity and the Mystical: Science, Technology, and the Task of Human Self-Creation," invited lecture, Colgate University
- 2001 "Techno-science and the Mystical," Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Denver)
- 2001 Moderator, "Ethics and Identity in Augustine et al.: Contemporary Readings" Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Denver)
- 2001 "The Nothingness of God: Medieval and Modern Perspectives," invited paper delivered at "Nothing in Common: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Scientific and Contemplative Views on Nothing," sponsored by the Infinity Foundation and UCSB Dept. of Religious Studies, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2001 "Techno-science and the Mystical," invited paper delivered at The Cultural Turn III, Sacred/Profane, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2000 Panel discussion of Thomas A. Carlson's Indiscretion: Finitude and the Naming of God, Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology (State College, PA)
- 2000 Respondent, Panel discussion of Ellen Armour's Deconstruction, Feminist Theology, and the Problem of Difference and Thomas A. Carlson's Indiscretion: Finitude and the Naming of God, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Nashville)
- 2000 "Derrida and the Logic of the Mystical," Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Nashville)
- 2000 "The Mystical Logic of Self-Creation in Eriugena and Joyce," paper delivered at The Continental Philosophy of Religion, A Conference Sponsored by the British Academy, Lancaster, England
- 2000 "The Postmodern and the Mystical," Invited Lecture at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
- 1999 "Religion and Phenomenology in Jean-Luc Marion," Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Boston)
- 1999 Moderator, Panel Discussion of Mark C. Taylor's Critical Terms for Religious Studies, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Boston)
- 1999 "Locating the Mystical Subject," paper delivered at "Mystics: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Negative Theology and Mysticism," University of Chicago
- 1999 "Consuming Desire's Deferral: A Theological Shadow in the Culture of Image," paper delivered to the Cultural Analysis Colloquium, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 1999 Response to Maria Pia Lara's Moral Textures: Feminist Narratives in the Public Sphere, Cultural Turn II, "Power and Meaning," University of California, Santa Barbara,

- 1998 Panel Paper on John Caputo's The Prayers and Tears of Jacques Derrida: Religion without Religion,
Society for Theology and Continental Philosophy (Denver)
- 1998 Moderator, "Ethics and the Given in Levinas and Marion," Annual Meeting, Society for Phenomenology and
Existential Philosophy (Denver)
- 1998 "The Subject of Negative Theology: A Question of Indiscretion," Annual Meeting, Modern Language
Association (San Francisco)
- 1997 "Receptions of the Gift in Recent Continental Thought," Annual Meeting, Society for Phenomenology and
Existential Philosophy (Lexington, KY)
- 1997 "The Binds that Tie the Ethical and the Religious: Philosophy of Religion After Derrida," Annual Meeting,
American Academy of Religion (San Francisco)
- 1997 Moderator, "Philosophy of Religion: The Construction of a Field," a session of the Philosophy of Religion
Section, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (San Francisco)
- 1997 Moderator, "Negative Anthropology," a session of the Platonism and Neoplatonism Group, Annual Meeting,
American Academy of Religion (San Francisco)
- 1996 "A Postmodern Subject: Negative Theology and the Thought of Finitude After Heidegger," Junior Faculty
Lecture, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 1996 Introduction of Mark C. Taylor, "Skin Sc(r)apes: The Art of Tattooing," University of California, Santa
Barbara
- 1996 "Deconstruction and Culture in Jacques Derrida and Mark C. Taylor," Westmont College, invited seminar
lecture
- 1996 "Loving Death: Postmodernity's Finitude and the Apophatic Unknowing of Dionysian Traditions," Annual
Meeting, American Academy of Religion (New Orleans)
- 1995 Introduction of Carnegie Foundation Professor of the Year Mark C. Taylor, Washington, D.C.
- 1994 "Revelation and the Sacrificial Self in Levinas' Ethics," Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion
(Chicago)
- 1994 "Apophaticism and the Unconditional: Marion and Derrida on the Theology and Philosophy of the
Gift," paper presentation, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago
- 1994 Response to "The Structure of Mark" (by Wesley Isenberg), Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion,
University of Chicago,
- 1993 Moderator, Current Research Session on Mark C. Taylor's Disfiguring: Art, Architecture, Religion,
Annual Meeting, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (New Orleans)
- 1993 "Nihilism and the Recovery of Negative Theology: A Discussion Based on Jean-Luc Marion's God Without
Being," panel paper, Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion (Washington, D.C.)

University, Professional, and Community Service

Year	Type of Service
2005-present	Religious Studies Departmental Colloquium Organizer, UCSB
2005-present	Committee Member, Program Review Panel, UCSB

2003	Co-organizer, with Elisabeth Weber, of an international conference titled "Irreconcilable Differences?"
2003-present	Jacques Derrida and the Question of Religion," University of California, Santa Barbara
2003-present	Steering Committee, Templeton Program on "New Visions of Nature, Science, and Religion," UCSB
2003	Editorial Board Member, <u>Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory</u>
2002-present	Expert Evaluator of grant application for "The Future of the Religious Past," research program sponsored by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (The Dutch Research Council)
2002-2004	Co-editor, Religion and Postmodernism Series, University of Chicago Press
2002-present	Steering Committee, UCLA Mellon-Sawyer Seminar, "The Ethics of the Neighbor," UCLA
2003-present	Co-editor, Religion and Postmodernism Series, University of Chicago Press
2002-2003	Chair, Philosophy of Religion Section, American Academy of Religion
2001-02	Co-Chair, Philosophy of Religion Section, American Academy of Religion
2000-2002	Katherine Harvey Fellow, Santa Barbara Foundation
2000-2001	Academic Senate, Committee on Effective Teaching and Instructional Support, UCSB
2000-present	Organizer, Departmental Colloquium Series, Dept. of Religious Studies, UCSB
1999-2002	French Language Coordinator, Dept. of Religious Studies, UCSB
1999-2001	Co-chair, Platonism and Neoplatonism Group, American Academy of Religion
1998-present	Academic Senate Task Force on the General Education Program, UCSB
1998	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dept. of Religious Studies, UCSB
1998	Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Efficiency, Dept. of Religious Studies, UCSB
1998	Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Assistants, Dept. of Religious Studies, UCSB
1997-2000	Summer orientation for incoming freshmen, UCSB
1997-1999	Academic Senate, Committee on Undergraduate Courses, UCSB
1997-present	Steering Committee, Platonism and Neoplatonism Group, American Academy of Religion
1996-97	Departmental Representative to the Council on Graduate Studies in Religion
	Organizer, Departmental Colloquium Series, Dept. of Religious Studies, UCSB

Reviewing and Refereeing Activity

Between 1995 and the present, I have reviewed numerous book manuscripts and vetted translations for presses including University of Chicago Press, Stanford University Press, Northwestern University Press, Indiana University Press, and Fordham University Press, and I have refereed numerous article manuscripts for journals including Journal of Religion, Harvard Theological Review, Sophia, and Epoche. In 2002 I began serving as co-editor of the Religion and Postmodernism Series at the University of Chicago Press.

Professional Societies

American Academy of Religion
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy
Society for Theology and Continental Philosophy