

SAMEER YADAV

Westmont College
Religious Studies
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EMPLOYMENT

Westmont College	Santa Barbra, CA
• Assistant Professor of Religious Studies	August 2015 –
Indiana Wesleyan University	Marion, IN
• Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow	2012 – 2015

EDUCATION

Duke University Divinity School	Durham, NC
• Th.D. Theology & Ethics	May 2014
Dissertation: <i>The Problem of Perception and the Perception of God</i>	
Supervisor: Paul J. Griffiths	
Committee: Sarah Coakley, Stanley Hauerwas, J. Warren Smith	
Yale Divinity School	New Haven, CT
• S.T.M. Theology	May 2007
Master's Seminary	Sun Valley, CA
• M.Div.	May 2002
Boise State University	Boise, ID
• B.A. Philosophy	May 1998

RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization

- Christian Systematic and Philosophical Theology

Areas of Competence

- Philosophy of Religion, Historical Theology, Theological Ethics, Theological Interpretation of Scripture

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- *The Problem of Perception and the Experience of God: Toward a Theological Empiricism* (Fortress Press, 2015).

Articles

- “Scripture as Signpost: The Spiritual Senses and Biblical Interpretation,” in *Sensing Things Divine: Toward a Constructive Account of Spiritual Perception*, eds. Fred Aquino and Paul Gavriluk (forthcoming).
- “Doctrine as Ontological Commitment to a Narrative,” in *The Task of Christian Dogmatics*, eds. Oliver D. Crisp and Fred Sanders. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017: 70-86.
- “Mystical Experience and the Apophatic Attitude,” *The Journal of Analytic Theology* 4 (2016): 17-43.
- “Therapy for the Therapist: A McDowellian Critique of Semantic Externalism in Kevin Hector’s *Theology without Metaphysics*,” *The Journal of Analytic Theology* 1 (2013): 120-132.

Reviews

- Silvia Jonas, *Ineffability and its Metaphysics*, in *The Journal of Analytic Theology* 5 (2017): 949-955.
- Anna Mercedes, *Power For: Feminism and Christ’s Self-Giving*, in *Syndicate* 2/4 (July/August, 2015), 83-88.
- William Hasker, *Metaphysics and the Tri-Personal God*, in *Journal of Religion* 95/3 (July, 2015): 408-409.
- Darlene Fozard Weaver, *The Acting Person and Christian Moral Life*, in *The Journal for the Society of Christian Ethics* 35/1 (2015): 210-211.
- Charles Taliaferro, Victoria Harrison, and Stewart Goetz (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Theism*, in *Philosophy in Review*, 34/3-4 (2014): 195-198.
- Mark Wynn, *Renewing the Senses*, in *The Journal of Analytic Theology* 2 (2014): 282-287.
- Mark Ian Thomas Robson, *Ontology and Providence in Creation: Taking Ex Nihilo Seriously*, in *Faith and Philosophy* 29/1 (January, 2012), 95-99.
- Charles Taliaferro and Stuart Goetz, *Naturalism*, in *Pro Ecclesia* 21/2 (2012), 228-32.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Books

- *Gregory of Nyssa: A Theological Introduction* (Cascade Press, under contract)
- *Ignorance and Bliss: Wonder, Divine Mystery and the Transformation of Theology*

- *Unapproachable Light: An Essay on the Hidden Love of God*
- *How to Do (Theological) Things with (Biblical) Words: On the Uses of Christian Scripture*

Articles

- “Love: Creaturely and Divine,” in *Divine Love*, eds. James Arcadi and Jordan Wessling
- “Neoautophobia: Religious Experience and the Fear of Self-Transformation”

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

- “Doctrine and Ontological Commitment to a Narrative,” L.A. Theology Conference, La Mirada, CA. January 12, 2017.
- “Wonder and the Apophatic Attitude,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. November 21, 2015.
- “Gregory of Nyssa’s Theological Ethics.” Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago, IL. January 8, 2015.
- “Therapy for the Therapist: John McDowell and Kevin Hector’s *Theology without Metaphysics*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. November 17, 2012.
- “Naturalism Reconsidered: Scientific Explanations of Religious Phenomena in Ann Taves’ *Religious Experience Reconsidered*.” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Louisville, KY. March 4, 2011.
- “Assessing Kathryn Tanner’s ‘Christ of Faith’ as the ‘Jesus of History.’” Duke-University of Virginia Theology Colloquium, Reading the Past, March 21, 2009.

Invited

- “Scripture as Signpost.” Guest lecture for Paul Gavrilyuk’s seminar in spiritual perception. University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. June 19, 2017.
- “The Rationality of Closure to Transformative Religious Experiences: A Response to L. A. Paul,” Philosophy Colloquium at University of North Carolina Asheville. Asheville, NC. March 27, 2017.
- “Love, Creaturely and Divine: A Theological Response to the Problem of Divine Hiddenness,” Analytic Theology Seminar on Divine Love at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. February 1, 2017.
- “The Arc of the Christian Mystical Tradition,” Guest Lecture for Augustine Scholars Program, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. November 9, 2016.
- “Reel Talk: Race and Power in Zootopia,” Participant in panel discussion for “Race Matters,” Focus Week at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. October 26, 2016.

- “Do Black Lives Actually Matter? The Significance of the Black Lives Matter Movement,” Participant in panel discussion for “Race Matters,” Focus Week at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. October, 25, 2016.
- “Target Bathrooms and the Eschatological Human,” Participant in “What is Gender?” panel co-sponsored by the gender studies program and the Westmont Feminist Society. September 20, 2016.
- “Affective Mysticism and Social Boundary-Keeping.” Plenary paper for *Embodied Religion* conference. University of Colorado at Boulder. Boulder, CO, August 8, 2016.
- “An Appropriately Scientific Theology.” Workshop sponsored by the American Academy for the Advancement of Science’s *Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion* initiative. Multnomah Seminary, Portland, OR. April 23, 2016.
- “Revising Christian Belief in the Light of Scientific Discovery: A Decision Procedure.” Workshop sponsored by Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University) and Westmont College Science and Faith Club. Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. March 31, 2016.
- Three-part roundtable discussion on Transformative Experiences, with Michael Rea and L. A. Paul. Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame. May 9, 2015. <http://philreligion.nd.edu/videos/round-table-discussions/>
- “Mystical Experience and the Apophatic Attitude.” Plenary paper for Logos Conference 2015. University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN. May 8, 2015.
- Student Government Association Forum Discussion Panel, “Race Relations,” Indiana Wesleyan University. January 21, 2015.
- “Perceiving God,” Theological Research Seminar, co-sponsored by Wesley Seminary and IWU School of Theology and Ministry. Indiana Wesleyan University. Marion, IN. December 2, 2013.
- “God is (Maximally) Great: A Response to Jeff Speaks on Perfect Being Theology,” Commentator for Baylor-Georgetown-Notre Dame Philosophy of Religion Conference, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN. October 3, 2013.
- “Sensing God: The Problem of Perception and the Perception of God.” Colloquium in Philosophy and Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. Pasadena, CA. June 6, 2013
- “The Parity Approach: Some Questions for David Brown’s ‘Realism and Religious Experience,’” Commentator for Logos Conference 2013. University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN. May 10, 2013
- “Science and Ethics as Traditioned Languages of Objectivity: Christian Ethics as Rational Inquiry in Stanley Hauerwas and Herbert McCabe.” Guest lecture for Stanley Hauerwas’ Christian Ethics course, CE33. Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC. February 23, 2012.
- “How the Analytic/Continental Divide Shapes Philosophical Curricula: A Reply to Amy Gilbert.” Duke-University of Virginia Theology Colloquium, *Canon and Pedagogy*, September 12, 2009.
- “Transcendence as Transgression: A Response to Steve Neumeister on Dostoevsky’s Grand Inquisitor.” Duke-University of Virginia Theology Colloquium, *Practices of Reading*, February 9, 2008.

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS

- New Course Grant in Analytic Theology, Curricular Development Award, Fuller Theological Seminary 2016
- Professional Development Grant, Westmont College 2016
- Analytic Theology Grant Participant, Reading Group on the role of emotion in religious experience, Templeton Foundation and Notre Dame's Center for the Philosophy of Religion 2014
- Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship, John Wesley Honors College 2012-2015
- North American Doctoral Fellow, The Fund for Theological Education 2009-2010
- Duke Divinity School Doctoral Fellow 2007-2011
- The Lexington Seminar, Theological Teaching for the Church's Ministries 2008-2009

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Society of Christian Philosophers
Society of Christian Ethics
Society of Scriptural Reasoning

LANGUAGES

Reading competency in biblical Aramaic, Greek, and Hebrew; French; German

COURSES TAUGHT

- Westmont College Santa Barbara, CA
2015 –
- Assistant Professor, Religious Studies
 - RS 020: Christian Doctrine
 - RS 129: Divine Hiddenness
 - RS 131: Theology and Race
 - RS 180: Senior Seminar
- Indiana Wesleyan University Marion IN
2012 – 2015
- Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, John Wesley Honors College
 - HNR 375: Who is my Neighbor?
 - HNR 175: What is Beauty?
 - HNR 325: Negative Theology (Honors Research Tutorial)
 - HNR 270: What is Humanity?
 - HNR 325: Gregory of Nyssa (Honors Research Tutorial)
 - THE 313: Pneumatology

HNR 170: What is Truth?
HNR 180: Foundations of the Christian Tradition

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| Wesley Seminary | Marion, IN |
| • Adjunct | Fall 2014 |
| CHST 500: Church History | |
| Duke Divinity School | Durham, NC |
| • Faculty, Course of Study for Ordained Ministry | Summer 2010 – 2012 |
| SCOS 414: Christian Social Ethics | |

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Invited Participant in Summit on the Future of Anglophone Christian Philosophy, convened by Notre Dame's Center for the Philosophy of Religion and the John Templeton Foundation (August, 2017)
- Diversity Assessment team, Westmont College (May, 2016)
- Steering Committee Member, Philosophy of Religion Group, American Academy of Religion (2015-2017)
- Grant Referee, The Experience Project Non-Residential Fellowship, Templeton Foundation (2015)
- Journal Referee: *JAAR*; *Mind*; *Political Theology*
- Book Manuscript Referee: Springer
- Dorm Parent, Indiana Wesleyan University (2014-2015)
- Bible exegesis tutor (Fall 2014)
- Committee Member for the Aldersgate Prize, Indiana Wesleyan University (September 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Board Member for The Society of Scriptural Reasoning (2010-2011)
- Coordinator of the Duke-University of Virginia Colloquium (2009)
- Convener of the Duke University Theology and Ethics Colloquium (2008-2009)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- "Anthropocentrism: A Problem for Neuroethology and Philosophical Theology" Post for Philosopher's Phriday, *The Daily Ant* Blog: <https://dailyant.com/2017/08/18/philosophy-phriday-anthropocentrism/> (August 18, 2017)
- Co-organizer (with George Hunsinger and Tommy Givens) of www.confessingfaculty.org
- Interview with Miroslav Volf for The Christian Humanist Podcast (March 27, 2017). <http://www.christianhumanist.org/2017/03/christian-humanist-profiles-104-miroslav-volf/>

- Interview with Nicholas Wolterstorff for the City of Man podcast, Episode 25. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-city-of-man/id1102245233?mt=2>
- Interview with David Ford, Athens and Jerusalem Seminar at Indiana Wesleyan University (March 24, 2014). http://media.indwes.edu/media/David+Ford+-+Spring+2014+Athens+and+Jerusalem+Seminar+/1_a66exbj5/11906001

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

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Warren Prof. of Catholic Theology
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