

7/1/2026

MICHAEL L. RAPOSA

Professor of Religion Studies
E. W. Fairchild Professor of American Studies
Lehigh University

ADDRESS:

Lehigh University
Religion Studies Department
Williams Hall
31 Williams Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18015
mlr0@lehigh.edu

Home address:
1763 North Boulevard
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Cell: 610-509-6969
Office: 610-758-3354

EDUCATION:

University of Pennsylvania, 1979-87, Ph.D. (religious studies)

Yale Divinity School, 1978-79, M.A.R.

University of St. Michael's College (University of Toronto), 1977-78 (religious studies)

Yale University, 1973-77, B.A. *cum laude* (philosophy; religious studies)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Lehigh University, Department of Religion Studies

Professor, 1997-present

Associate Professor, 1989-97

Assistant Professor, 1987-89

Instructor, 1985-87

Chairperson, 1989-91, 1994-97, 2012-15, 2021-22

Lehigh University College of Arts and Sciences

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, 2006-08

Sacred Heart University, Department of Religious Studies

Instructor, 1981-85

Director of Graduate Program, 1982-84

PUBLICATIONS:

Books

Studies in Scotism (work-in-progress)

Saudade: Philosophical Meditations on Time, Loss, and Love (work-in-progress)

Theosemiotic: Religion, Reading, and the Gift of Meaning (Fordham University Press, 2020)

Meditation and the Martial Arts (University of Virginia Press, 2003; paperback edition, 2024))

Boredom and the Religious Imagination (University of Virginia Press, 1999)

Peirce's Philosophy of Religion (Indiana University Press, 1989)

Articles, Book Chapters, Other Publications

“On the Relevance of Peirce’s Thought for Contemporary Theology,” (work-in-progress; chapter invited for publication in the *Peirce Comprehensive Handbook*)

“Pragmatism, Democracy, and the Option for the Poor,” (work-in-progress; chapter invited for a volume to be published by Fordham University Press)

“Meaning as Gift: A Peircean Contribution to Philosophical Theology,” *Open Semiotics* (forthcoming)

“Communicative Rationality and the Promise of Pragmatism,” *German Pragmatism Network Newsletter* 9 (December, 2025): 3-6

“Theology as an Experimental Science: Some Pragmatic Considerations,” in *Pragmatism and Philosophy of Science: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, eds. Roberto Gronda, Marianne Janack, and Giancarlo Marchetti (Routledge: 2025): 224-38

“On the naturalist foundations of any truly general theory of semiotics,” *Chinese Semiotics Studies* 21:3 (2025): 323-33. <https://doi.org/10.1515/css-2025-2017>

“Martial Spirituality and the Ethics of Attention,” *Journal of Contemplative Studies* 2 (2025): 33-48. (DOI:<https://doi.org/10.57010/JVVE7901>)

“Make Grace Come Green Again: Medieval Perspectives on Boredom,” in *The History and Philosophy of Boredom*, eds. Andreas Elpidorou and Josefa Ros Velasco. (Routledge, 2025): 104-16

“Semiotics and Psychotherapy,” *The American Journal of Semiotics* 40:1-4 (2024): 87-98

“The hidden reality discovered through ritual,” *IAI News* (October 22, 2024).
[/articles/the-hidden-reality-discovered-through-ritual-auid-2977](#)

“Musement as Epoché: Peirce and Husserl on Religious Experience,” *Phenomenology and Phaneroscopy: A Neglected Chapter in the History of Ideas*, eds. A.-J. Pietarinen and M. Shafiei, (Springer Nature, 2024): 173-88

“Peirce and Marcel on the Indeterminacy of Hope,” *Athanor: Semiotics, Philosophy, Art, Literature* XXXIII (2023): 141-54

“Some Ethical Applications of the Law of Mind,” *Journal of Dialogic Ethics: Interfaith and Interhuman Perspectives* 2:1 (2023): 48-60

“Martial Arts as Embodied Semiosis,” *Semiotics 2022: SSA Yearbook* (“Intentionality and Semiotic Labyrinths): 127-43

“Reading readers reading: a reply to my interlocutors,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 43:2-3 (May-September 2022): 117-35

“Liberation Theology: A Pragmatist Perspective,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 43:2-3 (May-September 2022): 37-57

“Further reflections on Peirce’s Scotism,” *Cognitio: Review of Philosophy*, 23:1 (2022): 1-9

“Pragmatism and the Future of Philosophical Theology,” in *Religion in Multidisciplinary Perspective: Philosophical, Theological, and Scientific Approaches to Wesley J. Wildman*, eds. Robert Neville and LeRon Shults, (SUNY Press, 2022): 107-27

“Pragmatism as Personalism: Religion and Communication in Peirce’s Thought,” *Journal of Communication and Religion*, 44:4 (Winter, 2021): 5-21

“Toward a Peircean logic of meditation,” *Semiotica*, 243:1 (2021): 153-70

“Charles Sanders Peirce,” in *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, eds C. Taliaferro and S. Goetz, (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2021), volume III, p. 1861-63.

“Theology, Metasemiosis, and the Ethics of Attention,” in *Sign, Method, and the Sacred: New Directions in semiotic methodologies for the study of religion*, eds. Jason Van Boom and Thomas-Andreas Poder (De Gruyter, 2021): 87-104

“Peirce and Racism: Biographical and Philosophical Considerations,” *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 57:1 (Winter, 2021): 32-44

“Some Comments on Roger Ward’s *Peirce and Religion*,” *The Pluralist*, 16:2 (Summer, 2021): 105-13

“Introduction to a Symposium on Robert C. Neville’s *Metaphysics of Goodness*,” *The Pluralist*, 15:3 (Fall, 2020): 1-7

“On Reading Pragmatically: A Delayed Response to Peter Ochs,” *Cognitio: Review of Philosophy*, 21:1 (2020): 99-111

“Peirce and Edwards on the Argument from Beauty,” in *American Aesthetics: Theory and Practice*, eds. Walter Gulick and Gary Slater, (SUNY Press, 2020): 59-74

“Praying the Ultimate: The Pragmatic Core of Neville’s *Philosophical Theology*,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, 40:3 (September 2019): 49-64

“On Reading God’s Great Poem: A Delayed Response to Christopher Hookway,” *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 54:4 (Fall, 2018): 485-95

“Instinct and Inquiry: A Reconsideration of Peirce’s Mature Religious Naturalism,” in *Pragmatism and Naturalism: Scientific and Social Inquiry after Representationalism*, ed. Matthew Bagger, (Columbia University Press, 2018): 27-43

“Holy Nostalgia: Toward a Sympathetic Critique of Religious Naturalism,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Religious Naturalism*, eds. Donald Crosby and Jerome Stone, (Routledge, 2018): 379-89

“Loyalty, Community, and the Task of Attention: On Royce’s ‘Third Attitude of the Will’,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, 37 (May 2016): 109–122.

“A Brief History of Theosemiotic: from Scotus through Peirce and beyond,” in *The Varieties of Transcendence: Pragmatism and the Theory of Religion*, eds. Hermann Deuser, Hans Joas, Matthias Jung, and Magnus Schlette (Fordham University Press, 2016): 142-57

“Pragmaticism among the Pragmatists: A Brief History and Future Prospects,” *Cognitio: Review of Philosophy*, 16:2 (2015): 321-34

“Pragmatism and the Spirit of the Liberal Arts,” *The Pluralist*, 10:1 (Spring, 2015): 64-79

“Love as Attention in Peirce’s Thought,” in *Charles S. Peirce in his own Words: 100 years of Semiotics, Communication and Cognition*, eds. Torkild Thellefsen and Bent Sorensen, (Mouton de Gruyter, 2014): 161-64

“On Being a Liberal Theologian in a Postliberal Age,” *The Heythrop Journal*, 55:3 (May 2014): 455–66

“Theology as Therapy: Reflections on Alina Feld’s *Melancholy and the Otherness of God*,” *Existenz* 7:2 (2012): 35-37

“Love’s Purposes, Hope’s Necessity, and the God of Pragmatism,” *Cybernetics and Human Knowing*, 19: 1-2 (2012): 47-57

“Musement as Listening: Daoist Perspectives on Peirce,” *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 39:2 (June 2012): 207–221

“Troubled Diversities, Multiple Identities and the Relevance of Royce: What makes a community worth caring about?” *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 44:4 (June 2012): 432-43

“Foreword” for Alina N. Feld’s, *Melancholy and the Otherness of God: A Study of the Hermeneutics of Depression* (Lexington Books, 2011), p. ix-xii

“The ‘Never Ending Poem’: Some Remarks on Dombrowski’s *Divine Beauty*,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 31 (September 2010): 207-24

“Theology, Racial Privilege and the Practice of Resistance,” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion* Volume 1, Issue 10 (September 2010): 1-32

“In the Presence of the Universe: Peirce, Royce and Theology as Theosemiotic,” *Harvard Theological Review* 103 (April 2010): 237-47

“Pragmatism, Democracy and the Future of Catholic Theology,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 30 (September 2009): 288-302

“Teaching Peirce as a Religious Thinker,” *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 44 (Spring, 2008): 214-16

Articles in *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*, eds. John Lachs and Robert Talisse, (Routledge, 2007)

- “Evolutionary Love,” p. 267-68
- “Meditation,” p. 497-98
- “Spirituality,” p. 736-37

“Martial Spirituality and the Logic of Pragmatism,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 28 (May 2007): 165-77

“Finding the Divine in the Everyday,” *Lehigh Alumni Bulletin* 92 (Winter, 2006): 21-22

“From a ‘Religion of Science’ to the ‘Science of Religions’: Peirce and James Reconsidered,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 27 (May/September 2006): 191-203

"The Uses of Pragmatism in Modern Theology," in *Theologie Zwischen Pragmatismus und Existenzdenken: Festschrift für Hermann Deuser*, eds. G. Linde, R. Purkarthofer, H. Schulze & P. Steinacker, (N.G. Elwert Verlag, 2006), p. 13-24

"Phenomenology as Phaneroscopy: Theology in a New Key," *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 27 (January 2006): 84-98

"Ritual Inquiry: the Pragmatic Logic of Religious Practice," in *Thinking Through Rituals: Philosophical Perspectives*, ed. Kevin Schilbrack, (Routledge, 2004), p. 113-27

"Semiotics," in the *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion*, ed. J. Wentzel Vrede van Huyssteen, Volume 2, (Macmillan Reference, 2003), p. 801-03

"Self-Control," *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 21 (September 2000): 215-29

"Pragmatism, Budo, and the Spiritual Exercises: The Moral Equivalent of War," *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 20 (May 1999): 105-21

"Peirce on the Semiotics of Awareness," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* LXVIII (Summer, 1994): 395-408

"The Fuzzy Logic of Religious Discourse," *American Journal of Semiotics* 10 (1993): 101-14

"Jonathan Edwards' Twelfth Sign," *International Philosophical Quarterly* XXXIII (June 1993): 153-62

"Theology as Theosemiotic," *Semiotics 1992* (Proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Semiotic Society of America): 104-11

"Peirce and Modern Religious Thought," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* XXVII (Summer, 1991): 341-69

"Peirce's Theological Semiotic," *Journal of Religion* 67 (October 1987): 493-509; reprinted in *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, Volume 81 (Gale Publications, 1999): 247-55

"Faith and Certainty," *The Thomist* 50 (January 1986): 85-119

"Boredom and the Religious Imagination," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* LIII (March 1985): 75-91

"Art, Religion and Musement," *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* XLII (Summer, 1984): 427-37

“Habits and Essences,” *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* XX (Spring, 1984): 147-67

“Religious Metaphor,” *Sacred Heart University Review* IV (Fall, 1983): 3-13

Reviews

Of T. L. Short’s *Charles Peirce and Modern Science*, in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 47:1(January 2026): 92-95

Of Sharaday Mosurjohn’s *The Spiritual Significance of Overload Boredom*, in the *University of Toronto Quarterly*, 93:3 (August 2024): 395-97

Of Sami Pihlstrom’s *Pragmatic Realism, Religious Truth, and Antitheodicy: On Viewing the World by Acknowledging the Other*, in *Cognitio: Review of Philosophy*, 21:2 (2020): 371-77

Of Jason Blakely’s *Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Taylor and the Demise of Naturalism*, in *The Heythrop Journal* 61:1 (January 2020): 173-74

Of *Consensus on Peirce’s Concept of Habit: Before and Beyond Consciousness*, eds. Donna E. West and Myrdene Anderson, in *The Pluralist* 14:2 (Summer, 2019): 112-17

Of Roger Ward’s *Peirce and Religion: Knowledge, Transformation, and the Reality of God*, in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 87:2 (June 2019): 565-68

Of Jacob Goodson’s *Narrative Theology and the Hermeneutical Virtues* in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 40:1 (January 2019): 67-71

Of Richard Atkins’ *Peirce and the Conduct of Life: Sentiment and Instinct in Ethics and Religion* in the *New England Quarterly* 91:2 (June 2018): 372-74

Of J. Caleb Clanton’s *Philosophy of Religion in the Classical American Tradition*, in *The Heythrop Journal* 59:2 (March 2018): 362-64

Of Aaron Bruce Wilson’s *Peirce’s Empiricism: Its Roots and Its Originality* in *The Heythrop Journal* 59:2 (March 2018): 361-62

Of Gary Slater’s *C.S. Peirce and the Nested Continua Model of Religious Interpretation* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2016.06.07; a second review of the same book published in the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 53:3 (Summer, 2017): 491-495

Of Michael Slater’s *Pragmatism and the Philosophy of Religion* in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 37 (May 2016): 174–179

Of Aristotle Papanikolaou's *The Mystical as Political: Democracy and Non-Radical Orthodoxy* in *The Heythrop Journal* 56:3 (May 2015): 473-74

Of Jason A. Springs' *Toward a Generous Orthodoxy: Prospects for Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology* in *The Heythrop Journal* 56:3 (May 2015): 505-06

Of Robert McKim's *On Religious Diversity* in *The Heythrop Journal* 55:3 (May 2014): 508–509

Of Robert Cummings Neville's *Realism in Religion: A Pragmatist's Perspective* in *The Pluralist* 9:1 (Spring, 2014): 104-08

Of John Woell's *Peirce, James, and a Pragmatic Philosophy of Religion* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2013.03.15

Of Michael Hogue's *The Promise of Religious Naturalism* in the *International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*, 72: 1 (August 2012): 59-62

Of Richard Gale's *John Dewey's Quest for Unity: The Journey of a Promethean Mystic* in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 31 (September 2010): 275-78

Of Judith Green's *Pragmatism and Social Hope: Deepening Democracy in Global Contexts* in the *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Newsletter* 108 (November 2009): 46-47

Of *Pragmatism and Religion* (Ed. S. Rosenbaum) in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 30 (May 2009): 213-17

Of S.J. McGrath's *Early Heidegger and Medieval Philosophy: Phenomenology for the Godforsaken* in *The Thomist* 71 (October 2007): 646-49

Of John Milbank's *Being Reconciled: Ontology and Pardon* in *The Thomist* 69 (April 2005): 322-26

Of Laurence Paul Hemming's *Heidegger's Atheism: The Refusal of a Theological Voice* in *The Thomist* 67 (April 2003): 306-10

Of Robert Corrington's *A Semiotic Theory of Theology and Philosophy* in *Modern Theology* 18 (April 2002): 302-04

Of Richard Gale's *The Divided Self of William James* in *First Things* 115 (Aug/Sept. 2001): 62-64

Of Victor Anderson, *Pragmatic Theology* in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 20 (January 1999): 81-85

Of James Jakob Liszka, *A General Introduction to the Semeiotic of Charles Sanders Peirce* in the *Religious Studies Review* 25 (January 1999): 55

Of *Studies in the Logic of Charles Sanders Peirce* (Eds. N. Houser, D. Roberts and J. Van Evra) in the *Religious Studies Review* 25 (January 1999): 55

Of John Milbank, *The Word Made Strange: Theology, Language, and Culture in The Thomist* 62 (October 1998): 633-37

Of Terrence Tilley, et al., *Postmodern Theologies: The Challenge of Religious Diversity* in the *Religious Studies Review* 23 (April 1997): 155

Of Jean Grondin, *Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics* in the *Religious Studies Review* 23 (April 1997): 150-51

Of Jack Miles, *God: A Biography* in *Cithara* 36 (November 1996): 38-39

Of Stephen H. Daniel, *The Philosophy of Jonathan Edwards: A Study in Divine Semiotics* in the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* XXXII (Fall, 1996): 720-26

Of William Dean, *The Religious Critic in American Culture* in the *Religious Studies Review* 21 (October 1995): 314

Of Michael A. Sells, *Mystical Languages of Unsayings* in the *Religious Studies Review* 21 (October 1995): 314

Of Michael Philips, *Between Universalism and Skepticism: Ethics as Social Artifact* in the *Religious Studies Review* 21 (July 1995): 217

Of Peter H. Van Ness, *Spirituality, Diversion, and Decadence: The Contemporary Predicament* in the *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 48 (1994): 173-78

Of Joseph Brent, *Charles Sanders Peirce: A Life in Nineteenth Century Prose* 21 (spring, 1994): 135-39; expanded version in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 15 (September 1994): 337-42

Of Frederick Ruf, *The Creation of Chaos: William James and the Stylistic Making of a Disorderly World* in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 14 (September 1993): 332-36

Of Marion Smiley, *Moral Responsibility and the Boundaries of Community* in the *Religious Studies Review* 20 (January 1994): 44-45

Of Stephen E. Fowl and L. Gregory Jones, *Reading in Communion: Scripture and Ethics in Christian Life* in *The Thomist* 57 (April 1993): 324-28

Of Judith Jarvis Thomson, *The Realm of Rights* in the *Religious Studies Review* 18 (October 1992): 317-18

Of Colin E. Gunton, *The Promise of Trinitarian Theology* in *Theology Today* XLIX (October 1992): 409-10

Of *God, Values and Empiricism* (Eds. W. Peden and L. Axel) in the *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* XXVIII (Spring, 1992): 371-78

Of Daniel Wilson, *Science, Community and the Transformation of American Philosophy, 1860-1930* in the *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Newsletter* 57 (June 1991)

Of Garrett Barden, *After Principles* in the *Religious Studies Review* 17 (October 1991): 341

Of Darrell Jodock, *The Church's Bible: Its Contemporary Authority* in *The Thomist* 54 (October 1990): 730-35

Of Wayne Proudfoot, *Religious Experience* in the *International Philosophical Quarterly* XXX (June 1990): 267-59

Of *Doctrine and Experience* (Ed. Vincent G. Potter) in the *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Newsletter* 56 (June 1990): 29-31

Of Donna M. Orange, *Peirce's Conception of God: A Developmental Study* in the *New Scholasticism* LX (Spring, 1986): 235-38

Of James F. Ross, *Portraying Analogy* in the *New Scholasticism* LIX (Spring, 1985): 233-37

Of Robert Almeder, *The Philosophy of Charles S. Peirce: A Critical Introduction* in the *Sacred Heart University Review* II (Fall, 1981): 43-47

PRESENTATIONS:

“Beyond Consensus: Semiotic Complementarity and the Ends of Inquiry,” (scheduled for presentation at the meeting of the Semiotic Society of America, in Pittsburgh, PA October 2026)

“Synechism and Semiotic Complementarity: A Peircean Perspective on Interspecies Relations,” (scheduled for presentation at the meeting of the German Pragmatism Network, in Heidelberg, September 2026)

“Ideality, Imagination, and Adjustment: Dewey on Religious Experience,” Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Chicago, IL; June 18, 2026)

“Friendship and the Semiotics of Joint Attention,” 49th Annual Conference of the Semiotic Society of America (Prague, Czech Republic; September 26, 2025)

“The Love that Remains: Religious Naturalism as a Manifestation of *Saudade*,” Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Harrisonburg, VA; June 17, 2025)

“Peirce’s Experimental *A Posteriori* Version of the Ontological Argument,” presented at a conference on *Charles S. Peirce’s Neglected Argument*, College of Fellows, University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; June 11, 2025)

“On the naturalist foundations of any truly general theory of signs,” invited keynote address at the Nanjing Normal University Semiotics Symposium 2025 on *Semiotics of the Good Life: Exploration through Multicultural Lenses* (Nanjing, China; June 2025) (remote)

“John Dewey’s Common Faith,” focus group presentation at the College of Fellows, University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; May 28, 2025)

“Josiah Royce’s Absolute Pragmatism,” focus group presentation at the College of Fellows, University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; May 14, 2025)

“Charles Peirce’s Religion of Science,” focus group presentation at the College of Fellows, University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; April 23, 2025)

“Theosemiotic and the Ethics of Attention,” invited lecture, presented at The Catholic Academy in Berlin (Berlin, Germany; April 3, 2025)

“On the Religious Significance of Boredom,” presented at the workshop on *Mundanity, Everydayness and God(s): Philosophical and Intercultural Perspectives*, College of Fellows, University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; March 4, 2025)

“Philosophical Pragmatism and the Ethics of Attention,” invited lecture, presented at the College of Fellows, University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; February 5, 2025)

“William James’s Science of Religions,” focus group presentation at the College of Fellows, University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; January 29, 2025)

“Pragmatism and the Study of Religion,” focus group presentation at the College of Fellows, University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; January 15, 2025)

“Some Comments on Robert Neville’s *Strange, Surprising, Sure: Essays in Uncommon Philosophy*,” meeting of the North American Paul Tillich Society, held in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion (San Diego, CA; November 22, 2024)

“Meaning as Gift: A Semiotic Analysis,” 48th Annual Conference of the Semiotic Society of America (Toronto, Canada; October 31, 2024)

“Philosophical Pragmatism and the Fruits of Petitionary Prayer,” College Theology Society Annual Convention, (Regis College, Denver, CO; May 31, 2024)

“The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius: A Semiotic Analysis,” invited lecture at the University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio, Texas, October 16, 2023)

“Semiotics and Psychotherapy,” Presidential Address, 47th Annual Conference of the Semiotic Society of America, (San Antonio, TX; October 12, 2023)

“The Medieval Roots of Peirce’s Pragmaticism,” Panel on "Roots and Anticipations of Pragmatism: The Late Middle Ages and Early Modernity," (Trinity College Dublin; June 22, 2023)

“On Borders and Boundaries: Comments for Porter, Wilck, and Smid,” Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Berlin, Germany; June 15, 2023)

“*Saudade*, Semiosis, and Ignatian Spirituality,” College Theology Society Annual Convention, (Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT; June 2, 2023)

“Martial Arts as Embodied Cognition: A Pragmatist Analysis,” American Academy of Religion (Denver, CO; November 21, 2022)

“Peirce and Maritain on Intuition: A Response to Donna West,” International Open Seminar on Semiotics (University of Coimbra, Portugal; July 13, 2022) (remote)

“Some Applications of the Law of Mind,” 4th Biennial Philosophy of Communication Conference: on Pragmatism (Pittsburgh, PA; June 7, 2022) (remote)

“Further Reflections on Peirce’s Scotism,” invited keynote address, 20th International Meeting on Pragmatism (Sao Paulo, Brazil; November 10, 2021) (remote)

“Theology as Therapy and Praxis,” presentation to the Boston Theological Society (March 25, 2021) (remote)

“Peirce and Racism: Biographical and Philosophical Considerations,” Presidential Address, Charles S. Peirce Society, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (New York, NY; January 8, 2021) (remote)

“Ward, Peirce and Religion: A Response,” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; March 5, 2020)

“Dear Rabbinic Pragmatists: A Reply to Peter Ochs,” Semiotic Society of America (Portland, OR; October 12, 2019)

“Religion as *relegere*: on the role of attention in the discernment of religious meaning,” meeting of the European Association for the Study of Religion (Tartu, Estonia; June 27, 2019)

“A Response to Rohr, Linde, and Chicka,” Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Asheville, NC; June 20, 2019)

“Boredom and the Moral Imagination,” invited lecture at the Stead Center for Faith and Values, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL; October 16, 2018)

“Nature as Urtext: A Theosemiotic Perspective,” presentation for a panel discussion on “New Semiotics: Equal Exchange, Interpretation, and Theological Alternatives,” Semiotic Society of America (Berea, KY; October 5, 2018)

“The Life and Legacy of C. S. Peirce,” opening presentation at the Twelfth Biennial Personalism Seminar: C. S. Peirce and Robert Corrington (West Carolina University; July 25, 2018)

“Toward a Peircean Pragmatic Scholasticism: An Intellectual Autobiography,” Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Berlin, Germany; June 18, 2018)

“Praying the Ultimate: Reading and Rereading Neville’s Philosophical Theology,” (invited presentation as part of a special panel celebrating Robert Neville’s retirement at Boston University; April 19, 2018)

“Sauntering with Daniel Campos: A Response to *Loving Immigrants in America: An Experiential Philosophy of Personal Interaction*,” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (Indianapolis, IN; March 10, 2018)

“On Reading God’s Great Poem: A Delayed Response to Christopher Hookway,” Charles Peirce Society (meeting in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion; Boston, MA; November 18, 2017)

“The Body as Instrument of Attention in Martial Spirituality,” American Academy of Religion (Boston, MA; November 18, 2017)

“Theology as Play, Inquiry, Praxis,” Semiotic Society of America (Puebla, Mexico; October 26, 2017)

“On Teaching the Work of Charles Peirce,” invited presentation at the Summer Institute of American Philosophy (University of Oregon; July 14, 2017)

“Pragmatism, Democracy and the Audacity of Hope,” invited presentation at Hannover Institute of Philosophical Research (Hannover, Germany; March 16, 2017)

“A friendly guide to reading Peirce’s Neglected Argument,” invited lecture, presented at The Catholic Academy in Berlin (Berlin, Germany; March 14, 2017)

“Rules for Discernment: An Exercise in Theosemiotic,” Semiotic Society of America (Delray Beach, Florida; September 30, 2016)

“Peirce and Edwards on the Argument from Beauty,” Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Manitou Springs, CO; June 14, 2016)

“Pragmaticism among the Pragmatists: A Brief History and Future Prospects,” invited keynote address, 16th International Meeting on Pragmatism (Sao Paulo, Brazil; November 12, 2015)

“On the Very Idea of a Virtual Community: Peirce and Royce Revisited,” invited keynote address, Semiotic Society of America (Pittsburgh, PA; October 1, 2015)

“Remarks Concerning the Relevance of Pragmatism for Contemporary Psychotherapy,” The Second European Pragmatism Conference (Paris, France; September 9, 2015)

“Loyalty, Volition, and the Metaphysics of Interpretation: a consideration of Royce’s ‘third attitude of the will,’” Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Asheville, NC; June 16, 2015)

“Pragmatism, Empiricism, and the Ideal of a Communicative Rationality,” American Academy of Religion (San Diego; November 2014; adapted version of paper presented in Helsinki in June)

“The Scholarly Legacy of Murray G. Murphey: Peirce and Beyond,” Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Conference, (University of Massachusetts, Lowell; July 18, 2014)

“Rereading Peirce: The 1898 Cambridge Conference Lectures,” presentation at the Summer Institute of American Philosophy, (University of Oregon, July 8, 2014)

“On reading Neville reading Pragmatism,” invited keynote address, Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Manitou Springs, CO; June 2014)

“Pragmatism, Empiricism, and the Ideal of a Communicative Rationality,” international conference on Pragmatism and Communication (University of Helsinki, Helsinki; Finland, June 4, 2014)

“Peirce’s Pragmatic Theory of Signs: Some Iberian Connections,” IARPT International Conference on “Atlantic Crossings: Empiricism, Pragmatism, and Naturalism,” (Pamplona, Spain; August 1, 2013)

“Signs, Selves, and Semiosis,” Language, Culture and Mind V, international conference on Integrating Semiotic Resources in Communication and Creativity (Portuguese Catholic University, Lisbon, Portugal; June 28, 2012)

“What may lie hidden in the icon: On boredom, ecstasy and the limits of semiosis,” Second International Congress on Ecstatic Naturalism (Drew University; April 13, 2012)

“A Brief History of Theosemiotic: from Scotus through Peirce and beyond,” International Conference on Pragmatism and the Theory of Religion (Erfurt, Germany; February 16, 2012)

“Theology as Therapy: Reflections on Alina Feld’s *Melancholy and the Otherness of God*,” Karl Jaspers Society of North America, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association: Eastern Division (Washington, D.C.; December 28, 2011)

“Prolegomena to any Future Theosemiotic,” invited keynote address, Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Highlands, NC; June 14, 2011)

“The Death of God and other Catastrophes,” Eye-Opening: A Celebration of Humanistic Scholarship at Lehigh on the occasion of the 10 Year Anniversary of the Lehigh Humanities Center (May 6, 2011)

“On Being a Liberal Theologian in a Post-Liberal Age,” American Academy of Religion Meeting, (Atlanta; November 2010; adapted version of paper presented at HIARPT in June)

“On Being a Liberal Theologian in a Post-Liberal Age,” Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, (Manitou Springs, CO; June 2010)

“Theology, Racial Privilege, and the Practice of Resistance,” American Academy of Religion (Montreal: November 2009)

“The ‘Never Ending Poem’: Some Remarks on Dombrowski’s *Divine Beauty*,” invited keynote address, Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, (Highlands, NC: June 2009)

“Pragmatist Resources for the Development of a Martial Spirituality,” Moravian College Philosophy Club (April 17, 2009)

Commentary on Ronald L. Hall’s “Normativity in Nature: Towards a Post-Critical Ontology,” at the Polanyi Society Group Meeting, in conjunction with the Annual

Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (Philadelphia: December 2008)

“Pragmatism, Democracy and the Future of Catholic Theology,” The Fifth International Conference of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Assisi, Italy: August 2008)

“Troubled Diversities, Multiple Identities and the Relevance of Royce: What Makes a Community Worth Caring About?” American Academy of Religion (San Diego, CA: November 2007)

“Teaching Peirce to Undergraduates,” presentation and panel discussion sponsored by the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (Columbia, SC: March 2007)

“Sources of C.S. Peirce’s Philosophy of Religion;” participant in panel discussion convened at the group meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Philosophical Association: Central Division (Chicago: April 2006)

“Not by Design: Some Remarks concerning the Logic of Peirce’s Neglected Argument,” The Atlantic Coast Pragmatism Conference (University of Virginia, Charlottesville: April 2006)

“Finding the Divine in the Everyday,” presentation at the Lehigh Chaplain’s Forum, as a panelist addressing the topic of “Intelligent Design” (September 2005)

“From a ‘Religion of Science’ to the ‘Science of Religions’: Peirce and James Reconsidered,” Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, (Highlands, NC: June 2005)

“In the Presence of the Universe: Peirce, Royce & Theology as Theosemiotic,” Josiah Royce Society (Vanderbilt University, Nashville: April 2005)

“Phenomenology as Phaneroscopy: Theology in a New Key;” invited lecture sponsored annually by the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, at the American Academy of Religion meeting (San Antonio: November 2004)

“Martial Spirituality and the Logic of Pragmatism,” Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Public Lecture (Highlands, NC: June 2004)

“Tillich and Pragmatism: a Response to Grigg, James and Nikkel,” American Academy of Religion meeting (Atlanta: November 2003)

“Theosemiotic in Peirce and the Later Royce,” Symposium on the Religious Writings of Charles S. Peirce (Denver: March 2003)

"Philosophy of Religious Rituals," American Academy of Religion (Toronto: November 2002)

"Bored to Death: Walker Percy on the Threat of Everydayness," American Academy of Religion (Nashville: November 2000)

"Remarks Concerning *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and Academic Affairs," Center Valley Forum, The Salesian Center for Faith and Culture (De Sales University, September 20, 2000)

"Self-Control," Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Highlands, North Carolina: June 2000)

"Can These Bones Live? Spiritual Numbness in the Age of Information," The Chaplain's Forum (Lehigh University, March 16, 2000)

"Pragmatism, Budo, and the Moral Equivalent of War," American Academy of Religion (Orlando: November 1998)

"On Religion, Science and Theories of Evolution," Conference on the Relationship between Religion and Science (Moravian College: March 12, 1997)

"Remarks Concerning Dreisbach and Grigg on the Theology of Paul Tillich," North American Paul Tillich Society (Chicago: November 1994)

"Exercises in Theosemiotic," The Second International Conference on Philosophical Theology, sponsored by the Highlands Institute for American Religious Thought (St. Andrews, Scotland: August 1993)

"*Acedia* and the Logic of Indifference," American Academy of Religion (San Francisco: November 1992)

"Theology as Theosemiotic," Semiotic Society of America (Chicago: October 1992)

"Jonathan Edwards' Twelfth Sign," American Academy of Religion (Kansas City: November 1991)

"Charles Peirce: Theist or Panentheist?" American Philosophical Association, Central Division (Chicago: April 1991)

"Through a Glass Darkly: Religious Discourse and the Logic of Vagueness," American Academy of Religion (New Orleans: November 1990)

"Modernity and the Crisis of Authority," (Muhlenberg College: April 4, 1990)

"Religion and Values without Peak-Experiences," (University of Pennsylvania: March 21, 1990)

“How Natural Is Natural Theology?” American Academy of Religion, Mid-Atlantic Region (Bethlehem, PA: March 1989)

“Peirce’s Theological Semiotic,” American Academy of Religion (Atlanta: November 1986)

“Boredom and the Religious Imagination,” American Academy of Religion (Chicago: November 1984)

HONORS AND AWARDS:

New Horizons Fellowship, University of Tübingen, Germany (for Spring, 2025)
Libsch Research Award, Lehigh University, 2023
College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Award for Research (Humanities), Lehigh U., 2023
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 2010
Hillman Faculty Award, Lehigh University, 2007
Keystone Award, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Lehigh University, 2007
E. W. Fairchild Chair in American Studies, Lehigh University, 2003
Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching by Senior Faculty, Lehigh University, 2001
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for Summer Seminar, 1996
Faculty Research Grant, Lehigh University, 1988, 1998, 2019
University of Pennsylvania Teaching Fellowship, 1978-79, 1979-80
Province of Ontario Graduate Fellowship, 1977-78

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

president, Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, 2020-24

president, Semiotic Society of America, 2022-23; **vice president/president-elect**, 21-22

president, Charles S. Peirce Society, 2020; **vice-president/president-elect**, 2019

editor, *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy*, 2009-14
(member of editorial board, 2007-09, 2019-present)

member, executive board, (Highlands) Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, 2004-09, 2026-present

member, executive board of the Semiotic Society of America, 2016-19, 2023-24 *ex officio*

member, executive committee of the Charles S. Peirce Society, 2017-18; 2021, *ex officio*

member, nominations committee for the Charles S. Peirce Society, 2015; 2022

member, advisory board for the Peirce Edition Project (sponsored by Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis), 2010-present

member, steering committee for the Group on Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought, AAR, 1993-95, 1997-2001, 2023-25; **co-chair**, 1995-97

member, nominations committee for the Semiotic Society of America, 2016-19

member, editorial board of *Signs* (an international journal of semiotics), 2007-present

member, editorial board of *Cognitio: Review of Philosophy* (published by the Center for Pragmatism Studies in Sao Paulo, Brazil), 2020-present

member, editorial board of the *Semiotics: SSA Yearbook*, 2021-present

member, American Academy of Religion
 College Theology Society
 Charles S. Peirce Society
 Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought
 Semiotic Society of America
 German Pragmatism Network
 International Society of Boredom Studies

convener, and chair of session on “Landmarks in Peirce Scholarship: Murray G. Murphey,” at the *Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Conference*, (University of Massachusetts, Lowell; July 18, 2014)

convener, and chair of session on “Peirce and Religion” at the *Charles Sanders Peirce Sesquicentennial International Congress*, held at Harvard University, September 1989

convener and moderator, Annual Lecture sponsored by the *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy* at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 2010-13

coordinator, with Gesche Linde, of a conference on “Peirce’s Neglected Argument,” held at the University of Tübingen (Tübingen, Germany; June 9-11, 2025)

coordinator, with Matthew Bagger, of conference on “Pragmatism, Naturalism, and Religion,” annual meeting of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (Asheville, NC; June 17-20, 2019)

coordinator, with Jon Taylor, of conference on Wentzel van Huysteen's Gifford Lectures, *Alone in the World? Human Uniqueness in Science and Theology*, annual meeting of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Highlands, NC, June 12-15, 2006

external evaluator, Humanities Department, Curry College, November 2018
Philosophy Department, U. of Massachusetts, Lowell, April 2015
Theology Department, De Sales University, April 1999 and 2003
Religion Department, Haverford College, March 2025

external evaluator (tenure and promotion),
Harvard Divinity School
Hofstra University
Meadville Lombard Theological School
Michigan State University
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

doctoral committee member or external examiner,
Boston University
Graduate Theological Union
Lehigh University (English and History departments)
Lutheran School of Theology (Chicago)
Oxford University
Princeton Theological Seminary
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
University of New England (Australia)
University of West Georgia
Catholic University of America

external examiner (undergraduate honors), Swarthmore College

reader/referee, Oxford University Press
Cambridge University Press
SUNY Press
Fordham University Press
Lexington Books
Sacred Heart University Press
Lehigh University Press
Baylor University Press
Bloomsbury Publishing
Palgrave Macmillan
Routledge Press
Catholic University of America Press
Journal of Religion

Journal of the American Academy of Religion
American Journal of Theology & Philosophy
American Journal of Semiotics
Journal of Speculative Philosophy
Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society
Religious Studies
The Pluralist
Modern Theology
Educational Philosophy and Theory
Philosophy East and West
Journal of Religious Ethics
British Journal of the History of Philosophy
Journal of Chinese Philosophy
Cognitio: Review of Philosophy
Revista Teorema
European Journal for Philosophy of Religion
European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy
Education and Culture
Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy
American Anthropologist
Semiotics: Semiotic Society of America Yearbook
Open Semiotics
Estudios de Filosofia
 National Endowment for the Humanities (research division)
 National Science Foundation (STS Program)

visiting instructor, Sacred Heart University (1989-2005, summer institutes)
 Moravian College (1990)
 Muhlenberg College (1996)
 De Sales University (1999-2002)
 Lafayette College (2003)

participant, The Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium's Philosophy of Religion
 Discussion Group (1990-2020, 2023-present)

COURSES TAUGHT:

Introduction to World Religions
 What is Religion?
 The Philosophy of Religion
 Modern Theology
 American Religious Thinkers
 Roman Catholicism in the Modern World
 Spiritual Exercises in Religious Traditions
 Meditation and the Martial Arts

Boredom and the Religious Imagination
 Religion and Play
 Symbol, Myth, and Ritual
 Happiness in Religious and Secular Practice
 Religion and Psychology
 Religion and Literature
 Religious Themes in the American Novel
 Truth and Text: Contemporary Theories of Interpretation
 Science, Technology, and the Religious Imagination
 Religion on Film: Contemporary Movies & Moral Meaning
 The Philosophical Theology of Duns Scotus
 Duns Scotus and Peirce's Scotism (faculty seminar)
 Science, Signs, and God: The Revolutionary Pragmatism of Charles S. Peirce
 The Philosophy of William James
 Varieties of Religious Naturalism
 The Political Theology of Reinhold Niebuhr
 The Political Theology of John Howard Yoder
 The Philosophy of Gabriel Marcel
 The Ethics of Attention: Simone Weil and Iris Murdoch
 Religious Existentialism
 South Mountain College Seminar and Investigations

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES:

associate dean for undergraduate programs, CAS, 2006-08
co-chairperson, Council for Equity and Community, 2008
chairperson, Religion Studies Department, 1989-91, 1994-97, 2012-15, 2021-22
co-organizer, Lehigh Faculty Caucus, 2012-14
director, Eckardt Scholar's Program, 2010-11
president, Lehigh Newman Foundation Board of Trustees, 1988-91; **member**, 1986-2005
member, search committee for a position (rank open) in Philosophy (2025-26)
member, working group on "Education with Purpose," as part of *Our Future, Our Lehigh*, strategic planning process, 2022-23
member, ad hoc committee to evaluate the IDEAS program, 2020-21
member, ad hoc committee to examine the College of Arts & Sciences degree requirements, 2017-18
member, steering committee for Lehigh Center for Global Islamic Studies, 2009-23
member, search committee for Vice President for Equity and Community, 2016
member, search committee for the Rathbone Chair in International Relations, 2015-16
member, faculty committee to evaluate candidates for CAS Dean's Awards, 2017, 2018
member, faculty committee for the Williamson Award for Social Research, 2014-16
member, faculty committee to evaluate NEH Summer Stipend proposals, 2013-14, 2024
member, steering committee for South Mountain College, 2009-15
member, planning committee for South Mountain College, 2005-07
member, steering committee for Lehigh Humanities Center, 2000-03, 2008-15

member, steering committee for American Studies Program, 2010-15, 2018
member, Provost's committee to review Eckardt Scholar's Program 2010
member, search committee for Apter Chair in Holocaust Studies, 2009-10
member, entrepreneurship task force, 2006-07
member, Integrated Degrees in Arts, Sciences and Engineering task force, 2006-07
member, First Year and Beyond committee (Middle States accreditation) 2006-07
member, CAS Policy Committee, 2005; *ex officio*, 2006-08; leave replacement, Fall, 17
member, Educational Policy Committee, *ex officio*, 2006-08
member, SOS (Standing of Students) Committee, 2006-08
member, Undergraduate Associate Deans' Committee, 2006-08
member, search committee for Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid, 2006-07
member, planning committee for Presidential inaugural research symposium, 2006-07
member, Recruiting & Communications Subcommittee of the Lehigh Enrollment Management and Planning Team, 2007-08
member, Faculty Governance Review Committee, 2002-04
member, Faculty Research Grant Committee, 2001-09
member, College of Arts and Sciences Planning Committee, 1998-99
member, Dean's Advisory Council, 1989-91, 1994-97, 2012-15, 2021-22
member, Academic Advisory Board, Berman Center for Jewish Studies, 1989-2000
member, Lehigh Study Committee (sponsored by the Sloan Foundation), 1996-97
member, Student Appraisal of Instruction Committee, 1989-91
member, Provost's planning committee, "Future of the University" conference, 1989-90
member, committee to draft Mission Statement for the College of Arts & Sciences, 1993
member, search committee for head cross-country and track & field coaches, 1996
member, Lehigh Study Abroad Faculty Policy Board, 1995-98
member, University Task Force on Student Advising, 1995-96
member, Lehigh University Cosmos Club, 1986-88, 2002-03
member, faculty committee for Williams Prizes, 1995-98
member, steering committee for the LVAIC Ecumenical Seminar, 1998-2000
organizer, CAS Candidates' Day, 2006, 2007, 2008
reviewer, for the *Lehigh Review*, 1999, 2000
faculty mentor, Lehigh University Student Scholars Institute (LUSSI), 2022-23
faculty mentor/recruiter, Lehigh men's track/cross country teams, 2022-24
academic advisor, majors/minors in Religion Studies, 1988-91, 1994-97, 2012-15, 20-21
academic advisor, 1st/2nd year: 1990-2000, 2002-03, 2005-15, 2019-20
faculty fellow, Taylor Residential College, 1987-88
library liaison, for the Religion Studies Department, 1987-90
participant, Lehigh University Interpretation Seminar, 1985-89
participant, Lehigh Tai Chi Study Group (directed by William Newman), 1990-2005
faculty adviser, Lehigh Aikido Club, 2015-20
secretary, Lehigh Valley Aikikai at Lehigh University, 1996-2020
volunteer, official at Lehigh U. cross country and track & field meets, 1990-2006