

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University, Ph.D., August 1995, Philosophy.
Vanderbilt University, M.A., May 12, 1995, Philosophy (minor track Cognitive Science).
San Francisco State University, M.A., Jan. 2, 1991, Philosophy (minor track Religion, Cognitive Science).
San Francisco State University, B.A., *Cum Laude*, May, 1985, Philosophy and Religion.

TOPICAL AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Philosophy of Language and Cognitive Science
Epistemology (incl. History and Philosophy of Science)
Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science
Logic
Philosophy of Religion

HISTORICAL AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Contemporary Continental Philosophy
Contemporary Analytic Philosophy
American Pragmatism
Comparative Medieval Philosophy (Latin, Byzantine, Muslim, Hindu)
History of Religion

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Ethics (incl. Applied Ethics - Science Research, Engineering, Business, Biomedical Research and Clinical Ethics)
Theology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Science and the Orthodox Church of North America, 2010 to present
Bioethicist, Science Research Oversight, 2000- present.
Instructor, Undergraduate General Education Program, Argosy University, 2009 to present.
Instructor, General Education Department, High-Tech Institute, Nashville, 2003-2009.
Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Vanderbilt University, 2004.
Bioethicist, Program in Clinical and Research Ethics, Meharry Medical College, Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Meharry Medical College Alliance, 2001-2003.
Outside Tenure Referee, Department of Religion, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, 2002.
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina at Columbia, 2000-2001.
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 2000.
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Religion and Philosophy Department, Fisk University, 1996-1999.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, School of Engineering, Vanderbilt University, 1997-1999.
Faculty Participant, Writing Across the Curriculum Humanities Core Curriculum Teaching and Faculty Development Workshop, FIPSE Grant, Fisk University, Summer 1998.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religion, Aquinas College, Nashville, Spring 1996.
Instructor, Department of Philosophy, Vanderbilt University, 1993-1995.
Graduate Assistant Reader in Classics, Instructor, Logic Tutor, Philosophy Department, San Francisco State University, 1986-1990.

PUBLISHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Manuscript Referee, SUNY Press, 1996 to present.

Course and Curriculum Designer, Argosy University, 2009 to present.

Course and Training Seminar Developer for Continuing Medical Education Credit, Program in Clinical and Research Ethics, Meharry Medical College, 2001-2003.

Consulting and Copy Editor and Contributing Author developing courses, study guides, and curricula in ethics, political theory, philosophy, and history of science, Knowledge Products Inc., Nashville, TN., 1994-95.

Consulting and Copy Editor, various publishers and clients, 1982 - present.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED AND HOSTED

2003 - June 23-24 *Issues, Ethics, and You: A Community Discussion of HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Research and Treatment*, Sheraton Music City Hotel, sponsored by the Program in Clinical and Research Ethics, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, Center on AIDS and other Medical Consequences of Drug Abuse, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH, DHHS, Academy for Educational Development, Alcohol and Drug Council of Middle Tennessee, First Response Wellness Center, IMANI Coalition, Nashville Metropolitan Health Department, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church, Nashville CARES, National Minority AIDS Education and Training Center, Project COPE, Street Works, Vanderbilt University Medical Center HIV Vaccine Trials Unit, and W.O.M.E.N.

2002 - October 30 *Everyday Ethics for Future Physicians*, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN.

2002 - August 21-23 *Research Ethics for Today: Questions of Integrity, Privacy, and Diversity*, Nashville Marriott Hotel, sponsored by Program in Clinical and Research Ethics and Research Centers in Minority Institutions, Specialized Neuroscience Research Program, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, Food and Drug Administration, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare - NIH, DHHS, Office of Human Research Protections - NIH, DHHS and Clinical Trials Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

2001 - September 28-29 *Bringing Ethics to Life in Human Subjects Research: A Case Approach*, Scarritt-Bennett Center, sponsored by the Program in Clinical and Research Ethics, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and the Food and Drug Administration.

PAPERS AND PUBLICATION

SPEAKER

2011 - *Still in the Labyrinth: Questions about the Nature of Artifice and the Artifice of Nature in Modern Science*, International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

2011 - *Telepathy in Spiritual Direction: Remarkable Affinities in the Ontology of Spiritual Direction as Microcosm in Plotinian Neoplatonism and Huayen Buddhism*, International Society for Neo-Platonic Studies, Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

2008 - *Reality as Symbolic Semeiosis: Parallels in the Philosophies of Ernst Cassirer and Charles Peirce*, Tennessee Philosophical Association, Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University.

2003 - *Is the Doctrine of Informed Consent Itself an Outcome of Mutual Informed Consent? - Some Practical Problems With Unilateral Definitions in Ethics*, National Minority AIDS Education and Training Center Meeting, Meharry Medical College.

2000 - *Mysticism: The Spiritual Life as Advanced Virtue Ethics*, Philosophy Lecture Series, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, TN.

1999 - *The Metaphysical Semantics of American Pragmatism and Neoplatonism*, International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University.

1998 - *Towards a Pragmatist Philosophy of Language: Context, Grammar, and Speech Acts as Mutual Normative Frames for Communicative Interaction and Ethical Deliberation*, Tennessee Philosophical Association, Vanderbilt University.

1996 - *Noetic Culture in Hesychasm: Intellection as a Forgotten Faculty and Virtue*, Tennessee Philosophical Association, Vanderbilt University.

1994 - *Are Languages Worldviews?: Structuralism, Chomskyan Linguistics, and the Sapir-Whorf Incommensurability Hypothesis*, Invited Speaker, Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Northern Iowa.

THOMAS METHER
CURRICULUM VITAE

1987- *Teaching Logic as an Applied Ethics Course in Responsible Reasoning*, Teaching and Professional Development In-Service, Philosophy Department, San Francisco State University.

COMMENTATOR AND RESPONDENT

2009 – Commentator *No Last Word: The Eschatological Limit of Philosophical Reflection in Ricoeur: A Reply to Chris King*, Tennessee Philosophical Association, Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University.
2008 – Commentator on *Contempt and Disgust in the Journey of Nietzsche's Zarathustra*, by Aaron McClain of University of Tennessee – Knoxville, Tennessee Philosophical Association, Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University.
1998 - Commentator on *Plotinus on Differentiae, Sensible Substance, and Quality*, by Scott Hick of University of Memphis, Tennessee Philosophical Association, Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University.
1996 - Commentator on *Skepticism and Animal Faith: Santayana*, by Charles Padron of Vanderbilt University, Tennessee Philosophical Association, Vanderbilt University.

CONFERENCE CASE STUDY AUTHOR

2003- “Case Study: Ethical Issues with Rapid HIV Testing,” *Issues, Ethics, and You: A Community Discussion of HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Research and Treatment*, Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville, TN.
2002- “Recruitment and Retention of Minorities in Human Subjects Research: A Case Study,” *Research Ethics for Today: Questions of Integrity, Privacy, and Diversity*, Nashville Marriott Hotel, Nashville, TN.

CONFERENCE PANELIST

2003 - “Case Study: Ethical Issues with HIV Vaccines,” *Issues, Ethics, and You: A Community Discussion of HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Research and Treatment*, Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville, TN.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK CHAPTER

“Nature as Mystery: Towards a Religious Philosophy of Science,” contributed chapter in *Orthodox Christianity and Science*, ed. Daniel Buxahevendon, Ashgate Publishing, forthcoming.
“Science and Reductionism,” contributed chapter in *Orthodox Christianity and Science*, ed. Daniel Buxahevendon, Ashgate Publishing, forthcoming.
“The Affinities Between Dewey’s Pragmatism and Plotinian Philosophy,” contributed chapter to *Platonic Traditions in American Thought: Proceedings of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies*. University of the South Press, 2008.

ARTICLES

“Reality as Symbolic Semeiosis: Parallels in the Philosophies of Ernst Cassirer and Charles Peirce,” *Transactions of the Charles Peirce Society*, 2009 (under review).
“Self-Affirmation in the Face of Mortality versus Morality: Myth as Ambivalent Mediator in the Philosophy of Ernst Cassirer,” *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 2009 (under review).

THESIS SUPERVISION

Senior Honors Thesis, Fisk University 1997 Senior Thesis, University of Tennessee – Chattanooga, 1999

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, HONORS

Fellowship and Teaching Stipend, Vanderbilt University, 1993-1994.
Graduate Assistantship Fellowship, San Francisco State University, 1987-1988.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Philosophical Association
American Catholic Philosophical Association
Society of Christian Philosophers
International Society for Neoplatonic Studies
Tennessee Philosophical Association
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics

MASTER'S THESIS

The Structure of Human Evil and the Moral Basis of Philosophy: A Speech Act Linguistic Model. Advisor: James Syfers, San Francisco State University.

DISSERTATION

Towards a Pragmatist Philosophy of Language, Ethics, Law, and Democracy: Cognitive and Communicative Models from Philosophy and Cognitive Science. Advisor: John Lachs. (Outside Readers: Department of Psychology)