

Brad East

Assistant Professor of Theology
Abilene Christian University, College of Biblical Studies
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EDUCATION

- 2017 Yale University
Ph.D. (M.A., M.Phil) in Religious Studies (Theology)
Dissertation: *The Church's Book: Theology of Scripture in Ecclesial Context in the Work of John Howard Yoder, Robert Jenson, and John Webster*
Committee: Kathryn Tanner (advisor), David Kelsey, Miroslav Volf, Stephen Fowl
- 2011 Emory University, Candler School of Theology
M.Div. *summa cum laude* (Theology and Ethics)
- 2007 Abilene Christian University
B.A. *summa cum laude* in Biblical Text

BOOKS

- Technology: For the Care of Souls* (Lexham Ministry Guides; Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2026).
- Letters to a Future Saint: A Catechism for Believers on the Way* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2025).
- The Church: A Guide to the People of God* (Christian Essentials; Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2024).
- The Church's Book: Theology of Scripture in Ecclesial Context* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2022).
- The Doctrine of Scripture* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2021).

EDITED BOOKS

- Robert W. Jenson, *The Triune Story: Collected Essays on Scripture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- "The Fittingness of Holy Orders," *Journal of Christian Studies* (forthcoming).
- "Churches of Christ: Once Catholic, Now Evangelical," *Restoration Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- "Is Scripture a Gift? Reflections on the Divine-Ecclesial Provision of the Canon," *Religions* 13:10 (2022): 961; <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13100961>.
- "Theology in the Dark: Introducing Karen Kilby's *God, Evil, and the Limits of Theology*," *Political Theology* 22:5 (2021): 368–372.

“What Are the Standards of Excellence for Theological Interpretation of Scripture?,” *Journal of Theological Interpretation* 14:2 (2020): 149–179.

“The Church and the Spirit in Robert Jenson’s Theology of Scripture,” *Pro Ecclesia* 28:3 (2019): 278–300.

“What is the Doctrine of the Trinity For? Practicality and Projection in Robert Jenson’s Theology,” *Modern Theology* 33:3 (2017): 414–433.

“John Webster, Theologian Proper,” *Anglican Theological Review* 99:2 (2017): 333–351.

“The Hermeneutics of Theological Interpretation: Holy Scripture, Biblical Scholarship, and Historical Criticism,” *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 19:1 (2017): 30–52.

“Reading the Trinity in the Bible: Assumptions, Warrants, Ends,” *Pro Ecclesia* 25:4 (2016): 459–474.

“An Undefensive Presence: The Mission and Identity of the Church in Kathryn Tanner and John Howard Yoder,” *Scottish Journal of Theology* 68:3 (2015): 327–344.

“Hooking In, Sitting Loose: A Call for Theology in the Churches of Christ,” *Restoration Quarterly* 54:4 (2012): 219–228.

“Though the Earth Give Way: Haiti, Suffering, and the Crucified God,” *The Other Journal* 16:5 (2010).

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Teaching Christ,” *On Teaching Theology: Essays*, ed. Adam A. Neder (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2024).

“Liberating the Least of These,” *The Liberating Arts: Why We Need Liberal Arts Education*, ed. Jeffrey Bilbro, Jessica Hooten Wilson, and David Henreckson (Walden, NY: Plough, 2023), 163–174.

“On Knowing,” *Cornerstone*, ed. Cliff Barbarick (6th–9th eds.; ACU Learning Studio, 2018–23), 113–127.

“Preaching Peace in Violent Times: Faithful Approaches for Pacifist Pastors to Speak the Truth in Love,” *Preaching and the Theological Imagination*, ed. Zachary Guiliano and Cameron Partridge (New York: Peter Lang, 2015), 231–250.

“A Response to Jon Coutts on Barth and the Coen Brothers,” *Karl Barth in Conversation*, ed. David Congdon and W. Travis McMaken (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2014), 247–254.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Konrad Schmid and Jens Schröter, *The Making of the Bible: From the First Fragments to Sacred Scripture*, in *Interpretation* (forthcoming).
- Fred Sanders, *Fountain of Salvation: Trinity and Soteriology*, in *Pro Ecclesia* (forthcoming).
- David H. Kelsey, *Human Anguish and God's Power*, in *Stone-Campbell Journal* (forthcoming).
- R. B. Jamieson and Tyler R. Wittman, *Biblical Reasoning: Christological and Trinitarian Rules for Exegesis*, in *International Journal of Systematic Theology* (forthcoming).
- Jordan Senner, *John Webster: The Shape and Development of His Theology*, in *Scottish Journal of Theology* 76:1 (2023): 92-93.
- Edwin Chr. van Driel, *Rethinking Paul: Protestant Theology and Pauline Exegesis*, in *Modern Theology* 39:1 (2023): 163–167.
- Oliver D. Crisp, *Analyzing Doctrine: Toward a Systematic Theology*, in *Stone-Campbell Journal* 24:1 (2021), 86–87.
- Steven J. Duby, *God in Himself: Scripture, Metaphysics, and the Task of Christian Theology*, in *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 22:3 (2020): 452–455.
- Joseph K. Gordon, *Divine Scripture in Human Understanding: A Systematic Theology of the Christian Bible*, in *Anglican Theological Review* 102:2 (2020): 328–330.
- Keith D. Stanglin, *The Letter and Spirit of Biblical Interpretation: From the Early Church to Modern Practice*, in *Interpretation* 74:2 (2020): 214–215.
- Hans Boersma, *Scripture as Real Presence: Sacramental Exegesis in the Early Church*, in *Interpretation* 73:1 (2019): 91–92.
- Kevin J. Vanhoozer, *Biblical Authority After Babel: Retrieving the Solas in the Spirit of Mere Protestant Christianity*, in *Interpretation* 73:1 (2019): 90–91.
- Gary Anderson, *Christian Doctrine and the Old Testament: Theology in the Service of Exegesis*, in *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 19:4 (2017): 534-537.
- John Howard Yoder, ed. Gayle Gerber Koontz and Andy Alexis-Baker, *Theology of Mission: A Believers Church Perspective*, in *Scottish Journal of Theology* 69:3 (2016): 370–371.
- Nicholas M. Healy, *Hauerwas: A (Very) Critical Introduction*, in *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 18:2 (2016): 236–239.
- Scott R. Swain, *The God of the Gospel: Robert Jenson's Trinitarian Theology*, in *Pro Ecclesia* 23:4 (2014): 471–474.

Kevin Giles, *The Eternal Generation of the Son: Maintaining Orthodoxy in Trinitarian Theology*, in *Restoration Quarterly* 56:3 (2014): 188–189.

Duane Olson, *Issues in Contemporary Christian Thought: A Fortress Introduction*, in *Restoration Quarterly* 55:4 (2013): 255–256.

Lee Camp, *Who Is My Enemy?: Questions American Christians Must Face About Islam—and Themselves*, in *Restoration Quarterly* 55:2 (2013): 124–126.

LECTURES, TALKS, PANELS

“The Call of Abraham, the Coming of Christ, and the People of God,” The Springs Church of Christ, Edmund, OK, July 29–30, 2023.

“Friendships, Gifts, and Loving Christ with Your Mind,” University Scholars Chapel Service, Abilene, TX, April 27, 2023.

“Christian Teaching About the Soul,” University Church of Christ, March 8, 2023.

“Four Friendships for the Life of the Mind,” Phi Eta Sigma Induction Ceremony, Abilene, TX, February 17, 2023.

“Knowing Christ,” ACU Commencement Address, Abilene, TX, December 16, 2022.

“The Word of the Lord,” Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest, Abilene, TX, October 19, 2022.

“Preaching for Martyrs in Training,” Summit Lectureship, Abilene, TX, October 14, 2022.

“Reading Scripture with the Church,” University Church of Christ, August 31, 2022.

“Tradition and Liturgy for Churches of Christ,” University Church of Christ, August 24, 2022.

“Response to Reviews of *The Doctrine of Scripture*,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 8, 2022.

“Hearing the Word of the Lord,” Intersection Webinar: Siburt Institute for Church Ministry, April 12, 2022.

“The Word of the Lord: Reading Scripture in and for Christ’s Body,” CSART Public Lecture, Abilene, TX, February 15, 2022.

“Covenant and Sacrament,” Highland Church of Christ, Abilene, TX, May 1, 2021.

“A Third Way for Churches of Christ,” University Church of Christ, Abilene, TX, March 4, 2020.

“A Third Way for Churches of Christ,” Summit Lectureship, Abilene, TX, September 18, 2019.

- “The Lord Reigns: On the Ascension,” Westgate Church of Christ, July 24, 2019.
- “Untidy Scripture, Systematic Theology: Some Friendly Questions for Joe Gordon,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Lubbock, TX, June 7, 2019.
- “Saint Monica of Hippo: The Persistent Widow,” Highland Church of Christ, April 10, 2019.
- “How to Think, or: How to Resist the Social Media-fication of Relationships,” Summer Seminar, Abilene, TX, August 3, 2018.
- “Theology of Scripture: Ecclesiological Reflections,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 6, 2018.
- “Theological Reflections on Movies as Prayers,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 6, 2018.
- “Unlike Any Other Book: Theological Reflections on the Bible and its Faithful Interpretation,” Baylor University, Waco, TX, February 10, 2018.
- “How Should We Read John Howard Yoder in Light of His Abuse of Women?” Ethics Colloquium, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 18, 2015.
- “Undefensive Ecclesiology and Engaging the Wider Tradition”; “10 Commitments of Theological Interpretation,” Heritage Christian University, Florence, AL, April 1, 2015.
- “Some Nonnegotiables in Theological Interpretation Done Well, or: On Keeping the Fight Alive with Biblical Scholarship,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 5, 2014.
- “Patiently Awaiting the Death and Resurrection of the Universe: Eschatological Memory and Ecological Ethics in 2 Peter 3:1–13,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 7, 2013.
- “An Undefensive Presence: The Mission and Identity of the Church in Kathryn Tanner and John Howard Yoder,” annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November 19, 2012.
- “Hooking In, Sitting Loose: A Call for Theology in the Churches of Christ,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 7, 2012.
- “Disciples of a State Criminal: How the Mission of the Church Relates to the U.S. Imprisonment Crisis,” Stone-Campbell Journal Conference, Lincoln Christian University, Lincoln, IL, April 14, 2012.

ESSAYS, POPULAR VENUES, ONLINE MEDIA

- “The Reckoning of Wendell Berry,” in *The Point* (forthcoming).

- “The Wrong Theory: On Christopher Watkin’s *Biblical Critical Theory: How the Bible’s Unfolding Story Makes Sense of Modern Life and Culture*,” in *Comment* (forthcoming).
- “The Bible in America: On Mark Noll’s *America’s Book: The Rise and Decline of a Bible Civilization*,” in *The Christian Century* (forthcoming).
- “Response to *The Home of God: A Brief Story of Everything* by Miroslav Volf and Ryan McAnnally-Linz,” in *Syndicate* (forthcoming).
- “Theology in Division,” in *First Things* 332 (April 2023): 7-9.
- “Once More, Church and Culture,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* 4 (Winter 2023): 71-79.
- “The Church’s Holy Scripture,” *The Great Tradition* podcast (March 10, 2023).
- “The Church’s Book,” *A History of Christian Theology* podcast (January 4, 2023).
- “Response to Alastair Roberts on *The Church’s Book*,” in *Theopolis Conversations* (August 11, 2022).
- “The Church in the Immanent Frame: On Andrew Root’s *Churches and the Crisis of Decline: A Hopeful, Practical Ecclesiology for a Secular Age*,” in *First Things* (July 14, 2022).
- “The Ruins of Christendom: On Stanley Hauerwas’s *Fully Alive: The Apocalyptic Humanism of Karl Barth*,” in *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (July 10, 2022).
- “The Church’s Book,” *Crackers and Grape Juice* podcast (July 8, 2022).
- “Another Option for Christian Politics,” in *Front Porch Republic* (July 4, 2022).
- “On Faith in a Better World ‘When Losing is Likely,’” *Arts of Travel* podcast (June 19, 2022).
- “Can We Be Human in Meatspace? On Andy Crouch’s *The Life We’re Looking For: Reclaiming Relationship in a Technological World*,” in *The New Atlantis* 69 (Summer 2022): 81–92.
- “The Doctrine of Scripture,” *Mere Fidelity* podcast (April 26, 2022).
- “The Liberating Arts,” *Liberal Learning for Life* podcast (April 25, 2022).
- “Unlearning Machines: On Audrey Watters’ *Teaching Machines: The History of Personalized Learning*,” in *Comment* (March 24, 2022).
- “Israel’s Canaanite Conquest Presents a Question with Four Possible Answers: On Charlie Trimm’s *The Destruction of the Canaanites: God, Genocide, and Biblical Interpretation*,” in *Christianity Today* (March 22, 2022).
- “Marked by Death,” in *First Things* (March 2, 2022).

- “Jewish Jesus, Black Christ,” in *The Christian Century* 139:3 (February 9, 2022): 20–25.
- “Grace upon Grace,” in *Comment* (January 13, 2022).
- “Still Supersessionist? On Timothy Jackson’s *Mordecai Would Not Bow Down: Anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and Christian Supersessionism*,” in *Commonweal* 148:10 (November 2021): 44–46.
- “Dragons in the Deep Places: On Ross Douthat’s *The Deep Places: A Memoir of Illness and Discovery*,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (October 26, 2021).
- “Power in the Blood: On Eugene F. Rogers Jr.’s *Blood Theology: Seeing Red in Body- and God-Talk*,” in *The Hedgehog Review* 23:3 (Fall 2021): 144–148.
- “Statistics as Storytelling: On Jason Blakely’s *We Built Reality: How Social Science Infiltrated Culture, Politics, and Power*,” in *The New Atlantis* 66 (Fall 2021): 114–122.
- “Market Apocalypse: On Rodney Clapp’s *Naming Neoliberalism: Exposing the Spirit of Our Age*,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (August 25, 2021).
- “When Losing Is Likely,” in *The Point* (June 18, 2021).
- “Covidtide Tridium,” in *First Things* (April 2, 2021).
- “To See God in the Darkness: On Tish Harrison Warren’s *Prayer in the Night*,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (March 24, 2021).
- “The Circumcision of Abraham’s God,” in *First Things* (January 1, 2021).
- “Advent I: The Face of God,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (November 30, 2020).
- “Can the Humanities Find a Home in the Academy? An Interview with Jon Baskin,” *The Liberating Arts* podcast (November 30, 2020).
- “Befriending Books: On Reading and Thinking with Alan Jacobs and Zena Hitz,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (November 23, 2020).
- “The Jesus of History and the Gods of Natural Theology: On N. T. Wright’s *History and Eschatology: Jesus and the Promise of Natural Theology*,” in *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (November 19, 2020).
- “Why the Church Needs Christian Colleges: An Interview with Alan Noble,” *The Liberating Arts* podcast (Oct 19, 2020).
- “Be Fearful as Christ Was Fearful,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (June 30, 2020).

- “Christ Suffered For Our Sins, but He Didn’t Go to Hell for Them: An Interview with Matthew Emerson,” in *Christianity Today* (April 9, 2020).
- “Sacraments, Technology, and Streaming Worship in a Pandemic,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (April 2, 2020).
- “Are We Idol Worshipers?” in *The Christian Century* 137:6 (March 11, 2020): 39–40.
- “Birth on a Cross,” in *The Christian Century* 136:18 (August 28, 2019): 10–11.
- “A Better Country: On Michael Brendan Dougherty’s *My Father Left Me Ireland: An American Son’s Search for Home*,” in *Plough* (August 7, 2019).
- “Briefly Noted: Chris E. W. Green’s *The End is Music: A Companion to Robert W. Jenson’s Theology*,” in *First Things* 295 (August/September 2019): 60–61.
- “Enter Paul: On Paula Fredriksen’s *Paul: The Pagans’ Apostle* and *When Christians Were Jews: The First Generation*,” in *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (June 23, 2019).
- “Five Theses on Preaching,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (June 7, 2019).
- “The Specter of Marcion,” in *Commonweal* 146:4 (February 22, 2019): 12–13.
- “An Anti-Enlightenment Ax to Grind: A Review of Craig A. Carter’s *Interpreting Scripture with the Great Tradition: Recovering the Genius of Premodern Exegesis*,” in *The Christian Century* 136:4 (February 13, 2019): 45–49.
- “The Church and the Common Good,” in *Comment* (January 17, 2019).
- “First Things and Last Things in Christian Theology: On Ian McFarland’s *From Nothing: A Theology of Creation* and Paul Griffiths’ *Decreation: The Last Things of All Creatures*,” in *The Marginalia Review of Books* (October 26, 2018).
- “God and All Things in God: The Theology of John Webster,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (August 20, 2018).
- “A Brief Introduction to John Webster,” in *Anglican Theological Review* 100:3 (2018): 561–562.
- “In Captivity to the Zeitgeist: A Review of David P. Gushee and Glen H. Stassen’s *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*,” in *Living Church* (March 11, 2018): 31–32.
- “Holy Ambivalence: On Patrick Deneen’s *Why Liberalism Failed* and James K. A. Smith’s *Awaiting the Kingdom: Reforming Public Theology*,” in *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (March 1, 2018).
- “Public Theology in Retreat: On Three New Essay Collections by David Bentley Hart,” in *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (September 20, 2017).

“Systematic Theology and Biblical Criticism: On Ephraim Radner’s *Time and the Word: Figural Reading of the Christian Scriptures*,” in *The Marginalia Review of Books* (June 22, 2017).

“Theologians Were Arguing about the Benedict Option 35 Years Ago,” in *Mere Orthodoxy* (March 13, 2017).

“Renewing the Heart of Systematic Theology: On Katherine Sonderegger’s *Systematic Theology: Volume 1, The Doctrine of God*,” in *The Marginalia Review of Books* (August 2, 2016).

“Discerning the (Holiday) Spirits: On Prophecy in the Negative Mode Only,” in *Tokens Blog* (December 19, 2013).

“Interview with Miroslav Volf,” in *Missio Dei* 4:2 (August 2013).

“Turn, Turn, Turn, Turning No More: An Eschatological Reflection on Ecclesiastes 3:1–11,” in *The Princeton Theological Review* 17:1 (Fall 2011): 69–73.

“Why Theology Matters,” in *New Wineskins* (July 21, 2010).

“*Battlestar Galactica*: Frakking Feminist—So Say We All!” in *Slant Magazine’s The House Next Door* (March 20, 2009).

HONORS, AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS

2023–2024	Cullen Grant, Abilene Christian University
2022–2023	Cullen Grant, Abilene Christian University
2021–2022	Teacher of the Year, Abilene Christian University
2021–2022	Cullen Grant, Abilene Christian University
2021	Experiential Learning Development Grant, Abilene Christian University
2020–2023	Networking Grant for Christian Scholars, CCCU (project participant)
2020–2021	Outstanding Undergraduate Faculty of the Year, College of Biblical Studies (ACU)
2020–2021	Templeton Grant, Gratitude to God Project, Biola University
2020–2021	Cullen Grant, Abilene Christian University
2015–2017	Graduate Fellowship Award, Christian Scholarship Foundation
2015	Louise and Richard Goodwin Prize for Excellence in Theological Writing
2014–2016	Doctoral Fellowship, Louisville Institute
2014–2015	Graduate Research Lecturer, Heritage Christian University
2011	Award for Academic Excellence, Candler School of Theology
2008–2011	Honor Scholarship, Candler School of Theology
2007	University Scholar Award, Abilene Christian University
2004–2007	Presidential Scholarship, Abilene Christian University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Experience

Abilene Christian University:

Fall 2023 Ecclesiology; Introduction to Christian Faith
 Spr 2023 Theology; Christian Ethics; Digital Habits for Ministry (Colloquium)
 Jan 2023 Christianity and Culture
 Fall 2022 Ecclesiology; Digital Technology and Christian Practice
 Spr 2022 Theology; Christian Ethics
 Jan 2022 Christianity and Culture
 Fall 2021 Ecclesiology; Digital Technology and Christian Practice
 Spr 2021 Ethics; Theology; Technology and the Good Life (Honors Colloquium)
 Jan 2021 Christianity and Culture
 Fall 2020 Ecclesiology; Christianity and Culture
 Spr 2020 Ethics; Acts to Revelation
 Jan 2020 Christianity and Culture
 Fall 2019 Theology; Ecclesiology; Christianity and Culture
 Sum 2019 Christianity and Culture (online)
 Spr 2019 Theology; Acts to Revelation
 Jan 2019 Christianity and Culture
 Fall 2018 Survey of the Gospels; Ecclesiology; Christianity and Culture; Freshman Seminar
 Sum 2018 Christianity and Culture (online)
 Spr 2018 Ethics; Acts to Revelation
 Jan 2018 Christianity and Culture
 Fall 2017 Survey of the Gospels; Ecclesiology; Freshman Seminar
 Sum 2017 Christianity and Culture (online)
 Jan 2017 Christianity and Culture

Yale Divinity School:

Spr 2016 Christian Social Ethics (Adam Eitel)
 Fall 2015 Theology and the New Testament (Dale Martin and Kathryn Tanner)
 Spr 2015 Medieval Theology (Denys Turner)
 Fall 2014 Patristic Theology (Christopher Beeley)

Editorial Work

2020–2021 Guest Editor for Book Forum on Karen Kilby, *Political Theology*
 2017–2021 Theology Book Review Editor, *The Marginalia Review of Books*

Professional Service

2022– Society of Biblical Literature (steering committee, theological interpretation)
 2020– *Modern Theology* (peer review)
 2020– *Restoration Quarterly* (peer review)
 2019– *International Journal of Systematic Theology* (peer review)
 2019–2022 Christian Scholarship Foundation (review board)
 2012–2015 Christian Scholars’ Conference (early scholars committee)

Conference Organization

President, “Panel: Amy Peeler, *Women and the Gender of God*,” Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, TX, November 19, 2023.

Convener, “Panel: Joseph Gordon, *Divine Scripture in Human Understanding: A Systematic Theology of the Christian Bible*,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 7, 2019.

Convener, “Panel: Keith Stanglin, *The Letter and Spirit of Biblical Interpretation: From the Early Church to Modern Practice*,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 6, 2019.

Convener, “Negotiating Scripture and Culture,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Abilene, TX, June 4, 2015.

Convener, “Reading the Old Testament as Scripture: A Conversation Between Ellen Davis and Walter Brueggemann on Biblical Interpretation, Theology, and the Relationship Between Church and Academy,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 6, 2014.

Convener, “Faith in Public: A Conversation Between John Hare and Charles Mathewes on Religious Commitment, Christian Ethics, and Political Engagement,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Nashville, TN, June 7, 2013.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion; Society of Biblical Literature