

SAMEER YADAV

Westmont College
Religious Studies
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EMPLOYMENT

Westmont College	Santa Barbra, CA
• Associate Professor of Religious Studies	2019 – present
• Assistant Professor of Religious Studies	2015 – 2019
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
Boise State University	Boise, ID
• B.A. Philosophy	May 1998

RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization

- Systematic/Philosophical Theology, Theology and Race, Mysticism and Religious Experience

Areas of Competence

- Philosophy of Religion, Analytic Theology, Historical Theology, 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 (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).
- "Toward an Analytic Theology of Liberation," in *Marginalized Identities, Peripheral Theologies: Expanding Conversations in Analytic Theology*, edited by Michelle Panchuk and Michael Rea (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- "Willie Jennings on the Supersessionist Pathology of Race: A Differential Diagnosis," in *T&T Clark Companion to Analytic Theology*, edited by J.T. Turner and J. M. Arcadi (T&T Clark, forthcoming)
- "Biblical Revelation and Inspiration," in *Oxford Handbook on Revelation*, edited by Balázs M. Mezei, Francesca Murphy and Kenneth Oakes (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- "Religious Racial Formation Theory and its Metaphysics," in *The Lost Sheep in Philosophy of Religion: New Perspectives on Disability, Gender, Race, and Animals*, edited by Blake Hereth and Kevin Timpe (Routledge, 2019).
- "Divine Hiddenness and the Imaging Defense," in *Love, Human and Divine*, eds. James Arcadi and Jordan Wessling (T&T Clark, 2018)
- "Christian 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

- Natalia Marandiuc, *The Goodness of Home* (Oxford University Press, 2018), forthcoming, on *Syndicate* forum.
- Tim Crane, *The Meaning of Belief: Religion from an Atheist's Point of View* (Harvard University Press, 2017), in *The Journal of Religion* 99/1 (2019): 103-105.
- Lydia Schumacher, *Theological Philosophy*, for AAR's *Reading Religion* site: <http://readingreligion.org/books/theological-philosophy> (June 17, 2018)
- 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

Book-length projects in progress:

- *God of Wonder: Mysticism and the Transformation of Theology*
- *The Race Set Before Us: Christian Social Ontology and the Geographically Marked Body*
- *Scripture, Doctrine and the Task of Theology* (an intro to Christian theology textbook requested by Baker Academic)

Articles in progress:

- “Religious Language,” in *Handbook for Philosophy of Religion: Probing the Mysteries of Faith, Truth and Meaning* (Rowman & Littlefield, forthcoming), ed. Mark A. Lamport
- “Apophatic Anthropology and Black Natural Law: Howard Thurman on the Mystical Self as Political Self”
- “Divine Transcendence and the Mystery of the Trinity”

Reviews in progress:

- John McClendon III, *Black Christology and The Quest for Authenticity: A Philosophical Appraisal* (Lexington, 2019), for *Faith and Philosophy*.

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

- “The Spirit and Trinitarian Mysterianism,” L.A. Theology Conference. La Mirada, CA, January 2020.
- “Apophatic Anthropology and Black Natural Law,” for panel on *Mysticism and Resistance*. American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, CA, Nov 2019.

- “The Race Set Before Us: The Geographically Marked Body and the Christian Liberal Arts.” Phi Kappa Phi Lecture, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. March 19, 2018.
- “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

- “The Metaphysics of Racial Formation,” Religion, Culture, and Diversity Symposium. Utah Valley University. February 6, 2020.
- “Toward a Social Ontology of Race and Religion,” Philosophy colloquium at UNC Asheville, NC. October 28, 2019.
- “Theistic Wonder and Epistemic Desire in Mystical Theology,” presentation for “Mysticism in Religious Thought and Practice” Workshop. Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. June 20, 2019.
- “MLK’s Letter from a Birmingham Jail and the Christian Politicization of Race: Some Historical and Theological Context.” Guest lecture for Jim Taylor and Sarah Skripsky’s Augustinian Seminar. Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. April 16, 2019.
- “Wonder in the Christian Mystical Tradition.” Westmont Philosophy Colloquium. Santa Barbara, CA. March 21, 2019.
- “Race and the Future of Christian Philosophy,” panelist for “The Future of Christian Philosophy” session of the 40th Anniversary of the Society of Christian Philosophers. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, IN. September 15, 2018.
- “Race in a Christian Social Ontology,” Plenary paper for Logos Conference 2018. University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN. May 25, 2018.
- “Christianity and Race: From the New Testament to Charlottesville” Charlottesville teach-in panel, with Ed Song, Meredith Whitnah, Rachel Winslow, Lisa De Boer, Paul Willis. Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. Sept. 18 2017.
- “Scripture and the Spiritual Senses.” 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.
- “Scripture as Signpost,” Westmont Philosophy Colloquium. Santa Barbara, CA. December 14, 2016.
- “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.
- “Why I am a Christian” Westmont Religious Studies and Philosophy Chapel, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA. November 2, 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.
- “Apophatic Wonder.” Westmont Philosophy Colloquium. Santa Barbara, CA. November 9, 2015.
- “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

- CCCU Planning Grant, with Adam Green (APU) and James Arcadi (TIU), for "Experiencing the Sacred" Project 2019
- John Templeton Foundation Grant awarded for *Ignorance and Bliss* 2018-2019
- Arnold L. and Lois S. Graves Award in the Humanities 2018
- Phi Kappa Phi Award, Westmont College 2017
- 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

- Assistant Professor, Religious Studies

2015 –

RS 020: Christian Doctrine

RS 129: Divine Hiddenness

RS 131: Theology and Race

RS 180: Senior Seminar

“Birth and Death” (2015)

“Violence and War in Christian Perspective” (2018)

“Jesus the Slave” (2020)

Indiana Wesleyan University

Marion IN

- Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, John Wesley Honors College

2012 – 2015

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

Duke Divinity School

Durham, NC

- Faculty, Course of Study for Ordained Ministry

Summer 2010 – 2012

SCOS 414: Christian Social Ethics

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Invited survey participant. “Survey Report on the State of Theology. Phase II: Theology’s Context” conducted by Sean Larsen, editor of *Syndicate*, sponsored by the Templeton Religious Trust.
- Organizer, “Mysticism in Religious Thought and Practice” workshop, hosted by Westmont College with a grant from the John Templeton Foundation, June 19-21, 2019.
- Diversity Committee, Society of Christian Philosophers (2018-2021)
- Steering Committee Member, Philosophy of Religion Group, American Academy of Religion (2015-present)
- New Faculty Orientation Panel, Westmont College, August 18, 2017
- Invited Participant in Summit on the Future of Christian Philosophy, convened by Notre Dame’s Center for the Philosophy of Religion and the John Templeton Foundation (August, 2017)
- Augustinian Scholars Visit-Day Panel, Westmont College, January 21, 2017
- Diversity Assessment team, Westmont College (May, 2016)

- Co-author and organizer (with George Hunsinger and Tommy Givens) of the “Confessing Faculty” Statement www.confessingfaculty.org
- Grant Referee, The Experience Project Non-Residential Fellowship, Templeton Foundation (2015)
- Journal Referee: *JAAR*; *Mind*; *Political Theology*; *Religions*; *Res Philosophica*
- Book Referee: Bloomsbury, Oxford University Press, Springer
- Dorm Parent, Indiana Wesleyan University (2014-2015)
- Aldersgate Prize Committee, Indiana Wesleyan University (2012-2015)
- 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)

MEDIA

- Interviewee for *OnScript* Podcast <https://onscript.study/podcast/sameer-yadav-theology-race-and-the-mystical-tradition/>
- Interviewee for Notre Dame’s Center for the Philosophy of Religion series. November 8, 2018: <https://www.govserv.org/US/South-Bend/356144241087154/Center-for-Philosophy-of-Religion---University-of-Notre-Dame>
- Interviewee in 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/>
- Interviewer of Miroslav Volf (with Ed Song) for The Christian Humanist Podcast (March 27, 2017). <http://www.christianhumanist.org/2017/03/christian-humanist-profiles-104-miroslav-volf/>
- Interviewer of Nicholas Wolterstorff (with Ed Song) for the City of Man podcast, Episode 25. (December 19, 2016). <http://www.christianhumanist.org/2016/12/city-of-man-episode-25-an-interview-with-nicholas-wolterstorff/>
- Interviewer of 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_a66exbj5/24339721

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Sarah Coakley
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Christina Van Dyke
Professor of Philosophy
Calvin College
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Grand Rapids, MI 49546
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Helen De Cruz
Danforth Professor of Philosophy
St. Louis University
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Stanley Hauerwas
Gilbert T. Rowe Prof. of Theological Ethics
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Reggie Williams
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