

Joshua Ralston

Reader in Christian-Muslim Relations
School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh
New College, Mound Place
Edinburgh EH1 2LX
Joshua.Ralston@ed.ac.uk

EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D. Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University
- 2008 M.Div. Candler School of Theology, Emory University
- 2005 M.Th. New College, University of Edinburgh (World Christianity)
- 2003 B.A. Wake Forest University (Philosophy)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Sept 2015-Present School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh
 Reader in *Christian-Muslim Relations* (August 2019-Present)
 Lecturer in *Muslim-Christian-Relations* (September 2015-July 2019)
- Jan 2013-June 2015 Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, VA)
 Instructor of *Theology*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Law and the Rule of God: Shari'a in Christian-Muslim Debates. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020 (in press).

Edited Volumes

The Cambridge Companion to Islamic Political Theology. New York: Cambridge University Press (solicited, under review)

The Challenges of Religious Diversity in Europe: Comparative Perspectives. Co-edited with Klaus Von Stosch. Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 2019.

Church in an Age of Global Migration: A Moving Body. Co-edited with Susanna J. Snyder and Agnes Brasil. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2015.

Journal Articles

“Is Comparative Political Theology Possible?” *Political Theology* (forthcoming in 2020 in special edition on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Political Theologies).

“Islam as Christian Trope: The Place and Function of Islam in Reformed Dogmatic Theology.” *The Muslim World* (2017): 754-776.

“Bearing Witness: Reframing Christian-Muslim encounter in light of the refugee crisis.” *Theology Today* 74 (2017): 22-35.

“Toward A Political Theology of Refugee Resettlement.” *Theological Studies* 73 (2012): 363-390.

Journal Editorials

“Political Theology in Arabic.” *Political Theology* (2018): 549-552.

“Dogmatic and Historical Theology in B.A. Gerrish’s *Christian Faith*.” *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 18 (2016): 255-258.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“Karl Barth, Religion, and Religions” in *Oxford Handbook to Karl Barth*. Edited by Paul Dafydd Jones and Paul T. Nimmo. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019: 637-653.

“Analogies across Faiths: Barth and Ghazali on Speaking after Revelation” in *Karl Barth and Comparative Theology*. Edited by Christian Collins Winn and Martha Moore-Keish. New York: Fordham University Press, 2019: 117-136.

“An Interreligious Kairos Moment: Christian-Muslim Relations in an Age of Migration.” *Jürgen Moltmann and the Future of Theology*. Edited by Douglass Meeks. Lexington Press, 2018: 123-140.

“On the Way(s) of Salvation: The Function of Law in John Calvin and Abu Hamid al-Ghazali.” *Comparative Theology: Insights for Christian Systematic Reflection*. Edited by Michelle Voss-Roberts. New York: Fordham University Press, 2016: 255-273.

“Gathered From All Nations: Catholicity and Migration.” *Church in an Age of Global Migration: A Moving Body*. Edited by Susanna Snyder, Joshua Ralston, and Agnes Brazal. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2015: 35-50.

“Preaching Makes the Church: Recovering a Missing Ecclesial Mark.” *John Calvin’s Ecclesiology*. Edited by Eddy van der Borght and Gerard Mannion. New York: Continuum Press, 2011. 125-142.

Review Essays

“Mapping the Eternally (un)Divided City” A Response to Alain Epp Weaver’s *Mapping Exile and Return*, Syndicate Theology (online March 11, 2015, forthcoming in print).
<https://syndicatetheology.com/commentary/maps-eternally-undivided-city/>

Book Reviews

Mohammad Hassan Khalil, “Islam and the Fate of Others: The Salvation Question” *Interpretation*, (68) 2014, 102-103.

ACADEMIC PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Commentary as expert Protestant Comparative Theologian,” *Ways to Reconciled Diversity in Islam and Christianity*, University of Paderborn (23-26 June, 2019).

- “Witness and Truth Claims: A Hermeneutics of Contestation,” New Philosophical and Theological Foundations for Christian-Muslim Dialogue, International Conference co-sponsored by Iranian Association for the Philosophy of Religion, Society of Comparative Religion in Slovenia, and University of Paderborn (28-29 May, 2019).
- “Law as Provisional Witness: Shari’a in Christian-Muslim Debate,” Yale Divinity School (26 March, 2019).
- “Shari’a and Sovereignty in Christian-Muslim-Secular Debates,” Hamad bin Khalifa University (14 February, 2019).
- “Muslim Migration and the Borders of Christian Europe,” AAR Annual Meeting, Denver (19 November, 2018).
- “Judgement on the Cross: Resurrection as Divine Vindication,” International Conference on Comparative Theology and the Atonement, Boston College (29 September, 2018).
- “Communities of Resilience: Signs of Hope in Muslim-Christian Encounter,” The Brien O’Brien and Mary Hasten Lecture in Interreligious Dialogue, Boston College (27 September, 2018).
- “Islamic Anthropology in Comparative Perspective,” Between God and Mankind: Chances and Challenges in Islamic Anthropology, Swiss Center for Islam and Society, University of Fribourg (13 September, 2018).
- “Speech as a Divine Attribute: A Christian Proposal in Conversation with Ash’arite Kalām,” Speaking of the One God: Divine Essence and Attributes in Christian-Muslim Debates, Christian-Muslim Studies Network, University of Edinburgh (16 July, 2018).
- “Christian Political Theology and the European Migration Debate,” Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics Seminar, University of St Andrews (19 April, 2018).
- “A Dialogue on Shari’a in Christian-Muslim Relations,” with Prof Mona Siddiqui, Villanova University (16 March, 2018).
- “Respondent,” Kalām: Reframing Islamic Philosophy, John Templeton Foundation Conference, University of Edinburgh (4-5 December, 2017).
- “Is Comparative Political Theology Possible?: Responses to O’Donovan, Northcott, and Callewaert,” The Futures of Public Theology Conference, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh (1 December, 2017).
- “The Qur’an as Divine Speech: A Christian Consideration,” International Conference on Theology of Religions, The Newman Institute, Uppsala (6 October, 2017).
- “Judaism, Islam, and Christianity: A Comparative Political Theological Proposal?” International Conference on Public Life and Religious Diversity, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford (8 September, 2017).
- “Witness: A Proposal for Theological Debate in Christian-Muslim Encounter,” Christian-Muslim Studies Network Conference, University of Edinburgh (6 September, 2017).

- “The Political Theology of Migration,” Symposium on New Perspectives on Political Pluralism and Religious Conflict, Institut Français d’Écosse, Edinburgh (10 May, 2017).
- “Muslim Migration and the Borders of Europe,” American University of Cairo (19 April, 2017).
- “Interreligious Encounter in Migration,” Regent’s College, University of Oxford (27 February, 2017).
- “Incarnation and Idolatry: Jesus in Christian-Muslim Debate,” STT Jakarta Theological Seminary (6 February, 2017).
- Speech in the Divine Life: A Christian Consideration in Reference to Islamic Theology,” Theology Seminar, University of Cambridge (25 January, 2017)
- “Theological Engagements with Secularisms in Europe,” Horizon 2020 Symposium, Cologne, Germany (11 January 2017)
- “Bearing Witness: Moltmann and Interreligious Encounter in Migration,” Unfinished Worlds: Jürgen Moltmann at 90, Emory University (19 October, 2016)
- Emigration, Occupation, and Steadfast Presence: Palestinian Christian Political Theology,” World Christianity Seminary, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh (29 March, 2016)
- “Calvin’s Extra and Islamic Critiques of the Incarnation,” University of Paderborn (3 February, 2016)
- “Ritual Embodiment after Iconoclasm: A Sunni and Protestant Comparative Liturgical Theology,” AAR Annual Meeting: Atlanta (22 November, 2015)
- “Islam is the Answer, Shari’a is the Solution,” October 2, 2015, Confronting Religious Violence Conference, Union Theological Seminary: New York, NY.
- “The Limits of Nostra Aetate for Christian-Muslim Theology,” May 24, 2015, Vatican III: Remembering the Future, Georgetown University: Washington, D.C.
- “On Bearing Witness: A Framework for Christian-Muslim Encounter,” February 8, 2015, The Currie Mission Lecture, Union Presbyterian Seminary: Charlotte, North Carolina.
- “Jerusalem, O Jerusalem: A Response to Alain Epp Weaver’s *Mapping Exile and Return*,” November 23, 2014, AAR National Meeting: San Diego, California.
- “New Wine, Old Wineskins: Schleiermacher on the Single Decree,” November 23, 2014, AAR National Meeting: San Diego, California.
- “Analogies of Faith: Barth and Ghazali on Revelation and Hermeneutics,” November 21, 2014, AAR National Meeting: San Diego, California.
- “On the Way(s) of Salvation: Calvin and Ghazali,” March 1, 2014, Wake Forest Divinity School: Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
- “Incarnation and Idolatry: The Question of Jesus in Christian-Muslim Relations,” February 17, 2014, The Dawe Lecture, Union Presbyterian Seminary: Richmond, Virginia.

- “Tawhid and Transcendence: A Response to Mona Siddiqui’s *Christians, Muslims, and Jesus*,” November 23, 2013, AAR National Meeting: Baltimore, Maryland.
- “The Catholicity of the Spirit: A Reformed Ecclesiology,” April 19, 2012, Assisi 2012: Pathways for Dialogue in the 21st Century: Assisi, Italy.
- “The Comeback of Christendom?: Christian Political Theology and Muslim Immigration,” November 21, 2011, AAR National Meeting: San Francisco, California.
- “Citizens and Refugees: The Theological Ambiguities of National Citizenship,” April 12, 2011, ETSC Scholars Forum: Cairo, Egypt.
- “Gathered from All Nations: Refugees and Reformed Ecclesiology,” November 1, 2010, AAR National Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia.
- “Preaching Makes the Church: Recovering a Missing Ecclesial Mark,” November 9, 2009, AAR National Meeting: Montreal, Quebec.
- “Re-Writing Calvin: Schleiermacher and the Priestly Office of Christ,” May 26, 2009, Calvin and His Influence: 1509-2009: Geneva, Switzerland.
- “Separation without Marginalization: A Theo-Legal Account of Mosque, Church, and State,” November 3, 2008: AAR National Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.
- “The ‘Matter’ of the Eucharist in Bénédet Bujo’s African Catholic Ecclesiology,” November 20, 2006, AAR National Meeting: Washington, D.C.

OPINION PIECES AND PUBLIC ACADEMIC WRITING

- “Secularism and the history of Christian-Muslim Relations” *History and Theorizing the Secular: A Symposium*, The Immanent Frame (6 September, 2017)
- “The Same God, or the One God? On the Limitations and Implications of the Wheaton Affair,” ABC Religion and Ethics (12 January, 2016)
- “How Political Theologians Should (Not) Engage with Islam: Responding to John Milbank and Adrian Pabst,” ABC Religion and Ethics (27 August, 2014)
- “Islamophobia and the Comeback of Christendom,” ABC Religion and Ethics Portal (4 August 2014)
- “Can Christians Advocate for Palestinian Rights and not be Anti-Semitic?” ABC Religion and Ethics Portal (13 May, 2013)
- “Prophetic Protest: Palestinian Settlement and the witness of Bab al-Shams,” ABC Religion and Ethics Portal (1 February, 2013)
- “Refugees and the Role of Religious Organizations,” ABC Religion and Ethics Portal (28 July, 2010)

SERVICE TO THE INSITUATION

University of Edinburgh

Co-Founder and Director of the Christian-Muslim Studies Network (January 2017-Present)

Programme Director: Ph.D. and M.Sc. in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations (August 2017-Present)

Chair of the Board of Examiners (August 2016-August 2019)

Undergraduate Programme Coordinator: Theology and Philosophy (September 2015-August 2019)

Union Presbyterian Seminary

Academic Program Committee (August 2013-June 2015)

GSERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

Associate Editor, *Political Theology* (October 2019-Present)

Editorial Board, *Journal for the Study of Interreligious Relations* (May 2019-Present)

International Editorial Board, Ferdinand Schöningh's Beiträge für Komparativen Theologie series (2017-2022)

International Advisory Board, *Christianity in the Middle East: Historical Sketches and Contemporary Practices*, Rowman & Littlefield Steering Committee (2018- 2021)

Reformed Theology and History AAR Steering Committee, 2015-present

Advisor to Organizing Committee, *Vatican II—Remembering the Future: Ecclesiological Investigations 9th International Conference* (Georgetown University, 2015)

External Reviewer

Journals: *Political Theology*, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *Religions*, *Islam and Christian Muslim-Relations*.

Monographs: *Routledge*, *Edinburgh University Press*, *Cambridge*

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Christian-Muslim Studies Network, Henry Luce Foundation, \$425,000 (2017-2019, Principal Investigator)

Seed funding for Christian-Muslim Studies at Edinburgh, Global Innovation Fund, University of Edinburgh, £5,000 (2016)

Emory University Postgraduate Language Grant, \$3,000 used toward Arabic courses in Ramallah (2011-2012)

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Emory University Graduate Fellowship, 2008-2013
Emory Summer Language Fellowship (Arabic), Summer 2011
MDiv Award for Academic Excellence, Candler School of Theology 2008

MEMBERSHIP

American Academy of Religion
Society of Muslim Ethics

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Arabic (MSA, Levantine Colloquial), French, German