

THOMAS A. WETZEL

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EDUCATION

- TH.D., THE DIVINITY SCHOOL/HARVARD UNIVERSITY** (2015)
Major field of concentration: Hebrew Bible
Dissertation: "Violence and the Survival of Israel in the Book of Esther"
Major advisor/Dissertation director: Jon D. Levenson
- PH.D., ENGLISH/LITERARY STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE** (2000)
Major field of concentration: American literature, 1865-present
Dissertation: "A Graveyard for the Midwest: Sherwood Anderson, Søren Kierkegaard, and the Sacred in Midwestern Literature"
Major advisor/Dissertation director: James Sappenfield (deceased)
- M.A. STUDIES, THEOLOGY, MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY** (2006)
Major field of concentration: biblical studies
Major advisor: Deirdre Dempsey
- M.A., ENGLISH/LITERARY STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE** (1994)
Thesis: "Eyes Full of the Land Dug out of His Skull: Finding Place in the Works of William Faulkner"
Major advisor: Robert B. Jones (deceased)
- B.A., SUMMA CUM LAUDE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE** (1990)
Major: philosophy

WORK HISTORY

- LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO** (2016–present)
Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Department of Theology
Undergraduate Program Director
- MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY (CEDAR RAPIDS, IA)** (2012–2016)
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
Religious Studies Program Coordinator
- CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION (CHICAGO, IL)** (2009–2011)
Adjunct Instructor, Biblical Studies
- LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO** (2009–2011)
Adjunct Instructor, Department of Theology
- HARVARD THEOLOGICAL REVIEW/HARVARD THEOLOGICAL PRESS** (2006–2010)
Editorial Assistant and Book Manuscript Editor
- MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY (MILWAUKEE, WI)**
Adjunct Instructor, Department of Theology (2008)
Teaching Assistant and Graduate Instructor, Department of Theology (2003–2005)
- CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY (RIVER FOREST, IL)** (1999–2003)
Assistant Professor of English
Writing Center Director
- UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE**
Graduate Instructor of English and Literary Studies (1994–1999)
Associate Lecturer, Department of Learning Skills (1993–1994)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Deuteronomistic History, especially the Josianic crisis and its influence on New Testament thought
 Prophetic biblical literature and its interpretation (both Former and Latter Prophets)
 Violence and pacifism in the Bible and in the Jewish and Christian traditions
 Jewish-Christian dialogue
 Creation and covenant as a united biblical theology
 Flannery O'Connor: her theology, narrative voice, and the influence of Scripture on her writing

PUBLICATIONS

- *Violence and the Survival of Israel* (book-length manuscript under exclusive consideration revision/review with Jewish Publication Society)
- “An Unpleasant Little Jolt: Flannery O'Connor’s *Creation ex Chaos*” (currently under review for publication)
- “War in the Bible.” *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives* ed, Paul Joseph. (Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2017). 167–170
- “Review: David M. Carr’s *Holy Resilience: The Bible’s Traumatic Origins*” *Biblical Interpretation* 24. 2016. 559–561
- “On Jesse Bentley as Biblical Figure.” *Sherwood Anderson* (Volume 28 of *Bloom’s Major Short Story Writers*). ed. Harold Bloom. (Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 2003)
- “A ‘Graveyard’ of the Midwest: Unearthing Søren Kierkegaard’s Influence in Midwestern Immigrant Communities.” *MidAmerica* XXVI. 2000. 10-24
- ‘Beyond Human Understanding’: Confusion and the Call in *Winesburg, Ohio*” *MidAmerica* XXIII. 1996. 11-27

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “Turning the Church toward Israel: A Biblical First Step of Reconciliation and Witness” (*The Scholar and the Pew: On Gaps and Bridges between Scholarship and Community in Judaism and Christianity*, Annual Perelmuter Conference, sponsored by Catholic Theological Union and University of Notre Dame, 2018)
- “*Creation ex Chaos*: Flannery O'Connor’s Revelation of the Hidden Divine Warrior” (*Andalusia in Andalucía: An International Conference on Flannery O'Connor/Seville*, Spain, 2017)
- “Armageddon Unfolding from an Unhealed Rupture: The Death of Josiah in the Deuteronomistic History” (Society of Biblical Literature/Midwest Region Annual Meeting, 2016)
- “The Divine Warrior in Hiding: Re-Creation in the Book of Esther” (Society of Biblical Literature/Midwest Region Annual Meeting, 2012)
- “They Shall Know a Prophet Has Been among Them: Flannery O'Connor and the Prophetic Writing Tradition” (Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Annual Conference, 2009)
- “He Loved Rachel More than Leah: Genesis 26 and 34 as Covenantal Reminders” (*Epiphanies of Beauty: The Arts in a Post-Christian Culture*/University of Notre Dame, 2006)
- “‘Large and Startling Figures’: Flannery O'Connor’s Prophetic Voice and Formative Vision” (*Faith and Morality: Formation and Renewal*/University of Notre Dame, 2003)
- “Reading Regionally, Reading Religiously: A Midwestern Manifesto” (*Symposium: The Literary Heritage of the Midwest*/Michigan State University, 2001)

AWARDS RECEIVED

Summer Scholarship Grant, Mount Mercy University, 2013
 Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School, 2011–2012
 Faculty Research Grant, Concordia University, 2000–2001
 Midwestern Heritage Essay Award, Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, 1997 & 1999

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Chair, Undergraduate Policy Committee, Department of Theology (Loyola, 2017–present)
 Department Advisory Committee (Loyola, 2017–present)
 Ad Hoc Committee and Teaching and Learning (Loyola, 2016–2017)
 Established Religious Studies program revision committee (Mount Mercy, 2012–2016)
 Graduate Policy Committee (Mount Mercy, 2013–2015)
 Faculty Leadership Team (Faculty Senate) (Mount Mercy, 2013–2016)

Reader: Master's examination committees (CTU, 2009–2010)

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Biblical Literature
Catholic Biblical Association
Flannery O'Connor Society
Comic Studies Society
Modern Language Association

REFERENCES

- Dr. Jon D. Levenson
Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies
Harvard University
321 Divinity Hall
14 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
email: jlevenson@hds.harvard.edu
phone: 617.495.5955
- Dr. Paul D. Hanson
Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Bible
Harvard University
306 Andover Hall
45 Francis Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
email: pdhanson@fas.harvard.edu
phone: 617.495.5765
- Dr. Deirdre Dempsey
Associate Professor of Theology
Marquette University
Department of Theology
321 Marquette Hall 1217 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233
email: deirdre.dempsey@marquette.edu
phone: 414.288.3747