

Niklas German Smith-Rodewald

Loyola University Chicago

Department of Theology

615.509.4558

nrodewald@luc.edu

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Integrative Studies in Ethics and Theology (Ph.D.)

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, *expected May 2029*

Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.)

Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, May 2024

Thesis: *Holy Queerness: Towards a Queer, Catholic Ecclesiology*

Master of Music in Composition (M.M.)

The Catholic University of America, Washington, District of Columbia, October 2020

Thesis: *Crucifixion: A Musical Reflection on the Poems of Natalia Guerrero*

Pre-Theology Certificate

The Catholic University of America, Washington, District of Columbia, May 2017

Bachelor of Music in Jazz Composition (B.M.)

Berklee College of Music, Boston, Massachusetts, May 2015

Summa cum Laude

TEACHING AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

As an Instructor of Record:

Theology Department, Marist School, Atlanta, G.A., *Fall 2020-Spring 2024*

- Courses taught: Faith and Reason (12th grade elective), Marist Way (9th grade), Marist Way (7th grade)
- Taught in the theology department while working full-time as a campus minister

Permanent Diaconate Formation Program, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, Atlanta, G.A., *Jan-Dec 2023*

- Courses taught: Missiology and Evangelization
- Recommended candidates for ordination to the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Atlanta

As a Teaching Assistant:

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, Fall 2024-Present

- THEO-100: Introduction to Theology (Instructor of Record: Miguel H. Díaz, Ph.D.)
- THEO-278: Religion and Gender (Instructor of Record: Miguel H. Díaz, Ph.D.)
- THEO-279: Roman Catholicism (Instructor of Record: Mara Brecht, Ph.D.)
- THEO-348: Supervised Ministry (Instructor of Record: Mara Brecht, Ph.D.)

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Academic Journals:

“Towards a Sacramental Theology of Erotohistoriography,” *Münchener Theologische Zeitschrift*, forthcoming in special edition

“*The Passion of Matthew Shepard* as Metanoia-Event,” *Religion and the Arts*, accepted for publication

“Illuminative Paths of Erotic Desire: Margaret Kamitsuka’s *Desirable Belief*,” *Religious Studies Review*, forthcoming in symposium on Kamitsuka’s work

Academic Book Reviews:

Review of *All My Eyes See: The Artistic Vocation of Fr. William Hart McNichols* by Christopher Pramuk and William Hart McNichols, *Religion and the Arts*, forthcoming

Review of *Subversive Habits: Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle* by Shannen Dee Williams, *Reading Religion* (November 7, 2025), posted online at <https://readingreligion.org/9781478018209/subversive-habits/>

Public-facing Publications:

“Ban on Gender-Affirming Care Compromises U.S. Bishops’ Authority,” *Bondings 2.0: a New Ways Ministry Blog* (November 19, 2025), posted online at <https://www.newwaysministry.org/2025/11/19/ban-on-gender-affirming-care-compromises-u-s-bishops-authority/>

“Pope Leo XIV and the Mass for the Care of Creation,” *Today’s Marists* 9, no. 2 (2025)

“The Marian Church: Hope in a Time of Necropolitics,” *Today’s Marists* 9, no. 1 (2025)

“Re-staging the Faith: Contextual Challenges in Synodality,” *Today’s Marists* 8, no. 3 (2024)

“*Killers of the Flower Moon*: An Invitation to Solidarity?,” *Today’s Marists* 8, no. 2 (2024)

“Ecological Transformation: Testimony and Invitation,” *Today’s Marists* 8, no. 1 (2023)

Editorial Service:

2020-Present: Editorial Board, *Today's Marists Magazine*

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations at Academic Conferences, Symposia, and Colloquia

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, 23 November 2026
“Courage International, Anti-Trans Violence, and the Possibility of Queer Grace” (accepted)

European Academy of Religion Ninth Annual Conference, Rome, Italy, 02 July 2026
“*Fiducia Supplicans* and Biopower: A Threat to Synodality?”

College Theology Society 2026 Annual Convention, Villanova, Pennsylvania, 30 May 2026
“Sacramental Time, Christian Nationalism, and the Heteronormative Iconography of Progress”

Midwest American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio, 27 April 2026,
“Artificial Intelligence, the Existential Risk Imaginary, and Catholic Ethical Thought”

Graduate Theological Colloquium with Loyola, Marquette, and Saint Louis University, Chicago Illinois, 07 February 2026, “Temporal Dislocation as a Source for Queering Sacramental Theology: Louis-Marie Chauvet and Deuteronomy 26:1-11”

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, 24 November 2025
Panelist: “Panel Discussion of Margaret Kamitsuka’s *Desirable Belief: a Theology of Eros*”

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, 22 November 2025
“The Normal Gay Guy: J.D. Vance, Catholicism, and the Colonial Politics of Recognition”

European Academy of Religion Eighth Annual Conference, Vienna, Austria, 10 July 2025
“Towards a Sacramental Theology of Erotohistoriography” on the Panel, “The Sacrament of Social Engagement: The Role of the Religious Imagination for Personal and Collective Transformation”

Midwest American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, Springfield, Missouri, 21 February 2025
“Is the Convent a Sex Shop?: Vowed Religious Life as a Queer Catholic Counterpublic”

Graduate Theological Colloquium with Loyola, Marquette, and Saint Louis University, Chicago Illinois, 08 February 2025
“Haunting Magisterial Teleology: Ghosts of Queer Grief and Queer Pleasure”

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, 25 November 2024
“Performing the Eschaton: Queer Performativity and Sacramental Action”

Panel Discussions and Lectures for a Public Audience

Loyola University Chicago Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Chicago, Illinois, 9 October 2024
Panel Discussion: *Mamma Bears* College Screening Series

First Christian Church of Atlanta, Tucker, Georgia, June-July 2022
6-week Adult Education Course: “Mary: Friend of God and Prophet”

Selected Musical Compositions and Arrangements

Orchestrator for *New York Pretending to Be Paris: Songs of Remembrance and Desire*, by Eric Schorr with Eve Gigliotti, Jesse Darden, Michael Kelly, and the Mercer 19 Ensemble, Albany Records, 2022

Orchestrations for *Unlimited: The Music and Lyrics of Stephen Schwartz*, Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre and Dance at Southeast Missouri State University, 17-21 February 2021, Bedell Performance Hall, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

New Music DC Conference, District New Music Coalition, Georgetown University, Washington, District of Columbia, 15 September 2018
“Le Tombeau Enceint” for Bb clarinet, cello, and percussion

Arrangements and Orchestrations for *Leonard Bernstein at 100: The Theater Songs of Leonard Bernstein*:

- 12 February 2018: Millennium Stage at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, District of Columbia)
- 26-28 January 2018: Arena Stage at the Meade Center for American Theater (Washington, District of Columbia)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

American Academy of Religion:

2026-Present: Midwest Regional Section Chair: Theology, Ethics, and Philosophy of Religion
2026-2027: Midwest Regional Vice-President (interim), in line of presidential succession
(National AAR leadership opportunities?)

Loyola University Chicago:

2024-25 Steering Committee: Transdisciplinary Colloquium of Gender, Queer, and Trans Studies
2026-2026: Co-Chair, Graduate Theological Colloquium
2026-Present: Co-President, Theology Department Graduate Caucus

Marist School:

2022-2023: Member, Student Mental Health Task Force
2020-2024: Member, Marist Identity Committee
2020-2024: Member, Student Services Committee

Nazareth Retreat Moderator
Sports Chaplain Moderator
Liturgical Music Coordinator

The Catholic University of America:

2017-2018: Senator, Graduate Student Association

2018: Member, Search Committee for Dean of Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art

Events Organized at the Catholic University of America:

- “Music Ministry in Predominantly African American Parishes: a Workshop with Ms. Lynné Gray,” 6 February 2018
- “A Concert of Spirituals featuring Sylvia Twine and Lynné Gray,” 6 February 2018
- “In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals: a Presentation by Dr. Eileen Guenther,” 6 February 2018
- “Composition Workshop with Dr. George T. Walker,” 21 February 2018
- “The Chamber Music of George Walker: a Concert and Lecture,” 21 February 2018

Berklee College of Music:

Founder and President, Catholic Student Association

Education Coordinator, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Tech Catholic Community

Prayer Coordinator, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Tech Catholic Community

ACADEMIC HONORS:

Louisville Institute Doctoral Fellowship (2026-2028)

Candler Merit Scholarship, Candler School of Theology, Emory University (2022-2024)

Clare Fischer Jazz Composition Award, Berklee College of Music (2014)

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING:

Theological Pedagogy I, Loyola University Chicago (2026)

People of Color Conference, National Association of Independent Schools (2023)

Institute for New Teachers, Southern Association of Independent Schools (2022)

Learning and the Brain Education Conference (2021)

OTHER EMPLOYMENT & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Specialist, OutlierAI

July 2024-Present

Campus Minister & Theology Teacher: Marist School, Atlanta, Georgia

August 2020-June 2024

Seminarian/Scholastic: Society of Mary (Marist Fathers & Brothers, USA Province)

June 2015-June 2021

Pastoral Assignments:

- August 2020-June 2021: Campus Minister, Marist School (Atlanta, Georgia)
- November 2018-January 2020: Novice, Cerdon International Novitiate (Davao City, Philippines)
- June 2018-August 2018: Pastoral Assistant, Parroquia San Felipe de Jesús (Brownsville, Texas)
- June 2017-August 2017: Spanish Language Immersion (Toluca, México)
- February 2016-June 2018: Catholic Pastoral Assistant, Central Detention Facility (Washington, District of Columbia)
- August 2015-November 2018: Music Minister, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and School (Washington, District of Columbia)
- August 2015-November 2018: Volunteer, Joseph's House (Washington, District of Columbia)

Writer & Copy Editor, Berklee College of Music, Boston, Massachusetts (student employment)
October 2012-May 2015

Contributing Writer, Blues Rock Review
October 2011-August 2014

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion (Midwest Region)
College Theology Society
European Academy of Religion

LANGUAGES

Spanish (moderate working proficiency), French (moderate working proficiency), German (basic reading), Latin (basic reading), Koine Greek (basic reading), Biblical Hebrew (basic reading)