

Tyler T. Roberts
Professor of Religious Studies
Grinnell College

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Divinity School, Th. D. in Theology, 1993

Dissertation: "Asceticism and Affirmation: Nietzsche's Relevance as Religious Thinker" Advisor: Prof. Gordon Kaufman. Defended Nov. 30, 1992.

Harvard University, Divinity School, M.T.S in Christianity and Culture, 1987

Albert-Ludwigs Universität (Freiburg, Germany), Philosophy, 1984-5

Brown University, A. B. in Philosophy and Religion (Honors), 1982

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008-Present Professor, Department of Religious Studies,
Grinnell College

2002-2008 Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies,
Grinnell College

1998-2002 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies,
Grinnell College

1994-97 Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Education
Committee On the Study of Religion, Harvard University

1993-94 Instructor, Honors Program, Boston College

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Books

Encountering Religion: Religious Studies After Secularism, Columbia University Press, 2013.

Contesting Spirit: Nietzsche, Religion, Affirmation, Princeton University Press, 1998.

Reviews of the book have appeared in the following journals, among others: *The Journal of Religion*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Eidos*, *Germanic Notes and Reviews*, *International Philosophical Quarterly*, *Theological Studies*, *Religion and Literature*, and *New Nietzsche Studies*.

DVD

"Skeptics and Believers: Religious Debate in the Western Intellectual Tradition," The Teaching Company, January 2010. 36 one-half hour lectures on religious thought and critical responses to religion in the modern west.

Articles

"All Work and No Play: Chaos, Incongruity, and Difference in the Study of Religion"
Journal of the American Academy of Religion, March 2009, v 77, n. 1, pp. 81-104

"Militant Love: Zizek and the Christian Legacy" *Transforming Philosophy and Religion*, eds. Norman Wirzba and Bruce Ellis Benson, Indiana University Press (2008).

- “Awaiting Love: Nietzsche’s (Com)Passion,” in *Reading Nietzsche at the Margins*, Steven V. Hicks and Alan Rosenberg, Purdue University Press (2008).
- “Toward Secular Diaspora: Relocating Religion and Politics,” in *Secularisms*, Janet Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini, eds., Duke University Press (2008).
- “Between the Lines: Exceeding Historicism in the Study of Religion,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, September 2006, v 72, n 3, pp. 697-719.
- “Rhetorics of Ideology and Criticism in the Study of Religion,” *The Journal of Religion*, July, 2005.
- “Sacrifice and Secularization: Derrida, De Vries, and the Future of Mourning,” in *Other Testaments: Derrida and Religion*, eds. K. Hart and Y. Sherwood (Routledge, 2005).
- “Exposures and Explanations: On the New Protectionism in the Study of Religion” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, March 2004, v. 72, n.1, pp. 143-72 (Spring 2004)
- “Ecstatic Philosophy,” in *Nietzsche and the Divine*, eds. J. Lippitt and J. Urpeth, Clinamon Press (2000): 200-225.
- “Confessing Philosophy/Writing Grace” *Soundings* (Fall 1996): 489-510.
- “This Art of Transfiguration is Philosophy: Nietzsche's Asceticism,” *The Journal of Religion* (July 1996): 402-427.
- “Michael Walzer and the Critical Connections,” *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, Fall (1994): 333-353.
- “Theology and the Ascetic Imperative: Narrative and Renunciation in Taylor and Hauerwas,” *Modern Theology* (April 1993): 181-200.

Reviews and Reference Entries

- Review of Willi Goetschl’s *The Discipline of Philosophy and the Invention of Modern Jewish Thought*, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, published online Feb. 12, 2013
- “Nietzsche,” in *Theory/Religion/Critique: Classic and Contemporary Approaches*, ed. Richard King, Columbia University Press, forthcoming.
- “Nietzsche,” *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Daniel Patte, General Editor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Review of Tim Murphy’s *Nietzsche, Metaphor, Religion* (SUNY, 2001), *New Nietzsche Studies*, Winter 2003/Spring 2004.
- Review of Peter Murray, *Nietzsche’s Affirmative Morality*, *New Nietzsche Studies*, Spring/Summer 2002
- "Nietzsche," *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Postmodernism*, Routledge, 2001 (500 wds)
- Review of Bruce Lincoln, *Theorizing Myth*, in *Boston Review of Books*, 7/1 (January/February, 2000) 28-9.
- Review of Richard E. Rubenstein, *When Jesus Became God*, in *The Boston Review of Books*, 6/8 (October 1999): 11.
- Review of Simon Critchley, *Ethics-Politics-Subjectivity*, in *The Boston Review of Books*, 6/5 (June 1999) 22.
- Review of Richard Marius, *Martin Luther: The Christian between God and Death*, in *The Boston Review of Books*, 6/4 (May 1999) 13.
- Review of John Keenan, *The Meaning of Christ*. in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, 17/3 (Spring 1999): 128-131.

Conference Papers and Panels (selected)

- “Towards the Humanistic Study of Religion,” Special Topics Forum on “Theological Education and Religious Studies,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 19, 2012
- “Reverence and the Discipline of Criticism” presented at *Has the Philosophy of Religion a Future*, McGill University, Montreal Canada, April 24, 2013.
- “Exposures and Acknowledgements: Philosophy of Religion the Day After Tomorrow,” presented at “Postmodernism, Religion and Culture 4: The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion,” Syracuse University, April 2011.
- “Religious Studies as Cultural Criticism” presented at the annual meeting for the American Academy of Religion, Washington D.C., November 19, 2006.
- “Exposing Revelation,” presented at “Theology and Religious Studies or Theology vs. Religious Studies,” St. Anne’s College, Oxford, UK, July 6-7, 2006.
- “Criticism as Conduct of Gratitude: Stanley Cavell and Critical Piety,” presented at the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2005.
- “Militant Love: Zizek and the Christian Legacy,” presented at the annual meeting for the Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology, Wheaton, Ill., March 2005.
- “Turns and Returns Towards the Philosophy of Religion,” presented at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2004.
- “Testimonies of Trauma,” presented at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 2003.
- “Ecstatic Philosophy,” presented at Nietzsche Symposium, Grinnell College, May 5, 2000.
- “Ecstatic Philosophy: Mystical Elements in Nietzsche’s Thought,” Opening Plenary Paper at the 8th Annual Conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society, University of Greenwich, England, Sept. 1998.
- “Stanley Cavell and the Mysticism of the Ordinary in Emerson and Thoreau,” presented to the Mysticism Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 1996.
- “The Way of Abandonment: Nietzsche's Faith,” presented to the Nineteenth Century Theology Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 1995.
- “Philosophy as Tragic Spectacle: Reading Nietzsche's *Ecce Homo*” Presented at the New England American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, April, 1993.

TEACHING

Responsible for courses in Christianity, philosophy of religion and selected comparative topics at Grinnell College. Included:

- “Body and Soul: An Introduction to Judaism and Christianity”
- “Philosophy of Religion”
- “Modern Religious Thought”
- “Major Western Religions”
- “Religion in U. S. Public Life”
- “Senior Seminar: Religious Identity on the Margins”
- “Senior Seminar: Mysticism”

“Junior Seminar: Theory and Method in the Study of Religion”
“First-Year Tutorial: Religion and Nature in American Culture”
“Nietzsche Seminar” (co-taught with Alan Schrift)

FACULTY SERVICE AT GRINNELL COLLEGE

Executive Council, 2005-2007, 2013-present
Chair, Division of Humanities, 2005-2007, 2013-present
Chair, Department of Religious Studies, 2000-01, Spring 2003-4, 2006-2010, 2012-present
Personnel Committee, 2012-present
Ad-Hoc Faculty Workload Committee, 2012-13
Ad-Hoc Committee on Open Access, 2012-13
Mellon Humanities Committee, 2011-2013
Search Committee, Islamic Religious Traditions and Middle Eastern History, 2009
Chair, Search Committee, Film History/Theory, 2007-2008
Committee on Academic Standing, 2007-2010
Advisory Committee for Grinnell College Humanities Center, 1999-2009
Faculty Organization Committee, 2002-2004
Curriculum Committee, 2003-4
Lilly Steering Committee, 2003-4
Director, NEH Humanities Focus Grant, Department of Religious Studies, 2000-01
Acting Director, Grinnell College Humanities Center, 2001
Director of Departmental Grant Proposals to Fund for Excellence, NEH, and the Iowa College Foundation Faculty Development and Enrichment Program, 1999-00.
Instructional Support Committee, Grinnell College, 2000-01
Center for Prairie Studies Committee, 1999-present
Multi/Interdisciplinary Curricular Development Committee, 1998-00
Cultural Film Committee, 1998-00 (Chair, 1999-00)
Bowen Interviews, 1999
Organizer for Departmental Self-Study, Department of Religious Studies, 1998-99
Fulbright Committee, 1998-99