

JOHN P. SLATTERY

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Education

2017 Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

Interdisciplinary Program, Systematic Theology (Major Area)
History and Philosophy of Science (Minor Area)

Thesis: *Old Science, New Problems: A Theological Analysis of Rev. John Zahm's Attempt to Bridge Evolution and Roman Catholicism*

Advisors: J. Matthew Ashley, Celia Deane-Drummond, Robert Krieg, Don Howard

Abstract: In 1898, the Vatican issued a backchannel censure to John Zahm, a North American priest and scientist, for publishing the book *Evolution and Dogma*. While Zahm's political connections ensured the censure was not published, he never again wrote on the matter of evolution and theology. This dissertation argues that Zahm's censure was predicated upon his understanding—his philosophy—of science, especially as this philosophy stood contrary to the philosophy of science held by the members of the Sacred Congregation of the Index who issued the censure.

2012 MA(TS), Saint Paul School of Theology

Master of Arts (Theological Studies), *Cum Laude*.

Thesis: *The Politics of Truth: The Importance of the Fifth Lateran Council for the 21st Century Dialogue between Roman Catholicism and Science*

Advisors: Kristen E. Kvam, Nancy Howell

Abstract: By tracing the phrase “truth cannot contradict truth” from the 12th century writings of the Muslim philosopher Averroes to the 1997 Catechism, this essay investigates the roots of the current stance of Roman Catholicism with regards to faith and science, as well as the dangers of adhering to a doctrine of strict autonomy between the two.

2004 B.S., Georgetown University

Bachelor of Science (Computer Science), *Cum Laude*. Minor in Theology.

Book Projects

Evolution, Catholicism, and Notre Dame: A New Analysis of John Zahm's Quest for a Science-Friendly Faith. In process, University of Notre Dame Press.

Edited, with Don Howard. *Seeking Consonance: Christian Theology and the Natural Sciences*, by Ernan McMullin. Introduction by John Slattery and Don Howard. Oxford University Press. Under contract.

Refereed Publications

“Examining Theological Appropriations of Problematic Historical Dissent,” *Horizons*. Submitted, under review.

“Reconsidering the Early Mysticism of Teilhard de Chardin: Arguments for a 21st Century Hermeneutic,” *Teilhard Studies*. Submitted, under review.

“Dangerous Tendencies of Cosmic Theology: The Untold Legacy of Teilhard de Chardin,” *Philosophy and Theology* 29, no. 1 (December 2016).

Noreen Herzfeld’s *Technology and Religion: Remaining Human in a Co-created World*. West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton, 2009. (Book Review) *Theology and Science* 9, no. 4 (November 2011).

Conference Presentations

“Nature is Not the ‘New Poor’: Resituating Ecological Theology in a Trinitarian Framework,” Annual Meeting of the Catholic Theological Society of America: Albuquerque, NM: June 8-11, 2017.

“Protest and Dissent in the Catholic Church: A Roundtable,” Panelist, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion: San Antonio, TX. November 19-22, 2016.

“Catholic Theology and the World of Blogging: A Colloquium with DailyTheology.org & CatholicMoralTheology.com,” Convener, Annual Meeting of the College Theology Society: Kansas City, MO. June 2-5, 2016.

“Love it or Leave it? Comparing Integral and Cosmic Ecology through Teilhard, Benedict, and Francis,” Annual Meeting of the College Theology Society: Kansas City, MO. June 2-5, 2016.

“The Dogmatic Depravity of Adoption: Changing the Language of ‘Open to Life,’” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion: Atlanta, GA. November 21-24, 2015.

“Critical Distance between the Earth and the Poor: Placing M. Shawn Copeland in Dialogue with Ecological Theology,” Annual Meeting of the College Theology Society: Portland, OR. May 28-31, 2015.

“Blogging in an Unexpected Wilderness: A Colloquium with Daily Theology,” Panelist, Annual Meeting of the College Theology Society: Portland, OR. May 28-31, 2015.

“‘I Desire to Live, I Desire to Die’: Reconsidering the Mysticism of Teilhard de Chardin,” Institute on Religion in an Age of Science Summer Conference. Star Island, New Hampshire, August 2-9, 2014.

“Harriet Thompson Writes the Pope: One Woman’s Battle for Racial Equality in 19th Century American Catholicism,” American Catholic Historical Association Spring Conference. Xavier University, March 29, 2014.

“The Fall of the American Priest-Scientist: John Zahm’s Attempt to Bridge Evolution and Catholicism,” History of Science Society Annual Conference. Boston, MA, November 23, 2013.

Invited Lectures

“The French Revolution and the Vatican's Anti-Evolutionary Stance: A Story of Causes and Effects,” The Quest for Consonance: Christian Theology and the Natural Sciences, University of Notre Dame, April 2-5, 2017.

“Friendship and Solidarity with Creation: A Critical Liberationist Reflection,” St. Lawrence Barbeque, Wheeling Jesuit University, June 16-19, 2016.

“Liberation Theology and Post-Kuhnian Philosophies of Science: Possibilities of Consonance,” University of Edinburgh, School of Divinity Seminar, April 2, 2015.

“Christology and Creation from Teilhard de Chardin to Elizabeth Johnson,” Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. February 16, 2015. *Invited lecture*, “Epic of Creation” seminar series.

“Thomas Kuhn, Faith, and ‘Science for the Poor.’” Roundtable discussion with faculty of the Goshen College Religion and Science consortium. December 17, 2014.

“Faith, Reason, and Science? The Applicability of Thomas Kuhn to Christian Theology’s Dialogue with Science,” Ninth Annual Andrews Autumn Conference on Religion and Science. Andrews University, October 25, 2014.

Higher Education Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, St. Mary's College, 2017.

“Sustainability at Saint Mary's and in the Holy Cross Charism” (Scheduled, Fall 2017)

Instructor of Record, University of Notre Dame, 2016-Present

“Racism, Bias, and Human Dignity in the Christian Tradition” (Scheduled, Spring 2018)

“Theology and Science from Plato to Pope Francis” (Fall 2016 & Spring 2017)

Teaching Assistant, University of Notre Dame, 2013-2015

“Jesus and Salvation,” Prof. Catherine Hilkert (2015)

“Bioethics,” Prof. Celia Deane-Drummond (2014)

“Sustainability Capstone Seminar,” Prof. Celia Deane-Drummond (2014)

“Theology and Science,” Prof. Celia Deane-Drummond (2013)

Teaching Assistant, Saint Paul School of Theology, 2011

“Science, Theology, and Ministry,” Prof. Nancy Howell

Scholarships, Grants, and Honors

2017-Present Post-Doctoral Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Notre Dame

2017 CTSA Convention Scholarship

2016-2017 Graduate Fellow, Center for Theology, Science, and Human Flourishing

2015 Graduate Break Travel Grant, Nanovic Institute for European Studies

2015 Short Term Graduate Research Fellowship, Rome Global Gateway

2015 Graduate Student Research Award, Diana M. Sciola Endowment for Excellence

2015 University of Edinburgh Postgraduate Research Fellowship

2014 Templeton Religion Trust Summer Research Fellowship

2014 Star Island Fellowship Award, Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

2009-2012 President's Scholarship, Saint Paul School of Theology

2010 Participant, Hispanic Summer Program

- 2007 Teacher of the Year, 7th-12th Grade, Faustina Academy
- 2006 Company Grade Officer of the Quarter, Air Force Information Warfare Center,
Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX
- 2004 Distinguished Graduate Award, Air Force ROTC

Secondary Education Teaching Experience

- 2006-2007 Educator, Faustina Academy (Irving, TX)
- **Received 7th-12th grade “Teacher of the Year” award**
 - Instructed 7th -12th grade students in Earth Science, Physical Science, Pre-Algebra, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Church History
 - Founded and directed school choir
 - Designed and maintained new website for school, including an interactive website for teachers & parents

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion
Catholic Theological Society of America
College Theology Society
History of Science Society
Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

Languages

German, Reading Proficiency
French, Reading Proficiency
Latin, Reading Proficiency
Italian, Reading Proficiency

Professional Service

Conference Organization Committee Member, “The Quest for Consonance: Christian Theology and the Natural Sciences,” April 2017.

This conference, organized by me, Don Howard, and Celia Deane-Drummond, will bring together experts in theology, philosophy, and science from around the world to discuss the future of the interdisciplinary dialogue. The conference is underwritten by the Templeton Religion Trust and is sponsored by the Center for Theology, Science, and Human Flourishing at Notre Dame.

Steering Committee Member, Midwest Religion and Science Society, 2013-Present.

Initiated Notre Dame's involvement with this ecumenical society of 8 universities and colleges in the Ohio-Indiana-Michigan region, highlighting by two annual conferences on religion and science—Autumn Annual Conference at Andrews University, and the Goshen Conference on Religion and Science in the Spring.

Editorial Assistant, Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science Part A, Fall 2015.

Working with the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor, I researched, compiled, and coordinated topics and authors for a new feature in the journal: requested research articles which analyze an underrepresented topic in the history and/or philosophy of science, particular in the area of critical race theory and contemporary scientific pluralism.

Conference Organizer and Co-Director: “What Darwin Didn't Change: Reconsidering Interactions of Faith, Science, and Reason.” March 13-14, 2014.

This conference, which I directed with J. Matthew Ashley, Theology, University of Notre Dame, gathered scholars from Theology, History, and Philosophy to discuss the impact of 19th century philosophy on studies of theology and science. I supervised all of the speaker invitations, travel arrangements, conference scheduling, and discussion panels. Invited speakers included Emilie Townes, Vanderbilt University; Joan Steigerwald, York University; Denise Phillips, University Tennessee Knoxville; Ronald Numbers, University Wisconsin; Grant Kaplan, St. Louis University; Mark Noll, Cyril O'Regan, Phillip Sloan, University of Notre Dame.

Public Academic Service**Co-Founder and Regular Contributor. *Daily Theology Blog*, www.dailytheology.org, 2011-Present. Co-Editor, 2012-2016.**

Since co-founding the blog in 2011, I have been elected as co-editor twice, first for a one-year term from Jan-Dec 2014, then in Jan 2015 for a two year term. The blog averages approximately 10,000 views each month, with a lifetime viewership of over 500,000.

As editor, I primarily organized [focused weeks](#) of blogging on a specific topic, for example:

February 21-28, 2016: “[University as Social Force? Protest and Activism in US Academia.](#)”

September 13-20, 2015: “[Sexual Assault & Higher Education: An Octave of Theological Reflection.](#)”

As contributor, my blog posts (over 80) can be found at <http://dailytheology.org/author/jslatsfqi/> . Some examples:

“[Rationalizations and Progress: A Case Study for Catholic Academia](#),” February 21, 2016.

“[Science, Faith, and Horror in Flint, Michigan](#),” February 8, 2016.

[“The Church is Not Yet Dead: An Interview with Dr. Shannen Dee Williams,”](#) May 5, 2015.

- Featured article for the July/August Newsletter of the National Black Catholic Congress and featured prominently on their website, <http://nbccongress.org>.

[“Thank you, Lance Armstrong: An Ode to Liberation Theology,”](#) February 5, 2015.

- Featured under the “Freshly Pressed” section of Wordpress.com.

**Contributor, *Hope Sings So Beautiful Blog*, <http://www.hopesingssobeautiful.org/>
2013-Present.** My posts here can be found at
http://www.hopesingssobeautiful.org/index.php/author/daily_theology_guest/.

Popular press author: “Testimonies in Community: John Slattery,” *Vine & Branches: The Magazine of the People of Praise*, Fall 2015: 18-20. <http://peopleofpraise.org/thevine/>

Previous Work and Ministry Experience

- 2007-2009 Music and Youth Pastor, Holy Trinity Catholic Church (Lenexa, KS)
- Worked closely with hundreds of high school youth,
 - Planned, organized, and led music for a weekly Mass for 1000+ people
 - Directed a youth contemporary rock band for retreats and youth events
- 2004-2006 Lieutenant, United States Air Force, Active Duty
- Information Operations Engineer, Air Force Information Warfare Center, Lackland Air Force Base (San Antonio, TX)
 - Supervised a network equipment evaluation facility worth \$7.5M and a government contract worth over \$1.2M/year
- 2002-2004 Resident Assistant, Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
- Served 50 freshman (2002-2003) and 55 sophomores (2003-2004)
 - Supported students struggling with depression, body image disorders, substance abuse, and the common stresses of college life

References

Please contact me for contact info for references!