

JOHN P. SLATTERY, Ph.D.

Fort Washington, MD

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Education

2017 Doctor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

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, Don Howard, Celia Deane-Drummond, Robert Krieg

2012 Master of Arts, 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

2004 Bachelor of Science, Georgetown University

Computer Science, *Cum Laude.* Minor in Theology.

Employment

Senior Program Associate, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC. June 2018-Present.

Manages all aspects of a 6.5 million-dollar grant, "Science for Seminaries," for the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program. This includes advising numerous Catholic and non-Catholic seminaries on curricular development, organizing and executing multiple conferences and workshops, advising seminary faculty, selecting advisory boards, managing all finances, administrating subgrants, rebuilding web presence, fundraising for future grants, and producing a film and lecture series.

Postdoctoral Teaching and Research Fellow, University of Notre Dame. Aug. 2017-June 2018.

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Selected Writings & Lectures

Books

Faith and Science at Notre Dame: John Zahm, Evolution, and the Catholic Church. In press, University of Notre Dame Press (August 2019).

Faith and Science at Notre Dame charts the rise and fall of an early Notre Dame professor Rev. John Zahm, CSC, analyzing his rise to international fame in bridging evolution and Catholicism and shedding new light on his ultimately downfall via censure by the Congregation of the Index of Prohibited Books. 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. This complex and multifaceted story presents a wide-ranging history of theology, science, and politics, including overviews of 19th century theology, Neo-Scholasticism, evolution, politics, Americanism, revolution, empirical science, and faith. See: <https://undpress.nd.edu/9780268106096/faith-and-science-at-notre-dame/>

Edited, *A T&T Clark Companion to Christian Theology and the Modern Sciences.* Under contract, T&T Clark (2020).

This volume, with 30 committed authors, focuses on presenting a history of views of nature, science, and the environment from the perspective of Christian theology and Christian theologians over the past few thousand years. Included in this history, for the first time in scholarship in such a volume, will be (1) theological conceptions of nature/science from well-known Christian theologians, (2) the story of the growth of ideas of bias, racism, and misogyny, which sprung from both scientific and theological ideas. Chapters include Aristotle, Aquinas, Hildegard, Francis of Assisi, John Calvin, and many more. Contracted authors include Terrence Johnson, John Cavadini, Steven Battin, Celia Deane-Drummond, J. Kameron Carter, and Elizabeth Theokritoff.

Peer-Reviewed Essays

“Christian Documents of Barbarism: A Historiographical Roadmap of Theological Responses to Christian Support of Slavery,” *Cultural Encounters*. In press (August 2019).

“Examining Theological Appropriations of Problematic Historical Dissent,” *Horizons* 45, no. 1 (June 2018).

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

Selected Public Writings (full list on page 7)

“Teilhard and Eugenics: A Response to John Haught,” *Commonweal Magazine* (March 12, 2019). <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/teilhard-eugenics>

“Author Responds to Criticism of Teilhard Eugenics Essay,” *Rewire.News/Religion Dispatches*, August 22, 2018. <https://rewire.news/religion-dispatches/2018/08/22/author-responds-to-criticism-of-teilhard-eugenics-essay/>

“Pierre Teilhard de Chardin’s Legacy of Eugenics and Racism Can’t Be Ignored,” *Religion Dispatches.org / Re.Wire News*, May 21, 2018. <http://religiondispatches.org/pierre-teilhard-de-chardins-legacy-of-eugenics-and-racism-cant-be-ignored/>.

“It is Time for the Murals to Go: An Open Letter to Fr. Jenkins,” *Notre Dame/St. Marys College Observer*, November 28, 2017. <https://ndsmcobserver.com/2017/11/time-murals-go/>

I authored this letter, which was cosigned by thousands of Notre Dame faculty, staff, and students. The letter and connected protest against the Columbus Murals was picked up by AP, and I was interviewed by two local news stations, the local paper, and the *Indy Star*. The story was featured throughout the United States in December 2017, including in *The New York Post*, *NBC Nightly News*, *The Houston Chronicle*, and *The Seattle Times*.

This letter, combined with years of protests and activism by the Native American student group, resulted in Fr. Jenkins surprise announcement in January 2019 to cover the Columbus murals. <https://apnews.com/b94ea91f11e649579326812f3b7c2980>

Selected Conference Presentations & Lectures (full list on page 9)

“Eugenics, Slavery, and 20th century Theology: The Difficulty of Evolutionary Theologies” Annual Meeting of the Catholic Theological Society of America: Pittsburgh, PA: 2019. Paper will be given at an entire panel focused on my own work regarding Teilhard de Chardin, SJ’s views on eugenics.

“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.

“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.

“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.

“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.

Selected Book Reviews (full list on page 10)

John F. Haught’s *The New Cosmic Story: Inside Our Awakening Universe*. London: Yale University Press, 2017. *Science & Christian Belief* (June 2019). In press.

Yves Gingras’ *Science and Religion: An Impossible Dialogue*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2017. *Politics, Religion and Ideology* (June 2019). In press.

William Cavanaugh and James K. A. Smith’s *Evolution and the Fall*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2017. *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 20, no. 2 (April 2018).

Pedagogical Experience

Higher Education Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, University of Notre Dame, 2016-2018.

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

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

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

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

Teaching Assistant, University of Notre Dame, 2013-2015.

“Jesus and Salvation” (2015); “Bioethics” (2014)

“Sustainability Capstone Seminar” (2014); “Theology and Science” (2013)

Teaching Assistant, Saint Paul School of Theology, 2011.

“Science, Theology, and Ministry”

Secondary Education Teaching Experience

Junior High and High School Teacher, Faustina Academy (Irving, TX), 2006-2007

Instructor for Earth Science, Algebra II, and Church History

Received 7th-12th grade “Teacher of the Year” award, Spring 2007

Pedagogical Advising and Curriculum Building

Director and Organizer, Science and Religion Pedagogical Pre-Conference Workshop, American Academy of Religion Conference, November 2019. Accepted workshop.

This pre-conference pedagogical workshop involves a trip to Scripps Oceanographic Institute in San Diego and a two-hour conversation and dialogue concerning best pedagogical practices for interdisciplinary work in theological and scientific fields.

Advisor and Mentor for curriculum development, Science for Seminaries Grant, 2018-present.

Advised the following seminaries: Sacred Heart Catholic Seminary and School of Theology (Milwaukee), Mundelein Catholic Seminary (Chicago), Kenrick-Glennon Catholic Seminary (St. Louis), Bethany Theological Seminary (Indianapolis), McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago), Nazarene Theological Seminary (Kansas City). Will be advising an additional nine seminaries beginning summer 2019.

Director and producer, Science for Seminaries Curriculum Workshop, April 2019.

This two-day workshop for newly selected seminaries, focuses on theological pedagogy, especially as related to interdisciplinary work between theology and history, sociology, and many contemporary sciences. I planned the workshops, invited experts, coordinated all travel, hotel, and meals, and developed the breakout sessions.

Administrative Experience

Grant Manager, "Science for Seminaries Phase II," June 2018-Present.

I am the manager and executor of a 6.5 million-dollar grant from the John Templeton Foundation on behalf of the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington, DC. This includes complete organization for a multi-day annual conference (35 attendees from around the US and Canada in a different location each year), serving as theological advisor for seminaries around the US and Canada, numerous subgrants, handling grant finances, rebuilding an online presence, and managing a large video-production project. Details: www.ScienceforSeminaries.org.

Conference Director, Ongoing. "Science for Seminaries Summer Workshop," Jul. 29-Aug 1., 2019 and August 6-9, 2018.

This workshop, held in Maryland in 2018 and to be held in Utah in 2019, combines pedagogical lectures, science communication lessons, and grant-writing and grant-administration discussions. The 2019 workshop will be attended by 7-9 grant-related seminary professors, ten seminary professors who will be granted scholarships, and over a dozen invited theological and scientific experts. I managed all aspects of the 2018 workshop and am managing all aspects of the 2019 workshop, including travel, scholarships, schedules, topics, and day-to-day activities of the conference, as well as give several talks.

Grant Writer, Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion. Ongoing.

I have developed several grants which are under review by major funding agencies, including one that focuses on highlighting the interaction between racism, science, and religion in the contemporary sciences and one that builds upon our current pedagogical model in order to work with Muslim and interfaith communities.

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

This conference, which I organized alongside Don Howard and Celia Deane-Drummond, brought together experts in theology, philosophy, and science from around the world to discuss the future of the interdisciplinary dialogue. The conference was underwritten by a substantial grant from Templeton Religion Trust and was co-sponsored by the Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values as well as the Center for Theology, Science, and Human Flourishing at Notre Dame. Details: <http://ctshf.nd.edu/events/the-quest-for-consonance/>

Steering Committee Member, Midwest Religion and Science Society, 2013-2018.

I initiated Notre Dame's involvement with this ecumenical society of 8 universities and colleges in the Ohio-Indiana-Michigan region.

Director of Network Defense Analysis Facility, United States Air Force Information Warfare Center, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, June 2004-August 2006.

During my two years of active duty, I supervised a network equipment evaluation facility worth \$7.5M and a government contract worth over \$1.2M/year. I managed all personnel and equipment finances, including 7 contractors and 2 military, and involved frequent reporting to generals and top-level government workers on the nature of network defense systems. I was awarded Company Grade Officer of the Quarter for Spring 2006 in recognition of my work.

Research Grants, Awards, and Honors

- 2018-Present Director, Science for Seminaries Phase II Grant, \$6.5 million with 32 total subgrants.
- 2018 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Center for Theology, Science, and Human Flourishing
- 2017-2018 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Notre Dame
- 2016 Candidacy Exam Honors, University of Notre Dame
- 2017 Catholic Theological Society of America Convention Presentation Scholarship
- 2016-2017 Graduate Fellow, Center for Theology, Science, and Human Flourishing
- 2016 *The Quest for Consonance* Conference. Awarded \$10,000 for co-sponsorship by John Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values. And \$99,194 from the Templeton Religion Trust to underwrite conference April 2017.
- 2015 Graduate Break Travel Grant, Nanovic Institute for European Studies, \$3000 grant for travel to research at the Vatican Archives in Vatican City.
- 2015 Short Term Graduate Research Fellowship, Rome Global Gateway, \$1000 grant for travel to research at the Vatican Archives in Vatican City.
- 2015 Graduate Student Research Award, Diana M. Sciola Endowment for Excellence, \$750 grant for travel to research at the Vatican Archives in Vatican City.
- 2015 University of Edinburgh Postgraduate Research Fellowship, \$2500 award to conduct research at the University of Edinburgh on theology, science, and philosophy
- 2014 Templeton Religion Trust Summer Research Fellowship, \$4000 award to conduct research on a large research grant on science studies at undergraduate institutions
- 2014 Star Island Fellowship Award for Conference Presentation, Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS)
- 2013 Awarded \$5,000 Mini Henkels Award (ISLA) in joint project with Matthew Ashley (Theology) for *What Darwin Didn't Change* Conference.
- 2009-2012 President's Scholarship, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO.
- 2010 Selected Scholarship Participant, Hispanic Summer Program, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ.
- 2007 Teacher of the Year, 7th-12th Grade, Faustina Academy, Irving, TX.
- 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 Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Howard University Detachment 130, Washington, DC
- 2003 Distinguished Graduate Award, Officer Summer Training (Boot Camp), United States Air Force, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX

Languages, Memberships, and Full Writings and Lectures

Languages

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

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

Previous Ministry Experience

Music and Youth Minister, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Lenexa, KS, Aug 2007-Aug 2009

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. Directed several high school and junior high retreats.

Resident Assistant, Music Minister, and Retreat Assistant, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, Aug 2002-Jun 2004.

As an RA, I served 50 freshman in Harbin Hall (2002-2003) and 55 sophomores in Darnall Hall (2003-2004), supporting Georgetown undergrad students struggling with depression, body image disorders, substance abuse, and the common stresses of college life. As a music minister, I helped lead music for the 8pm Sunday night Mass on campus for 4 years. As a retreat assistant, I helped lead several student retreats and, after attending a 5-day silent retreat, assisted in administering a subsequent 5-day silent retreat with Fr. Tom King, SJ.

Public Writings (continued from page 3)

“Teilhard and Eugenics: A Response to John Haught,” *Commonweal Magazine* (March 12, 2019).

<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/teilhard-eugenics>

“Author Responds to Criticism of Teilhard Eugenics Essay,” *Rewire.News/Religion Dispatches*, August 22, 2018. <https://rewire.news/religion-dispatches/2018/08/22/author-responds-to-criticism-of-teilhard-eugenics-essay/>

“Pierre Teilhard de Chardin’s Legacy of Eugenics and Racism Can’t Be Ignored,” *Religion Dispatches.org / Re.Wire News*, May 21, 2018. <http://religiondispatches.org/pierre-teilhard-de-chardins-legacy-of-eugenics-and-racism-cant-be-ignored/>.

“It is Time for the Murals to Go: An Open Letter to Fr. Jenkins,” *Notre Dame/St. Marys College Observer*, November 28, 2017. <https://ndsmcobserver.com/2017/11/time-murals-go/>

This letter, combined with years of protests and activism by the Native American student group, resulted in Fr. Jenkins surprise announcement in January 2019 to cover the Columbus murals. <https://apnews.com/b94ea91f11e649579326812f3b7c2980>

“What Belongs to God? What Belongs to Caesar?” *Faith.nd.edu*, June 6, 2017.

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

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

The blog averages approximately 12,000 views each month, with a lifetime viewership of over 830,000. As editor, I recruit and manage guest posts, as well as organize focused weeks of blogging.

Edited posts and weeks:

“[Statement of Catholic Theologians, Educators, Parishioners, and Lay Leaders on Clergy Sexual Abuse in the United States](#).” Cosigned by over 5000 individuals, I curated, edited, published, and managed this piece. August 17, 2018.

“How Would Jesus Vote?”

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

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

“[Pope Francis, Theology, and the Church of the Poor](#).” April 29-May 4, 2013.

As contributor, I have published **over 80 essays** online. Some notable examples, each with several thousand unique views:

“[Imagining Faith: A Tribute to Dr. King](#),” April 4, 2018.

“[The Murals Must Go: An Open Letter to Fr. Jenkins](#).” November 28, 2017. I authored and published this piece as a followup to the NDSMC Observer article. Cosigned by over 2000 individuals, this letter, along with years of activism and media covered, caused Fr. Jenkins to announce he is covering the murals in 2019.

“[The End and Beginning of Hope: A Theological Reflection on Ta-Nehisi Coates](#),” October 23, 2017.

“[Seven Ways to Not Be a Complicit Academic](#),” August 15, 2017.

“[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 Williams](#),” May 5, 2015. This was a featured article for the July/August 2015 Newsletter of the National Black Catholic Congress, <http://nbccongress.org>.

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

“[Becoming Anti-Oppressive](#),” Parts [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), and [4](#), September 16-19, 2014.

“[A Theological History of Private Property](#),” April 29, 2013.

Conference Presentations (continued from page 3)

- “Eugenics, Slavery, and 20th century Theology: The Difficulty of Evolutionary Theologies” Annual Meeting of the Catholic Theological Society of America: Pittsburgh, PA: 2019. Paper will be given at an entire panel focused on my own work regarding Teilhard de Chardin, SJ’s views on eugenics.
- “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 (continued from page 3)

- “Liberation and Mercy in Jonah,” “Markan Discipleship,” and “The Exodus Narratives,” St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, South Bend, IN. December-February, 2017-18.
- “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.

Book Reviews (continued from page 3)

John F. Haught’s *The New Cosmic Story: Inside Our Awakening Universe*. London: Yale University Press,
2017. *Science & Christian Belief* (June 2019). In press.

Yves Gingras’ *Science and Religion: An Impossible Dialogue*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2017. *Politics,
Religion and Ideology* (January 2019). In press.

William Cavanaugh and James K. A. Smith’s *Evolution and the Fall*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B.
Eerdmans, 2017. *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 20, no. 2 (April 2018).

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