

Kevin J. O'Brien

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Employment

Associate Professor of Religion, Pacific Lutheran University (2012 - present)

Assistant Professor of Religion, Pacific Lutheran University (2006 - 2012)

Education

Emory University Atlanta, GA Ph.D., 2006
Graduate Division of Religion, Ethics & Society Program

Union Theological Seminary New York, NY M.A., 2001
Theology & Ethics

Earlham College Richmond, IN B.A., 1999
Religion Major, German & Music Minors

Courses Taught at Pacific Lutheran University

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| RELI 226: Christian Ethics | IHON 328: Social Justice |
| RELI 239: Environment and Culture | RELI 365: Christian Ecological Ethics |
| RELI 246: Religion and Diversity | RELI & ENVT 499: Capstone - Research Seminar |

Grants & Honors

Wabash Center, "Fostering Research Programs in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Religion and Theology" with Dr. Forrest Clingerman (2013)

Louisville Institute Sabbatical Research Grant, with Dr. Kathryn Blanchard, "Prophets Meet Profits: Christian Environmentalism and Free Markets" (2012-13)

Property and Environment Research Center, Lone Mountain Research Fellowship (Fall, 2012)

Wiancko Student-Faculty Research Grant with Dr. Susan Harmon & Dr. Brian Naasz, "Toxics & Consumer Choices" (Summer 2011)

Regency Advancement Award for summer research, "Peace, Justice, & Environmentalism" (Summer 2010)

Kelmer Roe Student Faculty Research Grant with Dr. Brenda Ihssen, "Natural Disasters as Moral Lessons" (2009 - 2010).

Environmental Studies Wiancko Student-Faculty Research Grant with Dr. Susan Harmon & Dr. Brian Naasz, "Coal & Sustainability" (Summer 2009).

American Academy of Religion Collaborative Research Grant with Dr. Whitney Bauman and Richard Bohannon, "Inherited Land: The Changing Grounds of Religion and Ecology" (Spring 2009)

Wabash Center Research Fellowship (Summer 2008)

Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Emory University (2005-2006)

Briggs Award for Conscience & Courage in Scholarship, Union Seminary (2001)

Earlham College and Departmental Honors, Phi Beta Kappa (1999)

Publications

Monographs

An Ethics of Biodiversity: Christianity, Ecology, and the Variety of Life (Georgetown University Press, 2010)

An Introduction to Christian Environmentalism: Ecology, Virtue, and Ethics Co-Authored with Kathryn D. Blanchard (Baylor University Press, 2014)

Edited Volumes

Inherited Land: The Changing Grounds of Religion and Ecology, with co-editors Whitney Bauman & Richard Bohannon, Jr. (Pickwick, 2011)

Grounding Religion: A Field Guide to Religion and Ecology, with co-editors Whitney Bauman & Richard Bohannon, Jr. (Routledge, 2010)

Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

"Balancing Critique and Commitment: A Synthetic Approach to Teaching Religion and the Environment," *Teaching Theology and Religion*, 17.3 (2014)

"Prophets Meet Profits: The Virtues of Christian Ecological Ethics and Free Market Environmentalism." (With Kathryn D. Blanchard) *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, 34.1 (2014)

"The 'War' Against Climate Change and Christian Eco-Justice: Ethical Implications of Martial Rhetoric." *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology*, 16 (2012)

"La Causa and Environmental Justice: César Chávez as a Resource for 21st Century Christian Ecological Ethics." *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, 32.1 (2012)

"Natural Disasters as Moral Lessons: Nazianzus and New Orleans" (co-written with Anna Duke and Brenda Ihssen). *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*. 6:1 (2012)

"Using Environmental Studies Capstone to Solidify and Assess the Integration of Interdisciplinary Learning at Pacific Lutheran University" (co-written with Rose McKenney [first author], Brian Naasz, and William Teska). *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, 1:3 (2011)

"Thinking Globally and Thinking Locally: Ecology, Subsidiarity, and a Multiscalar Environmentalism." In *The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* 2.2 (2008). (Anthologized in *Religion and the Environment*, vol. IV, edited by Roger S. Gottlieb, Routledge, 2010)

"An Ethics of Natureculture and Creation: Donna Haraway's Cyborg Ethics as a Resource for Ecotheology," in *Ecotheology* 9:3 (2004)

Selected Other Publications

"Playing God: Religion in the Geoengineering Debate" with Forrest Clingerman. *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* (Scheduled for publication in February, 2014).

"Communicative Ethics" and "Ecology" in *The Spirit of Sustainability* volume of the Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability, 2009

"Toward an Ethics of Biodiversity: Science and Theology in Environmentalist Dialogue" in *Eco-Spirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth*. Laurel Kearns and Catherine Keller, eds. Fordham Press, 2007

Selected Presentations at Academic Conferences

- "Environmental Ethics at the Pace of Ambiguity" with Whitney A. Bauman, Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, New York, NY, June 12, 2014.
- "Prophets Meet Profits: The Virtues of Christian Ecological Ethics and Free Market Environmentalism," with Kathryn Blanchard, Society of Christian Ethics, Chicago, IL, January 5, 2013.
- "La Causa and Environmental Justice: César Chávez as a Resource for 21st Century Christian Ecological Ethics," Society of Christian Ethics, New Orleans, LA, January 7, 2011
- "Questioning the 'War' on Climate Change: Christian Eco-Justice and Militaristic Rhetoric in the Environmental Movement," American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, November 1, 2010
- "Can Sacramentalism Save Biodiversity?" Northwest Regional American Academy of Religion, George Fox University, May, 3, 2008
- "Sustainable Development Meets Moral Development: Environmentalist Argumentation and Moral Agencies in 'An Inconvenient Truth' and 'The Earth Charter,'" American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 18, 2007
- "Thinking Globally and Thinking Locally: Subsidiarity, Ecology, and Hierarchies," Society of Christian Ethics, Dallas, TX, January 9, 2007
- "Scaling Ethics: The Normative Implications of Ecological Hierarchy" & "Bringing Religion and Nature Into the Classroom," Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, Gainesville, FL, April 7-8, 2006
- "Discourse Ethics in Environmental Context: Human Agency and the Link Between Cultural and Biological Diversity," International Association for Environmental Philosophy Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, October 23, 2005
- "Nature, Morality, and the Environment: E. O. Wilson and James Gustafson on Science and Religion in Ethics," Southeastern Regional American Academy of Religion, Winston-Salem, NC, March 12, 2005
- "The Difference Creation Makes: Environmental Ethics in Donna Haraway and Sallie McFague," 14th Annual North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community, Empire State College, February 20, 2004

Selected Public Lectures & Presentations

- "Can Christian Ecological Ethics Learn from Free Market Environmentalism?" Lecture at the University of Chicago Divinity School (May 20, 2013)
- "César Chávez and the Ecological Virtue of Sacrifice," Lecture at Boise State University (October 16, 2012)
- "Do Christians Live on Earth? Reconciling Faith and Environment," as visiting scholar at Alma College, Alma, MI (March 30, 2010)
- "Spirituality & Sustainability: Yes, but at What Scale?" ELCA College & University Chaplains Conference (April 17, 2009)
- "The Ethics of Energy: Environmental Science & Environmental Morality." with Dr. Brian Naasz, week-long course at Holden Village, WA (July 6-11, 2008)

Selected Public Lectures & Presentations (cont'd)

"A Global Church and a Global Ethics: Globalization and Catholic Social Teaching," Aquinas Center of Theology at Emory University (January 30-31, 2007)

Homilies and Church Adult Education Classes (2007-2012) at:

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor, WA
 Calvary Lutheran Church, Federal Way, WA
 Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma, WA
 Creator Lutheran Church, Sumner, WA
 Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Atlanta, GA
 Hope Lutheran Church in Enumclaw, WA
 Mount Cross Lutheran Church, University Place, WA
 Mountain View Lutheran Church, Edgewood, WA
 Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Seattle, WA
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Parkland, WA
 United Church in University Place, WA
 United Churches of Olympia, WA

Professional Development

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology & Religion Workshops

Writing the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (November 2011)
 Pre-Tenure Religion Faculty at Colleges and Universities (2007 - 2008)

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

Sustainability Across the Curriculum Leadership Workshop (July 2011)

Curriculum for the Bioregion Learning Communities, Washington Center

Contemplative and Reflective Practices (2010-11)
 Philosophy and Religious Studies (2008-9)

Wild Hope Seminars, Pacific Lutheran University

Exploring the Genius of Lutheran Higher Education (2008-9)
 Faculty Study Seminar (2006-7)

Selected Service to Pacific Lutheran University

University Committees and Programs

Elected, Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents, 2014-2017

Appointed Chair, Environmental Studies Committee, 2014

Elected Member, Faculty Affairs Committee, 2008-2010; 2013-2014

Religion Department Search Committee Member (2006, 2009, 2010) & Chair (2013)

Representative to Budget Advisory Committee, September 2008 – May 2010

Appointed Member, Presidential Search Committee, Summer 2011 - Spring 2012

Elected Faculty Secretary, Fall 2011 - Spring 2012

Chair, Sustainability Committee, 2010 - 2012