

DR BARNABAS ASPRAY

Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology, St. Mary's Seminary and University

124 W 27th St
Baltimore, MD
21218, USA

Phone: (+1) 443 286 2818
Email: Baspray[at]stmarys.edu

EDUCATION

- 2015-2019** **PhD, Christian Theology**, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge
Thesis title: 'Finitude and Transcendence: A Study in Paul Ricœur's Early Philosophy'
Supervisor: Prof. Janet Soskice
Examiners: Prof. Emmanuel Falque and Dr Rowan Williams
Viva October 7th, 2019: no corrections
- 2013-2014** **MPhil, Christian Theology**, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge
Thesis title: 'Theological Hermeneutics in David Tracy and Robert Jenson'
Supervisor: Prof. David Ford
- 2010-2013** **MA, Theological Studies**, Regent College, Vancouver
Biblical Studies concentration. GPA 3.86
- 2001-2005** **BSc, Computer Science with European Study**, University of Exeter
Upper second class honours (2.1)
One-year exchange at Université de Technologie de Troyes, France

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Jul 2023 – Present** **Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology**, St. Mary's Seminary and University, Maryland, USA
Full-time faculty member of the School of Theology.
- Oct 2022 – Aug 2023** **Teaching Fellow**, Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford
Teaching fellow for the Virtues & Vocations project. Responsibilities include: teaching & mentoring graduate students in virtue, character and leadership; researching and writing on character education and leadership.
- Jan 2022 – Dec 2022** **Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion**, King's College London
Undergraduate lecturer in philosophy of religion. Responsibilities include: lecturing, running seminars, marking essays, participating in committees, supervising graduate & undergraduate dissertations, & providing pastoral support to students.
- Oct 2019 – Sep 2022** **Junior Research Fellow**, Pembroke College Oxford
Member of 'Religion and the Frontier Challenges' research programme. Responsibilities include: conducting research on Christian responses to refugees, engaging in seminars, providing undergraduate and graduate teaching and assessment, and participating in the research community at Pembroke.
- Aug 2019 – Jun 2020** **Research Assistant**, SOAS
100 hrs editorial work for Prof. Alison Scott-Baumann's monograph, *Islam on Campus* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020)

- Jun 2014 – Apr 2015** – **Research Assistant**, University of Cambridge
200 hrs directed research for Prof. Janet Soskice’s monograph, *Naming God*
- Oct 2006 – Aug 2010** – **Software Engineer**, BBC website
Developing & maintaining the BBC’s mobile internet content management systems
Acting team leader May 2009 – Jan 2010
- Nov 2005 – Sep 2006** – **Software Engineer**, Thales Avionics
Developing a satellite communications box for airborne mobile phone usage

TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

- Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Aug 2023 – Present** – **St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Maryland, USA**
Responsible for teaching:
1. Doctrine of God
 2. Christology and Soteriology
 3. Fundamental Theology
 4. Ministry in Ecumenical and Interfaith Contexts
 5. Thesis director for one doctoral student and one STL student
- July 2023** – **Regent College, Vancouver, Canada**
One-week summer school course for graduate students: ‘Welcoming the Stranger: Refugees in Christian Perspective’.
- Oct 2020 – Jun 2023** – **Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford**
Course Convenor, ‘Figures and Themes in Modern Theology’ (MPhil/MSt)
- Facilitating & co-teaching 16 classes for graduate students
- Guest Lecturer**, ‘Themes in Nineteenth-Century Theology and Religion’ (2nd yr UG)
- 3 lectures: ‘The Crisis of the Religion of Reason’; ‘Feuerbach’; ‘Marx and Nietzsche’
- Undergraduate Tutor**, ‘Christian Moral Reasoning’
- Oct 2022 – Jun 2023** – **Oxford Character Project, University of Oxford**
Course Facilitator: ‘Global Leadership Initiative’, a course on character and virtue in leadership.
- March 2023** – **Universidad Anahuac, Mexico City, Mexico**
2-day course on ‘Leading with Character’ as part of the Oxford Character Project’s knowledge exchange program.
- March 2023** – **Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, Madrid, Spain**
2-day course on ‘Leading with Character’ as part of the Oxford Character Project’s knowledge exchange program.
- Jan 2022 – Dec 2022** – **King’s College London**
Teaching & Marking:

- ‘Faith and Enlightenment: Philosophies of Religion from Anselm to Kant’ (2nd year undergrad)
 - ‘Philosophy of Religious Life’ (3rd year undergrad)
 - Contributor to ‘Academic Methods’ (1st year undergrad)

Supervising:

- 4 dissertations (1 Master’s & 3 undergrad)

Module design:

- Team lead designing the core 3rd year undergrad module ‘Offence’.

Committees:

- Student Experience committee

**Jun 2013 –
Jan 2022**

King’s School of Theology

Lecturer, Theology & Biblical Studies

- Teaching: ‘Doctrine of God’, ‘Hermeneutics’, ‘Theology of Culture’, ‘Why Refugees Matter’, ‘Challenges to Faith’
- Dissertation supervised: ‘Lamentations for the Contemporary Church’

**Oct 2016 –
Jun 2018**

Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

Undergraduate Supervisor, Faculty of Divinity

- Paper C11: ‘God, Metaphysics, and the Modern Challenge’
- Paper B10: ‘God, Freedom, and the Soul’
- Paper B8: ‘Great Christian Theologians’

**Sep 2017 –
Dec 2017**

St Alban’s Certificate in Theology

Tutor & Co-Lecturer, ‘Introduction to Christian Doctrine’

- Designing & teaching a 20hr Adult Learning course

**Sep 2013 –
Mar 2017**

King’s School of Theology

Track Leader, Theology & Biblical Studies

- Designing & co-teaching: ‘Romans’, ‘Hermeneutics’, ‘Wisdom Literature’, ‘Christian Thought & Culture’
- Essay marking, course coordination

**Sep 2012 –
Apr 2013**

Regent College, Vancouver, Canada

Teacher’s Assistant, ‘Christian Thought & Culture’

- Hosting a weekly tutorial & marking final exams

Teacher’s Assistant, ‘Biblical Exegesis & Interpretation’

- Marking weekly student assignments & hosting a weekly tutorial

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Barnabas Aspray and David Elcott, [*On the Significance of Religion for Immigration Policy*](#) (Routledge, 2025).

Barnabas Aspray, [*Ricœur at the Limits of Philosophy: God, Creation, and Evil*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Reviews of *Ricœur at the Limits of Philosophy*:

- [Review essay at *Reviews in Religion and Theology*.](#)

- [Review at Reading Religion.](#)
- [Review at Heythrop Journal.](#)
- [Review at Journal for Continental Philosophy of Religion.](#)

Journal Articles

- Barnabas Aspray, '[Hermeneutics: The Only Way to Transcendence](#)', *Modern Theology* (early view, forthcoming in issue).
- Barnabas Aspray, 'Ricoeur's Reception in Anglophone Theology: History and Evaluation', *Jian Diao* 63, no. 1 (2025).
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Paul Ricoeur and Metaphysics](#)', *Études Ricoeuriennes / Ricoeur Studies* 15, no. 2 (2024): 207–26.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Jesus Was a Refugee: Unpacking the Theological Implications](#)', *Modern Theology* 40, no. 2 (2024)
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Faith, Science, and the Wager for Reality: Meillassoux and Ricoeur on post-Kantian Realism](#)', *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* 84, no. 2 (15 March 2023): 133–56.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[New Challenges to Character Education](#)', *Journal of Character and Leadership Development* 10, no. 2 (2023): 49–59.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[A Throne Will Be Established in Steadfast Love: Welcoming Refugees and the Davidic Kingdom in Isaiah 16:1-5](#)', *Open Theology* 7 (2021): 426–44.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[How Can Phenomenology Address Classic Objections to Liturgy?](#)', *Religions* 12, no. 4 (April 2021): 236.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[Y a-t-il une métaphysique ricœurienne ?](#)', *Crossing: The INPR Journal* 1 (2020): 73–83.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[“No One Can Serve Two Masters”: The Unity of Philosophy and Theology in Ricoeur's Early Thought](#)', *Open Theology* 5, no. 1 (2019): 320–332.
- Barnabas Aspray, '[“Scripture Grows with its Readers”: Doctrinal Development from a Ricoeurian Perspective](#)', *Modern Theology* 35, no. 4 (2019): 746–759.

Chapter Contributions

- Barnabas Aspray, 'Vocational Witness: A Philosophical Analysis', in *Cultural Witness: A Theology of Testimony for the Contemporary Church*, ed. Graham Tomlin (SCM Press: forthcoming 2025 – completed and submitted to editor).
- Barnabas Aspray, 'Jaspers and Paul Ricoeur', in *The Jaspersian Mind*, ed. Daniel Adsett (Routledge: forthcoming 2025 – completed and submitted to editor).
- Barnabas Aspray, 'From Exegesis to Allegory: Ricoeur's Challenge to Biblical Scholarship', in *Reading Scripture with Paul Ricoeur*, ed. Joseph Edelheit and James Moore (Lanham: Lexington Press, 2021).
- Barnabas Aspray, 'Transforming Heideggerian Finitude? Following Pathways Opened by Falque', in *Transforming the Theological Turn: Phenomenology with Emmanuel Falque*, ed. Martin Kočí and Jason Alvis (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020).

Translations

- Emmanuel Falque, 'Trinitarian Kenosis and the Limits of Phenomenology', in *New Trinitarian Ontologies*, ed. John Milbank, Ryan Haecker, and J.D. Lyonhart, trans. Barnabas Aspray, vol. 1 (Cascade, 2024), 92–106.
- Emmanuel Falque, 'The All-Seeing: Fraternity and Vision of God in Nicholas of Cusa', trans. Barnabas Aspray and Kyle Kavanaugh, *Modern Theology* 35, no. 4 (2019): 760–87.
- Paul Ricoeur, 'From One Testament to the Other', trans. Barnabas Aspray, *Modern Theology* 33, no. 2 (2017): 235–42.

Dictionary Entries

Three entries ('Nietzsche'; 'Biblical Hermeneutics'; 'Transcendence') in *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, ed. Andrew Louth, 4th ed., (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Book Reviews

Review: D. Glenn Butner Jr., *Jesus the Refugee: Ancient Injustice and Modern Solidarity* (Fortress Press, 2023), *Reading Religion* (29 June 2023) - <https://readingreligion.org/9781506479361/>.

Double Review: Mark Glanville and Luke Glanville, *Refuge Reimagined: Biblical Kinship in Global Politics* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2021), and Mark W. Hamilton, *Jesus, King of Strangers: What the Bible Really Says about Immigration* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2019), *Studies in Christian Ethics* 35, no. 1 (1 February 2022): 195–99.

Review: Scott Davidson, ed., *A Companion to Ricœur's The Symbolism of Evil* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2020), *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* 82, no. 1 (2 March 2021): 95–96.

Review: David Hollenbach SJ, *Humanity in Crisis: Ethical and Religious Response to Refugees* (Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 2019), *Studies in Christian Ethics* 34, no. 1 (13 January 2021): 126–29.

Review: Scott Davidson, ed., *A Companion to Ricœur's Fallible Man* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2019), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 27 no. 4 (2020): 503-507.

Review: Emmanuel Falque, *The Guide to Gethsemane: Anxiety, Suffering, Death* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2019), trans. George Hughes, *Modern Theology* 36 no. 1 (2020): 230-232.

Review: Stewart Goetz, *A Philosophical Walking Tour with C. S. Lewis: Why It Did Not Include Rome* (Bloomsbury, 2014), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 26, no. 1 (2019): 76–79.

Review: Joshua Broggi, *Sacred Language, Sacred World: The Unity of Scriptural and Philosophical Hermeneutics* (Bloomsbury, 2015), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 24, no. 3 (2017): 444–47.

Review: George Ille, *Between Vision and Obedience – Rethinking Theological Epistemology: Theological Reflections on Rationality and Agency with Special Reference to Paul Ricœur and G.W.F. Hegel* (Cambridge: James Clarke & Co, 2014), *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 23, no. 3 (2016): 326–29.

Review: Iain Provan, *Seriously Dangerous Religion: What the Old Testament Really Says and Why It Matters* (Baylor University Press, 2014), *Syndicate: A New Forum for Theology* 2 no. 5 (2015).

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Sep 2022 – Aug 2023 – Teacher for Global Leadership Initiative, a course on character and virtue in good leadership. Responsibilities include: teaching leadership to graduate students at Oxford University, 1-1 mentoring of students, facilitating discussion, course co-design with colleague.

Oct 2022-Present – Lead author for the team writing the 'Religion Matters in Migration' book project.

Jun-Nov 2022 – Led a team designing the 'Offence' module for KCL's Theology & Religious Studies department.

Sep 2013 – Mar 2017 – Leader, Biblical Studies track, King's School of Theology. Led and coordinated all the teachers and modules for the track.

Sep 2012 – Apr 2013 – Academic Vice President, Regent College Student Association. Jointly responsible with the President for running the Student Association and for representing the students at faculty meetings.

Apr-Dec 2009 – Acting Team Leader, BBC Mobile Server Side Development team. Led a team of software engineers responsible for the BBC's mobile website.

ORGANISATION & ADMINISTRATION

- July 2023- Present** **Canvas Administrator, St. Mary's Seminary and University**
Responsible for training and maintenance of the online learning platform, including plagiarism detection software.
- April 2022** **Conference Organiser: 'Christ & Philosophy'**
3 day Doctoral & Postdoctoral Seminar with the INPR
- Dec 2021** **Undergraduate Admissions Interviews**, Pembroke College Oxford
- Dec 2020** **Undergraduate Admissions Interviews**, Pembroke College Oxford
- Oct 2016 – May 2019** **Philosophy of Religion Subject Committee**, University of Cambridge
Graduate representative
- Jun 2018** **Conference Organiser: 'Body & Spirit in French Philosophy of Religion'**
3 day conference with keynote Emmanuel Falque, 40 attendees
- Dec 2017** **Conference Organiser: 'Divine Creation & Linguistic Creations'**
1 day conference in honour of Professor Janet Soskice's retirement, 50 attendees
- Oct 2016 – May 2017** **Athena Swan working group** for equality & diversity, University of Cambridge
Graduate representative
- Oct 2015 – May 2016** **Editor**, Noesis Review, Graduate journal of the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge
- May 2012 – Apr 2013** **Academic Vice President**, Regent College Student Association
- Mar 2013** **Conference Organiser: 'Regent College Academic Symposium'**
1 day annual conference for graduate students, 60 attendees

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

Active Member of:

- International Network of Philosophy of Religion
- Porticus Talents for Good
- Las Casas Institute for Social Justice, Blackfriars Hall, Oxford
- Collegium Emmaus, Fribourg, Switzerland
- Academy of Catholic Theology

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

I have peer reviewed books and articles for the following journals and publishers:

- Cambridge University Press
- Bloomsbury
- *Modern Theology*
- *International Journal of Systematic Theology*
- *Open Theology*
- *Ecclesiology*
- *Humanities*
- *Approaching Religion*

PUBLIC OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

- May 2025 – Present** Lead theologian for [Christian Story](#), a video channel introducing Christian doctrines in an accessible format.
- Feb 2023 – Present** Regular contributor to [Seen & Unseen](#), an online magazine offering Christian perspectives on culture and contemporary events for a non-Christian audience.
- Sep 2021 – Present** [Faith at the Frontiers](#) podcast.
Co-hosted with [Dr Austin Stevenson](#), the podcast confronts challenges to the Christian faith through interviews and conversation on contemporary issues.
- Oct 2024** **Timeline Theological Videos**, YouTube.
Video recording: [‘Theology of Refugees’](#).
- Aug 2023** **Timeline Theological Videos**, YouTube.
Video recording: [‘Introduction to Paul Ricœur’](#).
- Oct 2019** **Festival of Ideas**, University of Cambridge
Public workshop (with Nadya Pohran): ‘(Dis)belief and (Un)certainty: Navigating the Changing Waters of Belief, Faith, and Doubt’.
- Mar 2018** **Scribe online**, Weinstadt, Germany
7 hours of video recorded lectures: ‘Overview of the Biblical Story’, ‘Proverbs’, ‘Romans’, ‘Revelation’
- Oct 2017** **Festival of Ideas**, University of Cambridge
Public workshop: ‘One Truth, Many Religions?’
- Jul 2016** **Sutton Trust Summer School**, University of Cambridge
1 hour lecture for A level students: ‘What is God?’
- Jul 2015** **Experience Cambridge**, University of Cambridge
Short taster courses for prospective students: ‘The Problem of Evil’, ‘The Book of Revelation’

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (* = invited)

- *July 2025** ‘Welcoming the Stranger: A Christian Theology of Refugees and Immigration’, at the Eastern European Institute of Theology annual conference, Kyiv, Ukraine.
- *June 2025** “‘Myth Became Fact’: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien on the Resurrection”, at the Center for Faith & Society annual Study Days, University of Fribourg, Switzerland.
- May 2025** ‘Immigration, Religion and Public Policy: Case Study Hungary’, at Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) annual convention, Columbia University, New York.
- May 2025** ‘Can the Creed be Proven from Scripture? Implications for Ecumenical Dialogue’, at the Academy of Catholic Theology annual conference, Dominican House of Studies, Washington D.C.
- April 2024** ‘The Ethics of Immigration’, at the Catholic Moral Theology and Seminary Teaching annual conference, Mundelein Seminary, Chicago.
- *July 2023** ‘Leadership for a Sustainable Future’, *Digital and Sustainability Experience*, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ashanti, Ghana.
- *Jan 2023** ‘Jesus was a Refugee: Unpacking the Theological Implications’, King’s College London Senior Research Seminar, Faculty of Theology, King’s College London.
- *May 2022** ‘God, Creation, and Evil in the Philosophy of Paul Ricœur.’ Modern Theology Senior Seminar, Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford.

April 2022	‘The Second Copernican Revolution’, <i>International Network of Philosophy of Religion Seminar</i> , Durham, UK.
*April 2022	‘Refugee Welcome: Challenges and Opportunities Working with Refugees’, <i>Porticus Talents for Good Convening</i> , online.
*Sept 2021	‘The Keystone of Ricœur’s Thought: Finitude and What Lies Beyond’: Guest Speaker, <i>Verstehen Colloquium</i> , Cambridge.
*July 2021	‘Social Justice Leadership in a Post-Pandemic Era’, <i>Porticus Talents for Good Convening</i>
*May 2021	‘The Voice of the Refugee’, <i>Free Speech at the Crossroads: International Dialogues</i>
*May 2021	‘Ricœur and the God of the Philosophers’, <i>Campion Seminar</i>
Sep 2019	‘Finitude and Transcendence in Ricœur’s Philosophy’, <i>League of European Research Universities (LERU) thematic group Doctoral Seminar</i> , Cambridge
*Jun 2019	Response: ‘Apocalyptic Eschatology and the Limits of Discourse’, <i>International Network of Philosophy of Religion</i> , Institut Catholique de Paris
*Jun 2019	Response: ‘Joy, Sorrow, and the Good Life’, <i>Annual Conference of the Study Centre for Faith and Society</i> , University of Fribourg, Switzerland
*Dec 2018	‘Est-ce qu’il y a une métaphysique ricœurienne?’, <i>International Network of Philosophy of Religion Seminar</i> , Institut Catholique de Paris
Aug 2018	“Scripture Grows with its Readers”: Ricœur and Doctrinal Development’, <i>Newness of the Old Conference</i> , Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge
Jun 2018	‘The Meaning of Evil: Its relation to Finitude & Guilt in Ricœur and Falque’, <i>Symbolism of Evil Conference</i> , Institut Protestant de Théologie, Paris, France
*May 2018	‘Communication, Mediation, and Combat: The Formation of Ricœur the Mediator’, <i>May ’68 at 50 Conference</i> , King’s College, London
*Apr 2018	‘Distinguishing Prejudices: Ricœur and Interreligious Recognition’, <i>Interreligious Studies Senior Seminar</i> , University of Cambridge
*Apr 2018	‘Existence and Transcendence in the Early Ricœur’, <i>International Network of Philosophy of Religion Colloquium</i> , Tivoli, Italy

AWARDS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

2023	Nagot Grant (from St. Mary’s Seminary and University) for open access publication of monograph, \$2,500
2023	Research Grant, Faith at the Frontiers Podcast (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science), £1,000
2022	Research Grant, Faith at the Frontiers Podcast (Ian Ramsey Centre) £500
2022	Research Grant, Faith at the Frontiers Podcast (King’s Cultural Initiatives) £1,000
2021	Research Grant, Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology £2,000
2020	Publication fee, Ignatius Press (chapter contribution), \$500
2020	Conference Grant, University of Oxford £500
2015-2018	Doctoral Award, School of Arts and Humanities, University of Cambridge £63,171
2017	Conference Grant, Jesus College, University of Cambridge £500
2017	Conference Grant, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge £1,440
2013	Old Testament Prize, Regent College \$100

LANGUAGES AND IT SKILLS

Languages

Fluent French, advanced German and Spanish, intermediate Biblical Greek and Hebrew, basic Latin.

IT

Professional training to Bachelor's level plus six years full-time employment as a software engineer. Experience maintaining two multi-author blogs and producing a regular podcast.