

BRENDAN W. CASE

Curriculum Vitae

brendan_case@fas.harvard.edu

<https://hfh.fas.harvard.edu/people/brendan-w-case>

CURRENT POSITION

Associate Director for Research

The Human Flourishing Program
Harvard University
2020-Present

- In collaboration with program staff, develop an integrative research program to unify investigations of human flourishing from across the social sciences and humanities.
- Plan and execute external programs, including conferences and colloquia.
- Conduct personal research and writing on topics related to HFH's research agenda.

PRIOR POSITION

Research Associate in Philosophy

Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion
2019-2020

- Draft a monograph, *The Accountable Animal: Justice, Justification, and Judgment*.
- Co-facilitate an interdisciplinary workshop and symposium as part of a multi-year exploration of the virtue of accountability, funded by a major grant from the Templeton Religion Trust.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Theology

Duke Divinity School
March 22, 2019

Summa cum laude

Dissertation: *The World in the Word: Creation as God's Speech in Bonaventure and Berkeley*

Advisor: Paul J. Griffiths

Committee Members: David B. Hart, Thomas Pfau, J. Warren Smith

Preliminary Exams: Systematic Theology, Patristic Theology, the Metaphysics of Creation

Master of Theological Studies

Duke Divinity School
May 2012

Summa cum laude

Thesis: "Trinitarian hermeneutics in the writings of St. Augustine"

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

The King's College
December 2009

Magna cum laude

Thesis: "Freedom's Agonies: Locke and the Politics of Enclosure"

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Theology: The Doctrine of the Trinity, Christology, and the Doctrine of Creation; Theological Anthropology, particularly in relation to contemporary social science; St. Augustine; St. Bonaventure; St. Thomas Aquinas; Comparative theology (particularly in connection with Indo-Tibetan Buddhism and *Advaita* and *Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta*).

Philosophy: Early modern metaphysics, esp. Spinoza, Leibniz, and Berkeley; Late-ancient Platonism, esp. Plotinus; Analytic philosophy of mind and language; Moral philosophy

Biblical Studies: The Septuagint; Pauline epistles and chronology; the Epistle of James; the Old Testament in the New; the Synoptic Problem; Aramaic *Vorlage* in the Gospels.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer: Harvard Divinity School 2022
HDS 2014: The Flourishing Life: Perspectives from Christian Theology and the Social Sciences

Instructor: Duke Divinity School 2018-2019
Historical Theology 760/761 – Ecclesiastical Latin
Advanced Theology - The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

Preceptor: Duke Divinity School 2013-2019
New Testament (4 sections) Early and Medieval Church History (3 sections)
Modern European Christianity (2 sections)
Christian Theology (3 sections) Christian Ethics (2 sections)

BOOKS

2024 (?) – *Doubting Thomas: Franciscan Critiques of Aquinas from Bonaventure to Duns Scotus* (under review).

2024 (?) – *Robert Grosseteste's Supralapsarian Christology*. Under contract with Lexham Press.

2022 – with William Glass. *Least of the Apostles: Paul and His Legacies in Earliest Christianity* (Pickwick Press).

2021 – *The Accountable Animal: Justice, Justification, and Judgment* (T&T Clark, 2021).

BOOK CHAPTERS

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2024 (?) – “Robert Grosseteste’s Recapitulation of Maximus Confessor’s Cosmic Christology,” in *Maximus Confessor in the Latin West* (ed. Thomas Cattoi and Kevin Clarke; Brill).

2024 (?) – “God or Nature?: Complicating the Distinction of ‘Numinous’ from ‘Mystical’ Experiences, East and West,” in *The Science of Spiritual Experiences* (ed. David Yaden; Oxford University Press).

2021 – “Augustine’s Dilemma: Divine Eternity and the Reality of Temporal Passage,” in *Augustine and Time* (eds. Sean Hannan, John Doody, & Kim Paffenroth; Lexington Books, 2021).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Sole Author

2023 – “Abolishing Anger: A Christian Proposal.” *Religions*.
<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/14/11/1427>.

2022 – “The Devil’s Envy: Robert Grosseteste on Christ as Angelic Justifier and Demonic Stumbling Block,” *The International Journal of Systematic Theology* (25 May 2022):
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ijst.12584>.

2021 – “Accountability as a Sub-Type of Justice: Reflections on ‘Obedience’ and ‘Religion’ in Aquinas’s *Summa Theologiae*,” *Studies in Christian Ethics* Vol. 34, Issue 3 (Aug 2021):
<https://doi.org/10.1177/09539468211009757>.

2020 – “*Seraphicus supra Angelicum*: Universal Hylomorphism and Angelic Mutability,” *Franciscan Studies* (2020).

2019 – “‘More Splendid than the Sun’: Christ’s Flesh among the Reasons for the Incarnation,” *Modern Theology* (July 2019).

2018 – “Relations in Creation and Christology: A Response to Porter.” *New Blackfriars* (17 August 2018).

2016 – “Judging according to Wisdom: *Sacra Doctrina* in the *Summa Theologiae*.” *New Blackfriars* (27 September 2016).

2015 – “Saying and Praying: Christian Holiness and the Practice of Theology.” *Pro Ecclesia* (Fall 2015).

2013 – “Notions and Things in J. H. Newman’s *Grammar of Assent*,” *Newman Studies Journal* (Spring

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2013).

Co-authored Articles

- 2023 – **Brendan Case** and Tim Lomas, “Toward a Historical Comparison Framework.” Under review.
- 2023 – Tim Lomas and **Brendan Case**, “The Cryptoterrestrial Hypothesis: A case for scientific openness to a subterranean earthly explanation for Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena.” Under review.
- 2023 – Tim Lomas and **Brendan Case**, “Belonging to the Stars: Humankind’s yearning for, and potential origin in, the heavens.” Under review.
- 2023 – **Brendan Case** and Tyler VanderWeele. “Integrating the Humanities and Social Sciences: Six Approaches and Case Studies.” Under review.
- 2023 – Tim Lomas, **Brendan Case**, Flynn Cratty, and Alexander Batson. “The Dance of East and West: A Brief History of an Unstable but Enduring Conceptual Partnership.” Under review.
- 2023 – **Case, Brendan**, Counted, V., Ritchie-Dunham, J., Cowden, R., Gibson, C., Koga, H., ... & Padgett, N. (2023). Beyond a single story: The heterogeneity of human flourishing in 22 countries. *International Journal of Wellbeing*, 13(4).
- 2023 – Tim Lomas & **Brendan Case**. “From Angels to Aliens: Humankind's Ongoing Encounters with, and Evolving Interpretations of, the Genuine Celestial Unknown.” *Zygon* (17 April 2023): <https://doi.org/10.1111/zygo.12891>.
- 2023 – Ying Chen, **Brendan Case**, Maya Mathur, and Tyler VanderWeele. “An outcome wide analysis of marital transitions,” *Global Epidemiology*: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590113323000020>.
- 2023 – Richard Cowden, **Brendan Case**, Eric Kim, Julia Nakamura, and Tyler VanderWeele. “Identifying Pathways to Religious Service Attendance Among Older Adults: A Lagged Exposure-Wide Analysis,” forthcoming from *PLOS One*.
- 2023 – Tim Lomas, **Brendan Case**, “A history of psychogeography and psychocosmology: Humankind's evolving orientation on Earth and in space,” *Current Research in Ecological and Social Psychology*, Volume 4, 2023 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cresp.2023.100090>).

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2022 – Tyler VanderWeele, **Brendan W Case**, Ying Chen, Richard G Cowden, Byron Johnson, Matthew T Lee, Tim Lomas, Katelyn G Long. “Flourishing in Critical Dialogue,” forthcoming from *SSM-Mental Health*.

2022 – Tim Lomas, Pablo Diego-Rosell, Koichiro Shiba, Priscilla Standridge, Matthew T. Lee, **Brendan Case**, Alden Yuanhong Lai, Tyler J VanderWeele. “Complexifying Individualism Versus Collectivism and West Versus East: Global Diversity in Perspectives on Self and Other in the Gallup World Poll.” *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology* (18 November 2022): <https://doi.org/10.1177/00220221221130978>.

2021 – Lomas, Tim, and Brendan Case, Flynn Cratty, and Tyler VanderWeele. “A Global History of Happiness,” *The International Journal of Well-Being* (<https://doi.org/10.5502/ijw.v11i4.1457>).

GRANTS

Toward evidence-based spiritual therapeutics: randomized controlled trial of Hesychastic prayer (Templeton World Charity Foundation): 9/1/2022–3/1/2024; Michael Ferguson (PI); Role: Co-PI. Funding: \$234,000. Scope: Conducting the first randomized-controlled trial of the effects on the well-being of self-identified Christians of the practice of “Hesychastic Prayer” (aka, “the Prayer of the Heart” or the “Jesus Prayer”).

The Definition and Measurement of Love (John Templeton Foundation): 2/1/2021-1/31/2025; Matthew Lee (PI); Role: Known Team Member. Funding: \$2 million. Scope: Developing construct definitions and self-report survey measures for six types of interpersonal love (parent-child, marital, friendship, neighbor, stranger, enemy)

The Global Flourishing Study (The John Templeton Foundation, The Templeton Religion Trust, & the Templeton World Charity Foundation): 11/1/2021-10/31-2026; PI: Tyler VanderWeele and Byron Johnson; Role: Known Team Member. Funding: \$43 million. Scope: A 5-year, 22-country, 300,000-person prospective cohort study of multiple domains of flourishing.

SELECTED POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Brendan has written for *The Wall Street Journal* (“[For Long-Term Health and Happiness, Marriage Still Matters](#)”), *Christianity Today* (“[Empty Pews Are an American Public Health Crisis](#)”), *NBC News* (“[Why Some Americans Are Flourishing in a Languishing Nation](#)”), *First Things* (“[The Toll of Unbelief](#)”), and *The Church Life Journal* (e.g., “[Holy Ghosts: On Purgatory and the Paranormal](#)”), among other outlets.

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SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 - "Abolishing Anger: A Christian Proposal," presented at the Makarios Conference on Character and Virtue in the Christian Tradition, hosted in Rome by the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry of Australian Catholic University.
- 2022 - "Deification and Friendship with God from Plato to Maximus Confessor," presented at the "Creation, Christology, and Human Flourishing" workshop, hosted in Rome by the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry of Australian Catholic University.
- 2022 - "Robert Grosseteste's Recapitulation of Maximus Confessor's Cosmic Christology," presented at the "Reception of Maximus Confessor in the Latin West" panel, NAPS 2022.
- 2021 - "Sermons in Stone: Bishop Berkeley's Late Panpsychism and the Metaphysics of Animal Life," presented at the "Platonism and Neoplatonism Working Group" of the AAR Annual Meeting (21 November 2021).
- 2021 - "'Scibile secundum Philosophum Aeternum Est': Bonaventure's Use of Eustratius of Nicaea's Commentary on the Nicomachean Ethics," to be presented at "The Reception of Plato in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages" (June 6-8th, 2021).
- 2020 - "'The Doers of the Law Will Be Justified': Resolving a Pauline Dilemma," presented as part of the panel, "Accountability as a Theological Virtue," at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Boston (November 2020).
- 2020 - "Christ Our Righteousness: Human Accountability to God as a Reason for the Incarnation," presented at the conference, "Thomas Aquinas and the Crisis of Christology" at Ave Maria University (8 February 2020).
- 2019 - "Christ's Flesh as a Reason for the Incarnation in Grosseteste, Bonaventure, and Aquinas," presented to the Systematic Theology section of the American Academy of Religion's Annual Meeting (24 November 2019).
- 2018 - "Center and Circumference: Bonaventure's Trinitarian Revisions of a Plotinian Trope," presented at the "Platonism and Neoplatonism Working Group" of the AAR Annual Meeting (19 November 2018).

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

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2021 - Member of the Collaborating Network of the Global Faculty Initiative
2017 - Lumen Christi Rome Seminar on Medieval Philosophy & Theology
2015 - Lumen Christi Oxford Seminar on John Henry Newman
2015 - Cranmer Forum Seminar on Christ in the Old Testament
2012 - Duke Divinity Top Senior GPA
2012 - Duke Divinity faculty selection for "Excellence in Bible"
2010 - Ray C. Petry Scholarship for M.T.S. Students, Duke Divinity (full-tuition)

LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge (ancient languages): Latin, *koine* and classical Greek, biblical Hebrew, Classical Syriac, (some) Old English, (a little) classical Sanskrit.

Reading competency (modern languages): German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Catalan, Dutch.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion Society of Biblical Literature
National Association of Patristics Scholars

INTERVIEWS & PODCASTS

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Co-Organizer: [International Symposium on Preventing and Healing Child Abuse](#) April 2020
Co-Convener: Duke University Colloquium in Theology and Ethics 2017-2018
Planning Committee Member: Duke Graduate Conference in Theology 2015

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Tyler VanderWeele
John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb Professor of Epidemiology
The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Director
The Human Flourishing Program

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Dr. Paul J. Griffiths
Duke Divinity School
Warren Chair of Catholic Theology Emeritus
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Dr. David Bentley Hart
Man of Letters
david.hart77@gmail.com

Dr. J. Warren Smith
Duke Divinity School
Associate Professor of Historical Theology
wsmith@div.duke.edu

Dr. Richard B. Hays
Duke University
George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament Emeritus
rhays@div.duke.edu