

# DR BARNABAS ASPRAY

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

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## EDUCATION

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- 2015-2019**    **PhD, Philosophical 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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. Grade Point Average 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

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- Aug 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

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- Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Aug 2023 – Present** – **St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Maryland, USA**  
Responsible for teaching courses in systematic theology, including Doctrine of God, Christology and Soteriology, Fundamental Theology, and Ministry in Ecumenical and Interfaith Contexts.
- 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’ (2<sup>nd</sup> 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’ (2<sup>nd</sup> year undergrad)
  - ‘Philosophy of Religious Life’ (3<sup>rd</sup> year undergrad)

- Contributor to ‘Academic Methods’ (1<sup>st</sup> year undergrad)

**Supervising:**

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

**Module design:**

- Team lead designing the core 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

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***Monographs***

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

Reviews of this book:

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

***Journal Articles***

Aspray, B. ‘[Jesus Was a Refugee: Unpacking the Theological Implications](#)’, *Modern Theology* 40, no. 2 (2024)

- Aspray, B. '[Faith, Science, and the Wager for Reality: Meillassoux and Ricœur on post-Kantian Realism](#)', *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* 84, no. 2 (15 March 2023): 133–56.
- Aspray, B. '[New Challenges to Character Education](#)', *Journal of Character and Leadership Development* 10, no. 2 (2023): 49–59.
- Aspray, B. '[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.
- Aspray, B. '[How Can Phenomenology Address Classic Objections to Liturgy?](#)', *Religions* 12, no. 4 (April 2021): 236.
- Aspray, B. '[Y a-t-il une métaphysique ricœurienne ?](#)', *Crossing: The INPR Journal* 1 (2020): 73-83.
- Aspray, B. '[“No One Can Serve Two Masters”: The Unity of Philosophy and Theology in Ricœur’s Early Thought](#)', *Open Theology* 5, no. 1 (2019): 320–332.
- Aspray, B. '[“Scripture Grows with its Readers”: Doctrinal Development from a Ricœurian Perspective](#)', *Modern Theology* 35, no. 4 (2019): 746-759.

### **Chapter Contributions**

- Aspray, B. 'From Exegesis to Allegory: Ricœur’s Challenge to Biblical Scholarship', in *Reading Scripture with Paul Ricœur*, ed. Joseph Edelheit and James Moore (Lanham: Lexington Press, 2021).
- Aspray, B. '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, 'The All-Seeing: Fraternity and Vision of God in Nicholas of Cusa', *Modern Theology* 35, no. 4 (2019): 760-787.
- Paul Ricœur, 'From One Testament to the Other', *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 Ricoeur 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**

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- 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**

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- July 2023-Present** – **Canvas Administrator, St. Mary’s Seminary and University**  
Responsible for training and maintenance of the online learning platform
- 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 – Academic Vice President**, Regent College Student Association  
**Apr 2013**

**Mar 2013 Conference Organiser:** ‘Regent College Academic Symposium’  
1 day annual conference for graduate students, 60 attendees

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS**

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### **Active Member of:**

- American Catholic Philosophical Association
- Society for Christian Ethics
- International Network of Philosophy of Religion
- Porticus Talents for Good
- Political Theology Network
- Las Casas Institute for Social Justice, Blackfriars Hall, Oxford
- Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology research group
- Collegium Emmaus, Fribourg, Switzerland

## **SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY**

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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**

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- 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 in partnership with [The Tablet](#) magazine. Co-hosted with [Dr Carmody Grey](#), the podcast confronts challenges to the Christian faith through interviews and conversation on contemporary issues.
- 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)

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

## AWARDS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

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- 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**

<b>2022</b>	Research Grant, Faith at the Frontiers Podcast (Ian Ramsey Centre) <b>£500</b>
<b>2022</b>	Research Grant, Faith at the Frontiers Podcast (King's Cultural Initiatives) <b>£1,000</b>
<b>2021</b>	Research Grant, Widening Horizons in Philosophical Theology <b>£2,000</b>
<b>2020</b>	Publication fee, Ignatius Press (chapter contribution), <b>\$500</b>
<b>2020</b>	Conference Grant, University of Oxford <b>£500</b>
<b>2015-2018</b>	Doctoral Award, School of Arts and Humanities, University of Cambridge <b>£63,171</b>
<b>2017</b>	Conference Grant, Jesus College, University of Cambridge <b>£500</b>
<b>2017</b>	Conference Grant, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge <b>£1,440</b>
<b>2013</b>	Old Testament Prize, Regent College <b>\$100</b>
<b>2010-2013</b>	George Hill Bursary, Regent College <b>\$5,900</b>

## **LANGUAGES AND IT SKILLS**

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<b>Languages</b>	Fluent French, advanced German and Spanish, intermediate Biblical Greek and Hebrew, basic Latin.
<b>IT</b>	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.