

JOSEPH G. DREXLER-DREIS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, Spring 2016

summa cum laude, Concentration: Systematic Theology and the Study of Religions

Dissertation: “Decolonial Love as a Source for Theological Reflection: A Response to Colonial Modernity”

Advisors: Jacques Haers and Kristien Justaert

Adv. MA, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, Spring 2012

summa cum laude, Concentration: Theology and the Study of Religions

MA, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, Spring 2011

cum laude, Concentration: Theology

BA, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana, Spring 2009

summa cum laude, Majors: Theology, History; Minors: Spanish, Secondary Education

Study Abroad: University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, Spring 2009

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Theology, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA, 2019–present

Assistant Professor, Department of Theology & Religious Studies, Saint Mary’s College of California, Moraga, CA, 2016–2019

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

2019 *Decolonial Theology in the North Atlantic World*, “Brill Research Perspectives in Theology” series (Leiden: Brill) (This is a short survey reflecting my perspective on decolonial theology, published as a stand-alone volume.)

2019 *Decolonial Love: Salvation in Colonial Modernity* (New York: Fordham University Press)

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

2022 “Unchaining Freedom from Capitalism: W. E. B. Du Bois and Political Theology,” *Theory & Event* 25, no. 2, 304–31

2022 “A Political Theology of Discernment: Possibilities of Theological Critique within Neoliberalism,” *Louvain Studies* 45, 16–33

- 2021 “The Meaning of Freedom and the Kingdom of God: A Struggle Against the Fetishization of Our Present World,” *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society* 49, 302–19
- 2019 “Inviting Undergraduate Students into Theological Reflection: Meeting the Challenges of Teaching Theology within General Education Contexts,” co-authored with Savannah Williams, *Journal of Catholic Higher Education* 38, no. 1, 81–94
- 2018 “Theological Thinking and Eurocentric Epistemologies: A Challenge to Theologians from within Africana Religious Studies,” *Journal of Africana Religions* 6, no. 1, 27–49
- 2017 “The Option for the Poor as a Decolonial Option: Latin American Liberation Theology in Conversation with *Teología India* and Womanist Theology,” *Political Theology* 18, no. 3, 269–86
- 2016 “Latin American Liberation Theology as a Decolonial Project? Considering the Theological Approaches of Clodovis Boff and Ignacio Ellacuría,” *Lowain Studies* 39, no. 3, 218–39.
- 2015 “James Baldwin’s Love as Religious Orientation,” *Journal of Africana Religions* 3, no. 3, 251–78
- 2015 “Nat Turner’s Rebellion as a Process of Conversion: Towards a Deeper Understanding of the Christian Conversion Process,” *Black Theology: An International Journal* 12, no. 3, 230–50
- 2013 “The Irruption of Love, the Irruption of the Beloved: Reciprocity in the Preferential Option for the Poor,” *Voices: EATWOT’s Theological Journal* 35, no. 1, 89–102
- 2013 “Decoloniality as Reconciliation,” *Concilium: International Journal of Theology* no. 1, 115–22
- 2012 “Lina soy yo: Mysticism as Identity and Subversion for the Modern Woman Writer in Emilia Pardo Bazán’s *Dulce Dueño*,” co-authored with Elizabeth Rousselle, *Hispanófila* 166, 57–75

Chapters in edited volumes:

- 2020 “Nat Turner’s Orientation beyond the Doctrine of Man,” in *Beyond the Doctrine of Man: Decolonial Visions of the Human* ed. Joseph Drexler-Dreis and Kristien Justaert (New York: Fordham University Press), 113–33
- 2020 “Introduction: Projects of Unsettling Man,” with Kristien Justaert, in *Beyond the Doctrine of Man: Decolonial Visions of the Human* ed. Joseph Drexler-Dreis and Kristien Justaert (New York: Fordham University Press), 1–15
- 2017 “Liberation Theology as Political Theology: Unbearable Poverties and the Future of Liberation Theology,” co-authored with Kristien Justaert, *Political Theology* 18, no. 4, 287–89
- 2016 “‘The White Man’s Burden’: Naar een dekoloniale (missie)theologie,” co-authored with Kristien Justaert, in *Dienstbaarheid in de praktijk: Reflecties bij een hedendaagse ontwikkelingshulp*, ed. Wim Smit, 59–80, (Leuven: Acco)

Edited volumes:

- 2020 *Beyond the Doctrine of Man: Decolonial Visions of the Human* ed. Joseph Drexler-Dreis and Kristien Justaert (New York: Fordham University Press)
- 2017 Guest editor, with Kristien Justaert, *Political Theology* 18, no. 1, “Political Theology and Liberation Theology”

Book reviews in peer-reviewed journals:

- 2018 Review of *Damned Nation: Hell in America from the Revolution to Reconstruction* by Kathryn Gin Lum, in *American Studies* 65, 127–28
- 2015 Review of *Blood and Ink: Ignacio Ellacuría, Jon Sobrino, and the Jesuit Martyrs of the University of Central America* by Robert Lassalle-Klein, in *Tijdschrift voor Theologie* 55, no. 4, 403–04
- 2015 Review of *Jesus without Borders: Christology in the Majority World* ed. Gene L. Green, Stephen T. Pardue, and K. K. Yeo, in *Tijdschrift voor Theologie* 55, no. 3, 307
- 2013 Review of *God, Spirit, and Human Wholeness: Appropriating Faith and Culture in West African Style* by Elochukwu Eugene Uzukwu, in *Louvain Studies* 37, no. 4, 406–07
- 2013 Review of *The Poor in Liberation Theology: Pathway to God or Ideological Construct?* by Tim Noble, in *Louvain Studies* 37, no. 1 (2013): 95–97
- 2013 *The Confessions of Love: The Ambiguities of Greek Eros and Latin Caritas* ed. Craig J.N. de Paulo, Bernhardt Blumenthal, Catherine Conroy de Paulo, Patrick A. Messina, and Leonid Rudnytzky, in *Louvain Studies* 37, no. 1, 81–83.

Other publications and invited articles:

- 2022 “Matter,” *Political Theology Network: Critical Theory for Political Theology 2.0 series*, October 13
- 2019 “BAR Book Forum: Joseph Drexler-Dreis’s ‘Decolonial Love’” (interview), *Black Agenda Report*, September 11
- 2019 “Is Teaching the Bible Worth the Bother? The Ambivalence of My Positive Response,” *Listening: Journal of Communication Ethics, Religion and Culture* 54, no. 1, 41-52
- 2015 “Oscar Romero’s Faith: A Persistent Challenge for Theologians,” *CLT Newsletter* 11, 20–21
- 2015 Review of *Islam in Liberalism* by Joseph A. Massad, in *CLT Newsletter* 11, 25
- 2015 Review of *A Critical Introduction to Religion in the Americas: Bridging the Liberation Theology and Religious Studies Divide* by Michelle A. Gonzalez, in *CLT Newsletter* 10, 13–14
- 2015 Review of *The Aesthetics and Ethics of Faith: A Dialogue between Liberationist and Pragmatic Thought* by Christopher D. Tirres in *CLT Newsletter* 10, 14–15

- 2014 Review of *Indigenous Black Theology: Toward an African-Centered Theology of the African American Religious Experience* by Jawanza Eric Clark, in *CLT Newsletter* 9, 16
- 2014 Review of *Review Toward a Womanist Ethic of Incarnation: Black Bodies, the Black Church, and the Council of Chalcedon* by Eboni Marshall Turman, in *CLT Newsletter* 9, 18–19
- 2014 Review of *Idol and Grace: On Traditioning and Subversive Hope* by Orlando Epsín, in *CLT Newsletter* 8, 12–13
- 2014 Review of *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone, in *CLT Newsletter* 7, 13–14
- 2014 Review of *This is How You Lose Her* by Junot Díaz, in *CLT Newsletter* 7, 15–16
- 2013 Review of *Afro-Eccentricity: Beyond the Standard Narrative of Black Religion* by William David Hart, in *CLT Newsletter* 6, 17–18
- 2013 Review of *Race, Religion, and the Haitian Revolution: Essays on Faith, Freedom, and Decolonization* by Celucien L. Joseph, in *CLT Newsletter* 5, 14–15
- 2010 “Engaging with Suffering in Historical Reality: Ellacuría’s Method in Christology,” *Glossolalia* 3, 32–49

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed conference presentations:

- 2022 “Decolonizing Catholic Theology,” panel discussion, Catholic Theological Society of America, Atlanta, GA
- 2021 “A Political Theology of Re-Enchantment: Critiquing Freedom in Modernity with Silvia Federici and Houria Bouteldja,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX
- 2021 “Pluralizing Political Theology,” panel presentation, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX
- 2021 “Discerning Real Possibilities: Political Theology and Freedom,” College Theology Society (virtual)
- 2020 “W. E. B. Du Bois’s Practical and Discursive Struggle for Freedom: A Pathway for a Constructive Understanding of Peoplehood,” College Theology Society, Mobile, AL (virtual)
- 2020 “To Liberate the Struggle for Freedom from Constraints of Racial Capitalism: Freedom and the Sacred in the Work of W. E. B. Du Bois,” African American Intellectual History Society, Austin, TX
- 2019 “Christology and Primitive Accumulation: Enclosure Strategies and Obstacles to ‘Another Possible World,’” Catholic Theological Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA

- 2018 “The Ambivalences of Freedom within Racial Capitalism,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO
- 2018 “‘Getting land enough to lay our Fathers bones upon’: Perceiving God’s Grace Outside Temporal Frameworks,” Catholic Theological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN
- 2017 “Sin and Grace in the US Imaginary: The ‘Alabaster Christ,’ ‘Man,’ and ‘Scripturalization,’” College Theology Society, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI
- 2014 “Frantz Fanon’s Praxis of Decolonial Love as Theological Locus,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA
- 2014 “The Christian Understanding of the Relationship between the Human and Jesus Christ in a Context of Coloniality,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA
- 2014 “Toward a Decolonial Christological Method,” Edward Schillebeeckx 100 Conference, Nijmegen, Netherlands
- 2014 “‘The American failure to face reality’: James Baldwin’s Decolonial Option,” International Association of Inter-American Studies, Lima, Peru
- 2014 “‘Going behind the white man’s definitions’: James Baldwin’s Praxis of Unveiling as a Praxis of Liberation,” Caribbean Philosophical Association Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri
- 2013 “Christian and Indigenous Spiritualities: The Immanence of Divine Life and the Preferential Option for the Poor,” Caribbean Philosophical Association Annual Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2013 “Encountering the Divine in the Excluded of Sacred Space: Dialogical Messianism as the Transgression of the Order of Decency,” Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology (LEST) IX, Leuven, Belgium
- 2013 “The Unattractiveness of Christian Discourse to Frantz Fanon: The Case of Theologies of Love,” European Society for Catholic Theology International Congress, Brixen, Italy
- 2013 “Nat Turner’s Rebellion: Conversion Outside Given Structures of Salvation,” Catholic Theological Society of America Annual Convention, Miami, FL
- 2012 “Grasping Reality: How Can Christian Theology Respond to Coloniality?” Caribbean Philosophical Association Annual Conference, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
- 2009 “Nat Turner’s Vision of the Kingdom of God: Confronting a Violent Political Economy,” Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Dallas, TX

Invited lectures:

- 2018 “Locating God’s Grace Outside the Parameters of Understanding of the Modern World-System,” God Talk in the Atlantic World: Horizons Beyond Reactionary History, A Symposium in Honor of Philip J. Linden, Jr., Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
- 2015 “Nat Turner’s Religion of the Flesh: An Orientation Beyond ‘Man,’” Beyond the Doctrine of Man: Perspectives on Enfleshment, KU Leuven, Belgium
- 2012 “Decoloniality as Reconciliation,” *Concilium* Colloquium: Reconciliation: Empowering Grace, KU Leuven, Belgium

Internal presentations:

- 2019 “Responding to Inequality: A Conversation about Race and Capitalism,” Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2018 “Contests among Freedoms within Global Capitalism,” *Fac Chat*, sponsored by the Intercultural Center, Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2017 Panel member, “The Bible: Worth the Bother?” Saint Mary’s College of California

ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS AND VISITING SCHOLAR APPOINTMENTS

- 2016 Summer Institute, “Towards a Non-Eurocentric Academia: Border Thinking and Decoloniality from Asia to Africa and from Europe to the Americas,” University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC,
- 2015 Summer visiting scholar, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville TN; advisor: Emile M. Townes

TEACHING WORKSHOPS

- 2020 “Teaching 21st-Century Skills in College Courses,” University of Wisconsin-Madison, September–November

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Xavier University of Louisiana

Directed Readings: Race, Capitalism, and Political Theology
 Nat Turner and Theology in Slave Rebellions
 Christianity and Racial Capitalism
 Introduction to Black Catholic Theology
 The College Experience
 Women in Religion
 Theological Foundations of Social Justice
 Theological Understanding of Jesus Christ
 Introduction to Theology

Saint Mary's College of California

Colonialism, Race, & Religion in the North Atlantic
 Theologies of Liberation
 Nat Turner & the Southampton Slave Rebellion
 The Bible & Its Interpretation
 U.S. Indigenous Theologies
 Jon Sobrino's Christology
 Seminar: Critical Strategies and Great Questions
 First Year Advising Cohort

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Creation, Church, and Salvation History (co-taught with Jacques Haers), BA level
 Contextual Theologies (co-taught with Jacques Haers and Kristien Justaert), MA level

SELECTED AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 UNCF Career Pathways Initiative Mini-Grant, Xavier University of Louisiana
- 2019 Faculty Research Grant, Saint Mary's College of California (this came out of a College-wide selection process)
- 2018 School of Liberal Arts Student-Faculty Scholarly Travel Grant, Saint Mary's College of California to bring three students to present at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting
- 2017 Student Summer Research Collaborative Grant, Saint Mary's College, to do research for and co-author an article publishable in a peer-reviewed academic journal with an undergraduate student
- 2016 *Louvain Studies* Theological Research Award 2015–2016
- 2015 Long-term stay research grant, Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO), to work as a visiting scholar at Vanderbilt Divinity School, June–August 2015
- 2015 Junior Mobility grant, KU Leuven, to work as a visiting scholar at Vanderbilt Divinity School, June–August 2015
- 2014–16 Research grant, Research Group Anthropos, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven

SERVICE TO THE GUILD

- 2017 Convener, "U.S. Indigenous Theologies as Decolonial Options," American Academy of Religion Southwest Region, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, CA
- 2015 Co-organizer of an international colloquium, "Beyond the Doctrine of Man: Perspectives on Enfleshment," KU Leuven, Belgium

- 2013 Co-organizer of an international conference on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Centre for Liberation Theologies, “Unbearable Poverties: The Future of Liberation Theology,” KU Leuven
- 2012–2016 Editor, *Center for Liberation Theologies Newsletter*, KU Leuven
- 2012 Co-organizer of an international colloquium: *Concilium* Colloquium, “Reconciliation: Empowering Grace,” KU Leuven, Belgium

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2020 Organized and hosted the Inaugural Xavier Theology Roundtable
- 2019 Ethnic Studies Board, Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2019 Committee on Teaching and Scholarship (elected committee), Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2016–2019 Residential Director, Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2017–2019 First Year Academic Cohort, Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2017–2019 Committee member, College Committee on Inclusive Excellence, Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2017–2019 Committee member, Housing and Residential Strategy Team
- 2018–2019 Committee member, Social, Historical and Cultural Understanding Working Group of the Core Curriculum Committee, Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2016–2019 Committee member, Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture and Action, Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2016–2018 Committee member, Theological Understanding Working Group of the Core Curriculum Committee, Saint Mary’s College of California
- 2012–2015 Study Advisor for International Students, KU Leuven
- 2012–2016 Co-coordinator of the Centre for Liberation Theologies, KU Leuven
- 2014–2015 Member of the Advisory Committee for International Students, KU Leuven
- 2012–2014 Member of the Teaching Committee for International Programs, KU Leuven

LANGUAGES

Spanish	Very good
French	Can read with dictionary

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

2019–present	African American Intellectual History Society
2009–present	American Academy of Religion
2012–present	Caribbean Philosophical Association
2013–present	Catholic Theological Society of America