

Byron D. Wratee

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Theology , Systematic Theology Boston College, Morrissey College Graduate School, Chestnut Hill, MA Minor Area: Comparative Theology (Africana Religions) Dissertation: “Howard Thurman’s Theological Anthropology: A Mystical Political Response to Anti-Black Violence” Committee: Andrew Prevot (advisor), Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones, and M. Cathleen Kaveny	2023
Master of Divinity , Theology and Ethics Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA	2018
Juris Doctor University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, SC	2008
Bachelor of Arts , English, <i>magna cum laude</i> Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL	2005

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD.	2024 – present
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AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dissertation Fellowship, <i>Forum for Theological Exploration</i>	2022
Honorable Mention for Dissertation Fellowship, <i>Ford Foundation</i>	2022
Ethics of Blackness Dissertation Workshop, <i>Villanova University</i>	2022
Doctoral Fellowship, <i>Forum for Theological Exploration</i>	2020
Doctoral Fellowship, <i>Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy</i>	2019
Doctoral Fellowship, <i>Louisville Institute</i>	2019
University Fellowship, <i>Boston College</i>	2018
Hoyt Hickman Award [for Liturgy], <i>Candler School of Theology</i>	2018
M.Div. Scholarship, Emory University, <i>Candler School of Theology</i>	2015
Journal of Law & Education Scholarship, <i>University of South Carolina School of Law</i>	2006
Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, <i>Stillman College</i>	2005
Harte Honors Scholarship, <i>Stillman College</i>	2001

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK REVIEWS

- [Forthcoming] “*For My People: Black Theology and the Black Church, 40th Anniversary Edition*, by James H. Cone, Maryknoll, N.Y: Orbis Books, 1984.” *Theological Studies*. 2025.
- “*White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America* by Anthea Butler, Chapel Hill, NC: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2021.” *Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society*, Vol. 50 (1), 249-250. 2023.
- “*Limits of Tolerance: Enlightenment Values and Religious Fanaticism* by Denis Lacrone,” [Reading Religion](#), 2021.

COLUMNS AND PUBLIC ARTICLES

- [Forthcoming]. An article on “Law and Order” politics and Catholic Social Teaching. *U.S. Catholic*. Vol. 89. Chicago: Claretian Publications, 2024.
- “God's Welcome Table: Eucharistic Hospitality Is an Ethical Act of Liturgical Solidarity” [Online As: [“Any eucharistic revival must include nonpracticing Catholics”](#)]. *U.S. Catholic*. Vol. 89. Chicago: Claretian Publications, 2024: 40.
- “A Poem of Protest and Praise” [Online As: [‘Laudate Deum’ is Lament for Idolatrous Thinking](#)]. *U.S. Catholic*. Vol. 89. Chicago: Claretian Publications, 2024: 12-14.
- “[Our Eco-memories, and Those of Jesus, Connect Us with Creation and Community.](#)” *National Catholic Reporter, EarthBeat*. April 1, 2023.
- “[Young Black Catholics are Still Here and Flourishing More Than Their Peers.](#)” Co-written with Josh Packard. *Religious New Service*, April 22, 2022.
- “[Music, Journalism, Slang, Swaggar — The Black Prophetic Tradition Is All Around Us.](#)” *National Catholic Reporter*. February 22, 2022. Vol. 58 (12), 15-16.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- [Upcoming] “One Baptism: Black Catholic Perspectives on the Common Good and the Voting Rights Act.” Public Theology Interest Group. The Catholic Theological Society of America. Portland, OR: 2025.
- [Upcoming] “The Ethics of Liturgy: Racially Segregated Churches and the Religion of Jesus.” Liturgy and Ethics Interest Group. The Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago, IL: 2025.
- [Upcoming] “Beyond Popular Piety: Towards a Sacramental Theology of Black Charism.” Co-Presenting with LaRyssa D. Herrington. Seeking for a City Symposium.” Dayton, OH: 2024.
- [Upcoming] “Black Catholic Futures: Imagining Ecclesial Maturity, Liturgical Innovation, and Digital Evangelism.” FORWARD Conference. The Center for the Study of African American Religious Life, National Museum of African American History and Culture. Washington, DC: 2024.
- “Just Peace and Just Survival: An Exploration of Howard Thurman’s Nonviolent Theological Anthropology.” Innovative Theological Approaches to Integrating Peacebuilding and Nonviolence – Interest Group. The Catholic Theological Society of America. Baltimore, MD: 2024.
- “The Mysticism of Howard Thurman and Meister Eckhart: Ground, Flow, and Social Action,” Annual Conference: Mysticism and Action. The Mystical Theology Network. Oxford, UK: 2024.
- “Racism and the *Sensus Fidelium*.” On the (White) Objects of Our (Black) Affections - Concurrent Session. The Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago, IL: 2024.
- “My Lord, What a Mourning: Grieving with Eschatological Hope in an Age of Black Death.” African and African-American Working Group: Trauma, Death, and the Ethics of Mourning in Black Life. The Society of Christian Ethics. Costa Mesa, CA: 2022.
- “James, Malcolm, and the Nation of Islam: An Exploration of Interreligious Comparison in Black Liberation Theology.” The Liberating Theology of James Hal Cone Interest Group. The Catholic Theological Society of America. Atlanta, GA: 2022.
- “Sisters and Brothers in the Wilderness: The Technocratic Paradigm and Howard Thurman’s Wilderness Theology.” Post-Post-Conciliar and Millennial Theologians Interest Group. The Catholic Theological Society of America. Atlanta, GA: 2022.
- “Lift Every Voice and Sing: The Liberating Sound of the African-American ‘Voices’ and African American Sacred Music in Roman Catholic Churches in the United States.” Catholic Studies Unit. American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, TX: 2021.
- “Black Mysticism, Ecowomanism, and Laudato Si.” Black Catholic Theological Symposium. South Bend, IN: 2021.
- “We Are Sorors, and We’re Striving: Africana Initiation Practices among Black Women of Dominican Vodú and African American Greek-lettered Organizations.” The Congress of Santa Barbara (KOSANBA). Durham, NC: 2019.

- “How Deserted Lies the City, Once So Full of Black People: Catholic Social Justice, Black Liberation, and Gentrification in the City of Atlanta.” *Option for the Poor: Engaging the Social Tradition*. University of Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns. South Bend, IN: 2019.
- “Amazing Grace, Amazing Politics: White Supremacy and Religious Conversion after the Shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church.” Clough Graduate Workshop. Boston College Clough Center for Constitutional Democracy. Chestnut Hill, MA: 2019.
- “Ain’t I a Mystic: Womanist Apophatic Theology.” Annual Meeting at Boston College: Metaphor, Making, and Mysticism. The Mystical Theology Network. Chestnut Hill, MA: 2019.

INVITED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND LECTURES

- [Upcoming] “Plenary Address: On Catholic Prophetic and Sacramental Imagination.” *Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and Intellectual Life*. Collegeville, MN: 2025.
- “Plenary Address – Juneteenth Ruminations: “Ever-present Grace, Everyday Mysticism, and Catholic Social Teaching.” *Collegium: A Colloquy on Faith and Intellectual Life*. Worcester, MA: 2024.
- “Panel on Mysticism and Race.” Annual Conference: Mysticism and Action. Mystical Theology Network. Oxford, UK: 2024.
- “Plenary Address – Watch and Pray: Anti-Racism, Anti-Wokeism, and Catholic Social Teaching.” Race and Religion Graduate Student Conference. The Boston College Bosi Center for Religion and American Public Life. Chestnut Hill, MA: 2023.
- Respondent to Tracy Tiemeier, “Gendered Necropower and Transformational Liberation in the Age of COVID-19.” *Engaging Particularities Conference*. Chestnut Hill, MA: 2022.
- “Panel on Understanding and Promoting Principles of Diversity across Disciplines.” 25th Annual Multicultural Symposium. University of South Carolina Department of Psychology. Columbia, SC: 2008.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA	2022 – pres.
Teaching Fellow, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA	2022 – 2023
Adjunct Professor, University of Dubuque, Dubuque, IA	2021 – 2023
Teaching Assistant, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA	2019 – 2021

SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

TO THE ACADEMY

- Co-Chair, Convention Planning Committee, Black Catholic Theological Symposium, Atlanta, GA, 2023
- Member, Communications Committee, Black Catholic Theological Symposium, 2022 – present
- Member, Convention Host Committee, Catholic Theological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, 2024
- Member, CTSA Committee on Underrepresented Ethnic and Racial Minority Groups (CUERG), Catholic Theological Society of America, 2024-2026
- Co-Convener, Ecclesiology Section, College Theology Society, 2022 – 2024
- Nominated to Serve on Board, Society of Christian Ethics, 2022.

TO LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

- Reader, Master of Theology Thesis Defense Committee for Jack McCormick, 2024
- Panelist, “A Place at the Table: An Ecumenical Panel on Worship and Sacraments,” Campus Ministry, 2024

TO BOSTON COLLEGE

- Speaker, “Navigating Graduate Student Life at Boston College: God, Purpose, and Success (GPS) Retreat.” Boston College of Graduate Student Life, 2019.
- Panelist, New Student Orientation, Boston College of Graduate Student Life, 2021.

Panelist, “Experiences of Underrepresented & International Instructors.” Boston College Center for Teaching Excellence, 2020.
Vocal Performer, “Lead Me, Guide Me: Celebrating Black Catholic History through Song,” Black Catholic History Month, Office of Campus Ministry, 2020.
Panelist, “New Student Orientation.” Boston College of Graduate Student Life, August 2019.

TO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Consultant, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Higher Education Working Group. Washington, DC: 2024.
Speaker. “The Synod on Synodality and Black Catholicism.” St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Church. Boston, MA: 2024.
Vocal Performer. “Spirituality and Social Justice.” Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary. New York, NY: 2024.
Lecturer. Thea Bowman Foundation. Chicago, IL: 2023-2021
Panelist. “Synodality Listening Session 4: Commentary and Lectio Divina on Luke 15:1-3, 11-32” Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore. Baltimore, MD: 2022.
Panelist. “Black Catholics and the Millennial Gap (A Four-part Web Series).” National Black Catholic Congress. Baltimore, MD: 2021 – 2022.
Vocal Performer. “Liberating Theologies.” The Freedom Center for Social Justice. Charlotte, NC: 2021.
Liturgist and Cantor. Social Justice Convocation. Boston Archdiocesan Roman Catholic Social Justice Ministry. Boston, MA: 2021.
Clinician and Liturgist. “Lift Every Voice and Sing: A Black History Workshop and Worship Services.” First United Methodist Church of Bentonville. Bentonville, AR: 2021.
Lecturer. “Theological Expedition.” Compass Path. Boston, MA: 2021.
Sub-Committee Chair and Moderator. Social Justice Convocation. Boston Archdiocesan Roman Catholic Social Justice Ministry. Boston, MA: 2020.
Consultant, “Workshop on the Effects of Technology on Solidarity within the Human Community.” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine. Washington, DC: 2020.

PUBLIC SPEAKING (SELECT)

SPEECHES, LECTURES, AND PANELS

LAY PREACHING

“Black History Month Celebration: Desiring God and Shining the Light of Anti-Racism” (Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20). Acton Congregational Church. Acton, MA: 2020.
“Advent Sermon Series: Hope Springs Anew (Zeph. 3:14-20).” Burning Bush Greater New Covenant Baptist Church, Columbia, SC: 2021.
“Black Student Caucus Heritage Chapel: A Non-Violent God and a Non-Violent Heritage (Genesis 9:8-17).” Candler School of Theology Office of Worship. Atlanta, GA: 2021.

INTERVIEWS

Interviewed by Alexis Buisson. “[Black Catholics in the US are leaving the Church.](#)” La Croix International. Feb. 13, 2023.
Interviewed by Olga Segura. “[Reclaiming Space for Black Catholics.](#)” National Catholic Reporter. Apr. 14, 2022.
Interview by Brian Roewe. “[Young Black Catholics Confront Nature, Racism and the Church’s Way Forward.](#)” National Catholic Reporter, EarthBeat. Jan. 17, 2022.
Interview by Alejandra Molina. “[Amid Black Exodus, Young Catholics are Pushing the Church to Address Racism.](#)” National Catholic Reporter. Nov. 15, 2021.

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Human Resource (HR or S-1) Officer-in-Charge (OIC), U.S. Army Reserves	2014 – pres.
Learning Technology Assistant, Boston College Center for Teaching Excellence	2020 – 2022
Chaplain, University Catholic Center at Emory University	2014 – 2015
Chaplain, Northside Hospital Gwinnett (formerly Gwinnett Medical Center)	2013 – 2014
Senior (or Managing) Combat Medic, U.S. Regular Army	2010 – 2014
Attorney, Law Office of Byron Wratee	2008 – 2015
Senior Articles Editor, Journal of Law & Education	2007 – 2008
Law Clerk, South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee	2006 – 2008

ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
American Bar Association (ABA)
Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS)
Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA)
College Theology Society (CTS)
Mystical Theology Network (MTN)
Society of Christian Ethics (SCE)

LANGUAGES

Greek, Koine or Hellenistic (reading competency)
Latin, Classical and Ecclesiastical (reading competency)
French (reading competency)
German (reading competency)
Gullah, English-West African Creole (reading and speaking fluency)