

MICHELE KUETER PETERSEN

Work: St. Ambrose University
518 West Locust Street, Davenport, IA 52803
petersenmichele@sau.edu
office: LC112 office phone: (563) 333-6129

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Ph.D. Religious Studies, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, 2011

Dissertation: "A Hermeneutics of Contemplative Silence: Paul Ricoeur and the Heart of Meaning," David E. Klemm, advisor

M.A. Theology, with distinction, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, 2005

M.A. History, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, 1983

B.A. History and Political Science, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, 1982

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Graduate Fellow, Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship, The University of Iowa, 2010-2011.

Graduate College Summer Fellowship, The University of Iowa, Summer 2010 (declined).

John P. Boyle Award in Catholic Studies, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Iowa, 2008.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor, Theology and Philosophy, St. Ambrose University, 2022-23

Courses taught:

Introduction to Comparative Religions, Fall 2022

Just Theology, Fall 2022

Philosophies of Life, Fall 2022

Visiting Assistant Professor, Religion, Cornell College, 2017-18

Course taught:

Religions of the World, Fall 2017

Visiting Assistant Professor, Religion, Cornell College, 2016-17

Courses taught:

America: Christianity, Democracy and Religious Freedom, Spring 2017

The Epistles of Paul, Spring 2017

Religions of the World, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

Religion and Literature: Reading Between the Lines: On the Meaning of Being

Human, Fall 2016

Advanced Topic: Gods and Goddesses of Norse Mythology, Fall 2016

Adjunct Instructor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Mount Mercy University, 2015-16

Courses taught:

Introduction to Philosophy of the Human Person, Spring 2016

Introduction to World Religions, Fall 2015

Lecturer, Religion, Cornell College, 2014-15

Courses taught:

Advanced Topic: Gods and Goddesses of Norse Mythology, Spring 2015

Religions of the World, Fall 2014

Introduction to Religion, Spring 2014

Adjunct Instructor, Philosophy, Clarke University, 2013-14

Courses taught:

General Ethics, Spring 2014

Fundamentals of Philosophy, Fall 2013

Philosophy of Woman, Fall 2013

Adjunct Instructor, Religious Studies, Mount Mercy University, 2013

Course taught:

Introduction to the Bible: New Testament, Summer 2013

Visiting Lecturer, Religion, Cornell College, 2012-13

Courses taught:

The Epistles of Paul, Spring 2013

Introduction to Religion, Fall 2012 and Spring 2013

Adjunct Instructor, Religious Studies, Mount Mercy University, 2012

Course taught:

Christian Action: Moral Responsibility, Charitable Service, Justice, Winter 2012

Teaching Assistant, Religious Studies, The University of Iowa, 2007-2010

Courses taught:

Sexual Ethics, Spring 2009 and Spring 2010

Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Fall 2009

Religion and Liberation, Fall 2008

Religion and Society, Spring 2008

Judeo-Christian Tradition, Fall 2007

SCHOLARSHIP

Book

A Hermeneutics of Contemplative Silence: Paul Ricoeur, Edith Stein, and the Heart of Meaning. Series: Studies in the Thought of Paul Ricoeur (Lanham, MD and London, England: Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield, 2021).

Book Chapters

“Love Divined: Discerning a Contemplative Ethic in the Philosophy of Edith Stein,” Chapter 5 of *Ethics and Metaphysics in the Philosophy of Edith Stein: Applications and Implications*, Women in the History of Philosophy and Sciences, Volume 12, edited by Michael F. Andrews and Antonio Calcagno (Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2022), pp. 55-71.

“A Ricoeurian Hymn to Humanity: ‘You are better than your actions,’” Chapter 6 of *Moral Powers, Fragile Beliefs: Essays in Moral and Religious Philosophy*, edited by Joseph Carlisle, James C. Carter, and Daniel Whistler (London and New York, NY: Continuum, 2011), pp. 131-53.

Articles

“The Hermeneutical Key to the Holy Realism of Edith Stein and John Henry Newman,” in *Edith Steins intellektueller Weg: Phänomenologie, Christliche Philosophie und karmelitische Spiritualität*, edited by Harm Klueting and Edeltraud Klueting (Muenster, Germany: Aschendorff Verlag GmbH & Co. KG, 2021), pp. 119-28.

“A Heart Full of Meaning: Stein and Hermeneutics,” in *Edith Steins Herausforderung heutiger Anthropologie*, edited by Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkovitz and Mette Lebech (Heiligenkreuz im Wienerwald: Be&Be-Verlag, 2017), pp. 216-33.

Research in Progress

Research for a manuscript that explores the symbiotic relationship between reason and faith in the work of Edith Stein and existence and transcendence in the early work of Paul Ricoeur.
Research for a manuscript on the life and thought of Edith Stein and John Henry Newman.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Courses in theology, scripture, religious ethics, philosophy of religion, comparative religions, Carmelite spirituality, Christian mystical theology, Catholicism and interreligious dialogue, global Christianity, contemplative studies, modern religious thought, religion, literature, and the arts.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The theology and philosophy of Edith Stein, the theology and philosophy of John Henry Newman, the Carmelite textual tradition, the religious philosophy of Paul Ricoeur, the Christian mystical tradition, the ethical relationship between word and silence, and interdisciplinary reflection on language and experience.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“A Mirror to Reality: Edith Stein and Religious Consciousness,” A Paper for the Sixth Bi-Annual International Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein (IASPES): Edith Stein’s Legacy To The World 130 Years After Her Birth, Zoom Conference, Centro de Investigación Social Avanzada, Querétaro, Mexico, October 13, 2021.

“The Way of Being on the Way: The Formation of Mind in Edith Stein and John Henry Newman,” a Paper for the Fifth Bi-Annual International Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein (IASPES): Edith Stein’s Itinerary: Phenomenology, Christian Philosophy, and Carmelite Spirituality, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany, August 15, 2019.

“The Tie That Binds Them Together: Edith Stein, John Henry Newman, and the Life of the Mind,” a Paper for the Newman Association of America Annual Conference: Newman and 20th Century Thinkers, Benedictine College, Atchison, Kansas, July 27, 2018.

“‘Love Divined’: Empathy, Ethics, and Freedom in the Philosophy of Edith Stein,” a Paper for the Fourth Bi-Annual International Conference: Applications & Implications: Ethics and Metaphysics in Edith Stein’s Philosophy, IASPES in collaboration with the University of Portland and the McNerney-Hanson Endowed Chair in Ethics, University of Portland, Portland, Oregon, June 9, 2017.

“The Heart of Meaning in the Life and Thought of Edith Stein: A Hermeneutical Inquiry,” a Paper for the Third Bi-Annual International Conference: Edith Stein’s Challenge to Contemporary Anthropology, Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Vienna and Pontifical Institute Benedict XVI, in collaboration with IASPES, ESGÖ, KHG, Catholic Academy of Vienna and ESGD, Vienna and Heiligenkreuz, Austria, October 24, 2015.

“‘I know that I am a nothing’: Personal Sacrifice in the Philosophy and Theology of Edith Stein,” a Paper for the Ninth Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts: Sacrifice, Terror, and the Good, The University of Iowa, September 28, 2013.

“‘The Beautiful Name of Solitude’: A Ricoeurian Meditation with and for Others,” a Paper for the Co-sponsored session of Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide and Ricoeur Unit on Ricoeur and the Holocaust, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, Illinois, November 18, 2012.

“Contemplating the Future: A Human Possibility,” a Paper for the Eighth Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts: Futures and Illusions: Hope and the Longing for Utopia, The University of Iowa, August 25, 2012.

“Seeing and Being Seen: Contemplating a Theological Vision of Home,” a Paper for the Seventh Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts: Uncanny Homecomings: Narrative Structures, Existential Questions, Theological Visions, The University of Iowa, August 27, 2011.

“Paul Ricoeur and the Heart of Meaning,” a Paper for the Ricoeur Consultation, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, October 30, 2010.

“‘You are better than your actions’: Mediating Evil in the Thought of Paul Ricoeur in the Light of a Hermeneutics of Contemplative Silence,” a Paper for the Sixth Conference on

Religion, Literature, and the Arts: Malicious Intentions and Wicked Deeds: Challenging Evil in Thought and Practice, The University of Iowa, April 10, 2010.

“The Nature of the Theological Text: Edith Stein’s Philosophical Anthropology in Light of a Hermeneutics of Contemplative Silence,” a Paper for the Fifth Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts: Reading the Book of Nature, The University of Iowa, April 4, 2009.

“A Portrait of a Moral Artist: Creating the Self of Paul Ricoeur,” a Paper for the Stanford University Graduate Conference on Religion: There, Where I am Not: Approaching the Discourse of Transcendence, Stanford University, Stanford, California, April 25, 2008. A version of this Paper was presented at the Fourth Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts: Theology and Critique, The University of Iowa, March 29, 2008.

“Absence as Presence: Silence, Reflexive Consciousness, and Transcendence in the Writings of Paul Ricoeur,” a Paper for the James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference, The University of Iowa, March 29, 2008.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Guest Speaker, “Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross—Edith Stein,” St. Patrick Catholic Church, Iowa City, Iowa, August 9, 2022.

Guest Speaker for Lay Carmelite Group, “Edith Stein and Cologne,” St. Patrick Catholic Church, Iowa City, Iowa, November 19, 2019.

Guest Speaker, “Contemplative Silence and the Heart of Meaning,” Trinity Episcopal Church, Iowa City, Iowa, April 15, 2018.

Guest Speaker, “Twentieth-Century Christian Theology: A Theology of Relationality,” Trinity Episcopal Church, Iowa City, Iowa, March 12, 2017.

Guest Speaker, “Time for the Quiet Center of Our Lives,” Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa, April 25, 2012.

Guest Lecturer, “The Christian Contemplative Tradition,” *Contemporary Catholicism* course, The University of Iowa, February 24, 2004.

Guest Speaker, “Finding God in All Things,” Leadership Conference, Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa, March 18, 2000.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Religious Education, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Iowa City, 1997-2007.

Administrator for adult and religious education programs and ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. Supervised university students and other adult educators. Collaborated, planned, and hosted national speakers/theologians. Steering Committee Member for parish relocation.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Invited Collaborator with The Coordinating Group of Carmelites at Pontificia Facoltà Teologica Teresianum, Rome to express understanding and judgment on her possible Ecclesiastical Doctorate in the preparatory work for the Cause of Edith Stein-Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Doctor of the Church, Summer 2022-present

Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, Fall 2021

Religious Studies Program Revision Subcommittee Member, Mount Mercy University, Spring 2016

Assistant Conference Organizer, Eighth Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts, The University of Iowa, 2012

Planning Committee Member, Seventh Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts, The University of Iowa, 2011

American Academy of Religion Graduate Student Representative, The University of Iowa Religion Graduate Student Organization, 2010-2011

Lecture Committee Co-Chair, The University of Iowa Religion Graduate Student Organization, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Academy of American Poets, 2008-present

American Academy of Religion, 2006-present

Newman Association of America, 2018-present

The International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein, 2010-present

The Society for Ricoeur Studies, 2010-present

The Society of Christian Ethics, 2007-present