

Faculty Information

Steve L. Porter

Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy

***Ph.D. (Philosophy), University of Southern California**

***M.Phil. (Philosophical Theology), Oriel College, University of Oxford**

***M.A. (Philosophy of Religion/Ethics), Talbot School of Theology**

***B.A. (Christian Education), Biola University**

Dr. Porter teaches theology and philosophy for Talbot's Institute for Spiritual Formation and at Rosemead School of Psychology. He has contributed articles to the Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, *Philosophia Christi*, *Faith and Philosophy*, and the *Journal for Psychology and Theology*.

Research Interests

Theological Methodology

Doctrine of Sanctification

Philosophical Theology

Integration of Psychology and Theology

Courses

Theology 1: Revelation, Theology-Integration, and the Nature of God

Theology 3: Christ, Salvation, and the Spirit

Theology 5: Christian Ethics

Maturity: Psychological and Theological Perspectives

Publications

Books:

Resoring the Foundations of Epistemic Justification: A Direct Realist and Conceptualist Theory of Foundationalism (Lanham, MY: Lexington Books, 2006).

Book Chapters:

- “Rethinking the Logic of Penal Substitution,” in William Lane Craig, Michael Murray, and Daniel Howard- Snyder, eds., *Philosophy of Religion* (Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press, 2001) 596–608.
- “Dostoyevsky, Woody Allen, and the Doctrine of Penal Substitution,” in Paul Copan and William Lane Craig, eds., *Contending with Christianity’s Critics* (Broadman and Holman, 2009) 233–248.
- “Contentment as a Christian Virtue,” in Mike Austin and R. Douglas Geivett, eds. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, forthcoming).

Book Reviews:

- A review of Richard Swinburne, *Responsibility and Atonement* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1989) in *Philosophia Christi* 2:2 (2000).
- “Have You Ever Wanted to Read Calvin’s Institutes?,” a review of Donald McKim, *Calvin’s Institutes: Abridged Edition* (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2001) in

Journal of Psychology and Theology 31:3 (2003) 287.

- “Seeker-Sensitive Atheism,” a review of Kai Nielsen, *Naturalism and Religion* (Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2001) in *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 31:3 (2003) 287.
- “A Concise Summary of Reformed Theology,” a review of Donald McKim, *Introducing the Reformed Faith* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001) in *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 31:2 (2003) 159–160.
- Co-authored with Peter C. Hill, “Why Search for the Soul?: A Religious Perspective on the Mind-Body Problem,” a review of *In Search of the Soul: Four Views of the Mind-Body Problem*, Joel B. Green and Stuart L. Palmer, eds. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005) in *PsycCRITIQUES—Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books* (January 2006).
- A review of Graham A. Cole, *Engaging with the Holy Spirit: Real Questions, Practical Answers* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) in *Themelios* 33:3 (December 2008).

Journal Articles:

- “On the Resurgence of Interest in the Doctrine of Sanctification: Some Methodological Concerns,” in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 45/3 (September 2002) 415–426.
- “Swinburnian Atonement and the Doctrine of Penal Substitution,” in *Faith and Philosophy* 21:2 (April 2004) 228–241.
- “Wesleyan Theological Methodology as a Theory of Integration,” in *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 32:3 (Fall 2004) 190–199.
- Co-authored with Todd Hall, “Referential Integration: An Emotional Information Processing Perspective On the Process of Integration,” in *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 32:3 (Fall 2004) 167–180.
- “What do the *Five Ways* have to do with the *Ascent of Mt. Carmel*?: Apologetics as a Modern Day Spiritual Discipline,” *Philosophia Christi* (March 2007).
- “Sanctification in a New Key: Relieving Evangelical Anxieties Over Spiritual Formation,” *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* 1:2 (Fall 2008).
- “Theology as Queen and Psychology as Handmaid?: The Authority of Theology in Integrative Endeavors,” *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* 29:1 (2010) 3–14.
- “A Reply to the Respondents of ‘Theology as Queen and Psychology as Handmaid,’” *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* 29:1 (2010) 33–40.

Presentations

Center for Individual and Family Therapy, July 2010 (Orange, CA)

- “The Problem of Spiritual Immaturity”

Center for Individual and Family Therapy, April 2010 (Orange, CA)

- “Taking Sin More Seriously”

Renovare International Conference, June 2009 (San Antonio, TX)

- “How We Lost the Way: Learning from the Historical Neglect of Spiritual Formation”

ISF Lecture Series, October 2008 (La Mirada, CA)

- “The Catastrophe of Following Jesus”

Center for Individual and Family Training, August 2008 (Orange, CA)

- “The Cure for Anxiety: Jesus, Freud, and Prozac”

American Philosophical Society Pacific Division Society of Christian Philosophers,
March 2008 (Pasadena,
CA)

- “Contentment as a Christian Virtue”

Rock Harbor University Theology Intensives, October 2007 (Costa Mesa, CA)

- The Doctrine of Scripture

Colorado Springs Christian Counselors, October 2007 (Colorado Springs, CO)

- “The Cure for Anxiety: Jesus, Freud, and Prozac”

Denver Seminary, October 2007 (Denver, CO)

- “The Cure for Anxiety: Jesus, Freud, and Prozac”

Apologetics/Worldview Conference, April 2007 (Bellevue, WA)

- “Is Jesus the Only Way?”
- “The Challenge of Religious Pluralism”
- “Why Doesn’t God Intervene More Often?”
- “Apologetics as a Spiritual Discipline”

G. Campbell Morgan Theology Seminar, March 2007 (La Mirada, CA)

- “The Doctrine of Soteriology”

Christian Association of Psychological Studies, March 2007 (Valley Forge, PA)

- “The Cure for Anxiety: Jesus, Freud, and Prozac”

Evangelical Theological Society National Conference, November 2006 (Washington,
D.C.)

- “The Sanctification Gap Revisited”
- “A Plea for an Evangelical Spiritual Theology”

Torrey Context Lectures, September 2006 (La Mirada, CA)

- “Jonathan Edwards on Why Christians Don’t Grow”

Evangelical Theological Society Far-West Division Meeting, April 2006 (La Mirada,
CA)

- “The Sanctification Gap Revisited”

G. Campbell Morgan Theology Seminar, March 2006 (La Mirada, CA)

- “The Doctrine of Sanctification”

Taylor University, September 2005 (Fort Wayne, IN)

- “The Value of Spiritual Formation”
- “Spiritual Formation in the Christian University”

Evangelical Theological Society National Conference, November 2004 (San Antonio, TX)

- “Sanctification in a New Key: Relieving Evangelical Anxieties over Spiritual Formation”

National Faculty Leadership Conference, Social Sciences Seminars, June 2004 (Alexandria, VA)

- “Theology as Queen and Psychology as Handmaid: The Authoritative Supremacy of Theology?”

Spiritual Formation Forum, May 2004 (Los Angeles, CA):

- “Sanctification in a New Key: Relieving Evangelical Anxieties over Spiritual Formation”

Evangelical Theological Society Far-West Regional Meeting, April 2004 (San Diego, CA)

- “Theology as Queen and Science as Handmaid: The Authoritative Supremacy of Theology”

Christian Association of Psychological Studies International Conference, March 2004 (Tampa Bay, FL)

- “Theology as Queen and Psychology as Handmaid: The Authoritative Supremacy of Theology?”

British Society of the Philosophy of Religion/SCP, August 2003 (Oxford, England)

- “Swinburnian Atonement and the Doctrine of Penal Substitution”

Christian Association of Psychological Studies International Conference, June 2003 (Anaheim, CA)

ory of Integration”

Evangelical Theological Society Far-West Regional Meeting, May 2003 (Sun Valley, CA)

- “What do the *Five Ways* have to do with the *Ascent of Mt. Carmel*?: Apologetics as a Modern Day Spiritual Discipline”

American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, March 2003 (San Francisco, CA)

- “BonJour’s Representational Realism”

Evangelical Philosophical Society, November 2001 (Colorado Springs, CO)

- “Swinburnian Atonement and the Doctrine of Penal Substitution”

Society for the Study of Theology, April 2001 (University of Nottingham, England)

- “Natural Theology and Christian Spirituality: What do the *Five Ways* have to do with the *Ascent of Mt. Carmel*?”

Joseph Butler Society, February 2001 (Oriel College, University of Oxford, England)

- “Swinburnian Atonement and a Modified Theory of Penal Substitution”

Gifford International Conference, May 2000 (University of Aberdeen, Scotland)

- “God and the Moral Order: A Response to C. Stephen Layman,” May 2000.

Evangelical Theological Society Far-West Regional Meeting, June 1998 (San Diego, CA)

- “The Evangelical Embrace of Postmodernity: How Far Is Too Far?”

Affiliations

Member, Evangelical Theological Society

Member, Evangelical Philosophical Society

Member, Society of Christian Philosophers

Member, Christian Association for Psychological Studies

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