

Departmental Distinction in Religion Department					
Year	Last Name	First Name		Advisor	Title of Paper
2024	Schoen	Elizabeth		Thompson	<i>"Women Writing of Divinest Things: Why Religion Scholars Should Study Early Modern Women Poets"</i>
	Trelstad-Larsen	Tove		Zimmerman	<i>"Doing a Pansexual Theology: Deconstruction, Fluidity and Divine Love"</i>
	Wohlhuter	Monica	Junia	Hanson	<i>"Discovering Mary Magdalene: A Woman of History and Mystery"</i>
2023	Berdahl	Leah		Jorgenson	<i>"Wonder: Fostering Spirituality"</i>
	Lindell	Siri		Wilson	<i>An Analysis of Catholic Theology and Practice Within Luther's "Ninety-Five Theses"</i>
2022	Bidwell	Alissa		Jothen	<i>"Understanding the "C" in YMCA: The YMCA's relationship to charitable giving, religious conversion, and the secularization of non-profit spaces."</i>
	Hall-Holt	Viveka		Johnson	<i>"Rethinking Monotheism and Polytheism: Divine Mystery in Simultaneous Oneness and Multiplicity"</i>
	Johnson	Katharine		Ripley	<i>"Queen of the Jews: Transcending the Gender Binaries of the Greco-Roman Society in a Queer Kingdom"</i>
	Krueger	Vivienne		Lagerquist	<i>"The Spirit and The Stethoscope: Spiritual Healing Meets Needs Unmet By Standard Medicine"</i>
	Lane	Annalissa		Rainey	<i>"Teaching Sacred Whiteness: Conservative Protestantism In American Schools"</i>
2021	Barnard	Anna	Junia	Ripley	<i>"A Pillar of Stories: Receiving, Reclaiming and Reconstructing the Narratives of Lot's Wife"</i>
	Brink	Brennan		Walter	<i>"The God on I-90: God as the inspiration behind-toward-death"</i>
	Camp	Jessie		Walter	<i>"God as Mother: A Comparative Look at Julian and Her Contemporaries"</i>
	Milhaupt	Ben		Walter	<i>"Foucault and Fabwell: Framing the Role of Racism in White Conservative Evangelicals' Quest for Intellectual Respectability from the Moral Majority to Trump"</i>
	Ramsey	Leah		Hanson	<i>"Women, Disability and the Mysticism of Community"</i>
	Trewartha-Weiner	Elizabeth		Beckman	<i>"Theology as Therapy: Using Mysticism to Heal our Collective Body-Shame"</i>
	Wyffels	Rachel		Rambachan	<i>"Faith Seeking Understanding in a Globalized World: How Protestant Traditions Might Learn from Vedanta to Understand Scriptures as a Valid Way of Knowledge"</i>
2020	Golemon-Mercer	Sarah		Bateza	<i>"From Control to Connection: A Trinitarian Political Theology: Biopolitics and Reinvisioned Relationality in the Age of Factory Farming"</i>
	Wessel	Adrienne		Booth	<i>"The LWA Walk with Us: Haitian Boudou and Resisting Oppression"</i>
2019	Cavender	Alex		Santurri	<i>"To Conquer Suffering, You Only Have to Suffer: Reflections on Humility and Suffering in the Brothers Karamazov"</i>
	Suite	Melody		Wilson	<i>"Healing by Touch: Jesus, Magic, Gender, and Ritual Purity in the Gospel of Mark"</i>
	Stolte	Meredith		Lagerquist	<i>"Debt-Free Virgins Without Tattoos: Agency and Efficacy of Faith of Christian Fundamentalist Women"</i>
	Speigel	Sophia		Beckman	<i>"Creating Love out of Thin Air"</i>
2018	Halloin	Anne		Bateza	<i>"A Baptism of Blood: A Theological Analysis of Bram Stoker's Novel Dracula"</i>
	Bickley	Katie	Junia	Beckman	<i>"She Is the Creator": On Gender Flexibility and Divine-Human Union in Mystical Experience"</i>
2017	Cejda	Catherine (Connor)		Walter	<i>"Who is this Jesus?: Reconsidering Contemporary Christology"</i>
	Chambers	Allison		Walter	<i>"Miracles and a Weak God"</i>
	Kaldjian	Marni		Jothen	<i>"Art as Action: Justice Through Social Practice"</i>

	Mulford	Kellen		Wilson	<i>"Christus Pro Me: Does Existentialism Reconcile History and Faith?"</i>
2016	AlRaheb	Tala		Booth	<i>"A Diagnosis of Faith: Contemporary Reexamination of Faith Development Theories at St. Olaf College"</i>
	DeNaples	Taylor		Erickson	<i>"Continuing a Cycle of Participatory Beauty: Hindu Darshan and Byzantine Iconography"</i>
	DuRocher	Mary Clare		Beckman	<i>"Corporate Mindfulness Can Work: How Mindfulness Functions in Contexts of Religion, Spirituality, and Mysticism"</i>
	Escher	Paul	Junia	Walter	<i>"Hans Urs von Balthasar and Julian of Norwich: Hope, Knowledge, and Christian Eschatology"</i>
	Hall	Erica		Beckman	<i>"Religious Practices as Sources of Authority Within Religious Discourse: The Importance of Defining Practices as Mystical, Inclusive and Essential"</i>
	Kiki	Sykes		Booth	<i>"Practicing Incarnation: Towards and Embodied Performance of Christian Doctrine"</i>
2015	Bonar	Chance	Junia	Hanson	<i>"They did not belong to us: Johannine Language and Social Identity"</i>
	Christenson	Aria		Booth	<i>Learning to Live with Uncertainty: Queering God in Christian Communities</i>
	Kane	Grace		Schillinger	<i>Liberation Theology in the Middle East: Christian Theological Discourse on Justice in Palestine</i>
2014	Massey	Will		Schillinger	<i>"A New Dialogue: Christian and Muslims Imagining the Apocalypse"</i>
	Rohnke	Brandon		Schuurman	<i>"Questions of Meaning in Human Identity: Understanding How Religion Relates to Society, Culture and Science"</i>
	Tonn	Gina		Schillinger	<i>"On the Necessity and Possibility of Forgiveness for Post-Holocaust Interreligious Dialogue: A Comparative Study of Jewish and Christian Doctrine"</i>
	White	Hannah		Walter	<i>"Self-Sacrifice and Community"</i>
2013	Coffman	Kristofer		Lagerquist	<i>"I Fear the Yankees and the Gifts They Bring: How Reformed Theology Infiltrated Norwegian Lutheranism through the English Language"</i>
	Greendale	Seth		Beckman	<i>"Effing the Ineffable: Kataphatic Writing as Performance in an Embodied World"</i>
	Lemke	Elizabeth	Junia	Santurri	<i>"A Dostoevskian Examination of Forgiveness and its Limits in a Fallen World"</i>
2012	Funkenbusch	Sonia		Booth	<i>"Beyond Self-Destruction: Religious Potentialities of Intentionally-Inflicted Physical Pain as Community and Embodiment"</i>
	Geisendorfer-Lindgren	Elizabeth		Hanson	<i>"Radical Grace and Mercy: Resentment in the Face of a Beautiful Gift"</i>
	Kinnaird	Katherine		Booth	<i>"Should the Possibility of Procreation be an Essential Criterion in a Normative Definition of Marriage?"</i>
	James	Olivia		Booth	<i>"It's Only Natural: a Critique of Gender Complementarianism from Post-Structuralist, Feminist and Justice Perspectives"</i>
	Sutherland	Kaleb	Junia	Hanson	<i>"Parable-Informed Social Justice: Jesus and the Culture of Insiders and Outsiders"</i>
2011	Green	Bouzard		Odell	<i>"Alas, Babylon: Seeking Justice, Reconciliation, and Hope for a Broken World in Second Isaiah"</i>
	Frank	Henry	Junia	Santurri	<i>"Niebuhr and Augustinian Realism"</i>
	Theresa	Rabbaas		Santurri	<i>"Niebuhr, Bonhoeffer and the Theology of Inevitable Guilt in Pursuit of Justice"</i>
	Kyle	Svingen	Junia	Santurri	<i>"A Feminist Perspective on Niebuhrain Anthropology and Ethics"</i>
2010	Joe	Budish		Santurri	<i>"Abraham Lincoln and Charles Hodge: Re-Thinking Lincoln's Calvinism"</i>
	Damaris	Duddy		Walter	<i>"Promise and Sublime: Gift in Mark 16"</i>

	Matthew	Grisendorfer-Lindgren		Hanson	<i>"The Question of Responsibility: Pontius Pilate's Role in Jesus' Death"</i>
	Amy	Kraushaar		Odell	<i>"Water Symbolism in the Gospel of John"</i>
	Aaron	Stauffer		Booth	<i>"Cosmology and Ethos in the Quechua Struggle for Self-Determination"</i>
	Cody	Venzke	Junia	Santurri	<i>"The Struggle for Radical Monotheism: The Theological Foundation of Lincoln's Political Ethics"</i>
	Chance	Voigt		Booth	<i>"Augustine, Ecofeminism, and Disease: Towards and Ecofeminist Theodicy of Natural Evil"</i>
	Colin	Weaver	Junia	Santurri	<i>"The Transcendental Sensibility of Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Parker"</i>
2009	Erin	Armstrong		Anderson	<i>"Resistance and the Cross: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Ethics"</i>
	Katherine	Chatelaine		Galbraith	<i>"Holding Gos to Account: The Anti-Theodicies of Job and Elie Wiesel"</i>
	Elizabeth	Duel		Wilson	<i>"The Mustard Seed and the Dandelion in Context"</i>
	Monica	Hartsel		Stansell	<i>"Sacrifice as Communion: Rediscovering the Role of Sacrificial Ritual in the Christian Eucharist"</i>
	Anna	Helgen		Walter	<i>"The Possibility of Theological Language: A Critique of Karl Barth's Doctrine of Revelation"</i>
	Caleb	Hendrickson	Junia	Walter	<i>"Violent Collisions of Heaven and Earth: The Icon and Aesthetics"</i>
	Smith	Jason		Galbraith	<i>"Contemporary Catholic Theology: An Exploration of Inclusivism and Interreligious Dialogue"</i>
2008	Joel	Bergeland	Junia	Walter	<i>"Imagination, Grace, and the State: Luther and Cavanaugh in Dialogue"</i>
	Emily	Hennig		Anderson	<i>"Active Resistor or Conflicted Bystander? Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Jewish Question"</i>
	Maria	Laverdiere		Schillinger	<i>"Religion and Movement"</i>
	Willa	Lengyel	Junia	Santurri	<i>"Terrorism Evaluated: Niebuhrian Ethics in Contemporary Politics"</i>
	Alan	Stout		Walter	<i>"Balthasar's Aesthetic Christology and Historical Criticism"</i>
2007	Sara	Berry		Walter	<i>"Abraham's Sacrifice: Overcoming Agonistic Giving"</i>
	Ann	Franske		Booth	<i>"Silence about Sex: Helping the Laity Understand the Clergy Sexual Abuse Scandal"</i>
	Benjamin	Heidgerken	Junia	Walter	<i>"A Soteriological Approach to the Immutability of God in the Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar: The Triduum and the Analogia Entis"</i>
	Anne	Hillman		Rambachan	<i>"An Analysis of the Office of Interreligious Relations and Dialogue of the WCC"</i>
	Emmy	Kegler		Wilson	<i>"A House for God on the Hill: Theological and Aesthetic Foundations of Boe Chapel's Original Construction and Present Renovation"</i>
	Elsa	Marty		Schillinger	<i>"Theology as Mostly Fiction? Sallie McFague's Metaphorical Theology"</i>
	Marie	Olson		Hanson	<i>"A Sympathetic Critique of the ELCA Task Force on Sexuality"</i>
2006	Jake	Erickson	Junia	Odell	<i>"The Ambiguity of Jehu: A Reexamination of Sanctioned Violence in 2 Kings 9-10"</i>
	David	Greder		Odell	<i>"Few are Guilty, All Are Responsible: Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Prophetic Imagination"</i>
	Kirsten	Lindquist		Galbraith	<i>"William James, St. Augustine and Camus' Mersault: A Study of Religious Conversion"</i>
2005	Kirsten	Griffin	No Junia		
	Adam	Copeland			
2004	Elizabeth	Bechtel		Rambachan	<i>"The Mystical Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)"</i>
	Benjamin	Bedard		Barbour	<i>"The Conversion Narrative and the Creation of Guilt: A Normative Evaluation of Religious Conversions"</i>

	Andrew	Douglass		Stansell	<i>"Christianity and the Healthcare Debate: What does Christian support for Rawls' theory of Justice mean for Healthcare Reform?"</i>
	Nicole	Herther-Spiro		Booth	<i>"Patriarch Pavle and the Failure of Religious Leadership"</i>
	Sarah	Larson		Lund	<i>"The Evolution of the Kakure from Traditional Catholicism to a New Religion"</i>
	Kurt	Nelson		Galbraith	<i>"Searching for God in a World of Evil: Constructions of Post-Holocaust Theodicy"</i>
	Sarah	Peck		Booth	<i>"Challenging the Rationality of War in Modern Culture: A Shift from Patriarchy and Paternal Models to an Ethic of Care Labor and "God as Mother"</i>
	Andrea	Qualey		Stansell	<i>"As the Gaps Widen, Feminist Theologians Respond: How Feminist Reinterpretations of Christianity Provide a Countercultural Response that Mainstream American Christianity Fails to Provide"</i>
	Gautham	Reddy		Rambachan	<i>"Trinitarian Models of Divinity, Faith, and Grace"</i>
	Mikkin	Steltenkamp		Reed	<i>"Understanding Chinese Christian Conversation in Historical and Cultural Context"</i>
	Katherine	VanHeuvelen	Junia	Santurri	<i>"Raskolnikov Redeemed?"</i>
	Robert	Young		Barbour	<i>"Inter-Religious Dialogue and Conversion: A Study of Hindu-Christian Relations"</i>
2003	Matthew	Deyo			
	Matthew	Donald			
	Carl	Hughes	Junia		<i>"The Prototype of Religious Consciousness in 'Force and the Understanding': How to Move from Unhappy Consciousness to True Religion"</i>
	Melissa	Johnson			
	Rachel	Lyle			
	Courtney	Peterson			
	Calvin	Plocher			
	Sarah	Sumner			
	Andy	Willis	Junia		<i>"He formed it to be inhabited! The Priestly Creation Narrative as a Basis for Modern Environmentalism"</i>
2002	Maren	Flynn	Junia		<i>"The Medical Gaze and Moral Vision: Ethical Perspectives in Medicine"</i>
	Ann	Halbrook			
	Kathryn	Lindley	Junia		<i>"Mother Teresa: Modern Saint, Traditional Female Religious Leader"</i>
	Noelle	Paulson			
2001	Kevin	Gentz			
	Adam	Hegg			
	Michael	Neel			
	Debbie	Pagels			
	Claire	Roscher	Junia		<i>"A Resource for Feminist Theology: The Art of Artemisia Gentileschi"</i>
	Matthew	Steenberg	Junia		<i>"The Return to Growth: On Developing an Irenaean Typology"</i>
2000	Anne	Jensen			
	Craig	Schwartau			
	Elizabeth	Varro	Junia		<i>"Freedom and Finitude: An Analysis of the Ethics of Human Cloning from a Niebuhrian Perspective"</i>
1999	Valerie	Hart	Junia		<i>"A Question of Unity: A Focus on the Christian Churches in Pune"</i>
	Kathryn	Lohre			
1998	Eric	Barbee			
	Jonathan	Kibler	Junia		<i>"Not Peace But A Sword: The Theological Aspects of the Violence in Modern Northern Ireland and a Theological Approach to Resolving the Conflict"</i>

	Joseph	Pribyl			
1997	Shawn	Colberg			
	Jason	DeRose			
	Jon	Keune			
	Jane	McBride	Junia		<i>"Theological Anthropology in Christian Fantasy: A Study of C.S. Lewis 'Till We Have Faces' and J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings."</i>
	Elizabeth	Musselman			
1996	Paul	Graham			
	Anna Marie	Johnson			
	Amy	Kelleher			
	Derek	Olsen			
	Daniel	Peterson			
	Emily	Rapp	Junia		<i>"Rescuing the Whole from the Parts: An Embodiment Theology of Disability"</i>
	Andrea	Ursprung			
	Carrie	Vance			
	Christopher	Wells			

1995	Mary K.	Currier	No Junia		
	Jacob B.	Ojard			
	Laurie	Ristau			
1994	Andrew	Gorton			
	Elizabeth M.	Hirsch			
	David C.	Horstman			
	Jill	Kearney			
	Kari	Kloos	Junia		<i>"Augustine's Anthropology in the Grace/Free Will Treatises"</i>
	Erik	Lindell			
	Mark	Pearson			
	Jonathan	Rinehart	Junia		<i>"Notionis"</i>
1993	Carla	Bellamy			
	Paul	Block			
	Kellie	Gallagher			
	Jamie	Schillinger	Junia		<i>"Reinhold Niebuhr, Ulysses, and the Foxes: An Explication and Evaluation of Reinhold Niebuhr's Pragmatism and Political Ethic"</i>
	Erik	Skar			
	Gordon	Steffey			
	Pamela	Zielske			
1992	Matthew	Boyd			
	Geoffrey	Nelson	Junia		<i>"Creativity-Taoist/Zen Interpretation"</i>
	Kristina	Swiglo			
	Heidi	Treml			
1991	Monika	Hoyt			
1990	Mark	Johnson			
	Lori	Pearson			
	Sarah	Rockswold			
	Brad	Sperber			
1989	Heather	Brown			
1988- GONE		10 years	NO CLUE		
1978	Cynthia G.	Gano			
	Laurel S.	Krouse			
	John P.	Rossig			
	Susan L.	Sande			
	Ian H.	Smith			
1977	Per M.	Anderson			
	Steven R.	Frock			
	Steven A.	Hermann			
	Steven P.	Manlove			
	Gregory D.	Peterson			
	Ann F.	Raney			
	Jeffery S.	Suddendorf			
	Eugene C.	Wolfe			
1976	JoAnne K.	Kuemmerlin			
	Susan A.	Peterson			
	Alan C.	Tjeltveit			
1975	Kristen	Anderson			
	James	Aune			

	Eric	Crump			
	Dennis	Hansch			
	Margaret	Hammer			
	Dennis	Johnson			
	Allan	Saugstad			
	Thomas	Schattauer			
	Karen	Sorenson			
	Eric	Wogstad			
1974	NONE				
1973	Marlin	Osthus			
1972	Lyle V.	Anderson			
	William C.	Bartlett			
	Kathryn J.	Bell			
	Kathryn L.	Johnson			
	Howard B.	Major III			
1971	Marcia J.	Engelstad			
	John W.	Hager			
	Stephen S.	Hahn			
	Richard E.	Huskey			
	John C.	Minge			
	Robert S.	Nesheim			
	John E.	Peterson			
	Leota B.	Stinespring			
	Mark A.	Throntveit			
	Thomas F.	Tracy			
1970	Karen L.	Bloomquist			
	Mary E.	Braem			
	Merrill P.	Morse			
	Kristi A.	Nerem			
	Karen	Soli			
	Gregory D.	Steeber			
1969	Mark G.	Franzen			
	Laurene S.	Kemp			
	Peter G.	Kirkegaard			
	Barbara S.	Olson			
	Charles A.	Wilson			
1968	Pamea A.	Baxter			
	John V.	Schleif			
1967	Mary M.	Morris			
	Gary W.	Sartain			
	Gary P.	Tweet			
1966	Rhoda	Sommerville Anderson			
	Sharon K.	Patten			
1965	Barbara A.	Baker			
	David J.	Nelson			
1964	NONE				
1963	Catherine F.	Lindahl			

1962	Barbara	Knutson			
	Karen	Lillehaugen			
	Janet	Rolstad			
	Paul	Williams			
1961	Marion	Hellevik			
	Edwin	Kjeldgaard			
1960	John	Hartzog			
1959	Bruce	Hanstedt			
1958	NONE				
1957	Connie Anne Cohrt				
1956	NONE				
1955	Myron Jean Fogde				
1954	NONE				
1953	James Richard Bjorge				
1952	Myrwood Andrus Bagne				
1951	John Robert Bjorge				
1950	Leroy Clement Dugan				
1949	NONE				
1948	NONE				
1947	Constance Elizabeth Fingarson				
1946	NONE				
1945	NONE				
1944	NONE				
1943	Norma Arneson				