

# Emma Brown Dewhurst

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## Areas of Specialisation

Greek Patristics; Christian Ethics; Byzantine Theology; Virtue Ethics; Byzantine Philosophy;  
Environmental Ethics; Bioethics; Early Church Doctrine; Early Church History

## Areas of Competence

Meta-ethics; Ancient Philosophy; Eastern Orthodox Theology; Early Modern and Contemporary  
Political Philosophy; Anarchist Theory; Medieval European History

## Research

My research focuses on the relevance of Greek Patristics and Byzantine theology for topics in contemporary Christian ethics. I have worked extensively in virtue ethics, environmental ethics, and bioethics. My current research is the absence of sex and gender in early Byzantine Theology, looking at this theological position in Maximus the Confessor and Gregory of Nyssa, and surveying its possible influence on recorded instances of fluidity in gender identity in 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine monasticism. I will then consider the relevance of these findings for contemporary theological ethics especially in gender and LGBTQ+ studies. My doctoral thesis looked at the cosmological place of virtue within the works of Maximus the Confessor. I suggested some ways in which Maximus' ethics could help set up a stronger meta-ethical framework for philosophical virtue ethics, and focused specifically on how his theology can help inform ethics by demonstrating a critique of ideological nationalism and state violence.

## EDUCATION

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| 2013-2017  | <b>Doctorate in Theology (PhD)</b><br>Durham University, England<br><u>Classification:</u> Passed<br><u>Thesis:</u> <i>Revolution in the Microcosm: Love and Virtue in the Cosmological Ethics of St Maximus the Confessor</i><br><u>Supervisors:</u> Dr Krastu Banev, Prof. Robert Song<br><u>Examiners:</u> Prof. Andrew Louth, Prof. Torstein Tollefsen   |
| 2012- 2013 | <b>Master of Theology (MTh) by Research Ecclesiastical History</b><br>University of Edinburgh, Scotland<br><u>Classification:</u> Distinction<br><u>Dissertation:</u> <i>Relation in the Ethics of St Maximus' Logoi: A Contribution towards the Study of Ethics and the Cosmology of St Maximus the Confessor</i><br><u>Research topics included:</u> St Maximus the Confessor and ecology, St John of Damascus and contemporary aesthetics, St Gregory Palamas' Divine Energies<br><u>Supervisors:</u> Dr Sara Parvis, Dr Paul Parvis, Prof. Michael Northcott |
| 2008- 2012 | <b>Master of Arts (MA) with Honours Divinity and History</b><br>University of Edinburgh, Scotland<br><u>Classification:</u> First class (1 <sup>st</sup> )<br><u>Dissertation:</u> <i>Revolutionary Epektasis: The Radical Challenge of Life in Theosis</i><br><u>Supervisors:</u> Dr Paul Parvis, Prof. Michael Northcott   |

## EMPLOYMENT

- Aug 2019 - **Post-Doctoral Research Fellow**, Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München
- Sept 2018 - **Adjunct Lecturer (Lehrauftrager)**, School of Ancient Philosophy, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München
- Nov 2017 - July 2018 **Teaching Fellow**, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh
- Sept 2014 - Aug 2017 **Associate Tutor**, Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership
- Sept 2014 - Aug 2015 **Postgraduate Teaching Assistant**, Dept. Theology & Religion, Durham University

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles:

E. Brown Dewhurst, 'Three Practical Ways of Thinking About Virtue in Maximus the Confessor's Cosmic and Ascetic Theology' in *Studia Patristica Vol -*. Peeters, (Forthcoming).

E. Brown Dewhurst, 'On the Soul and the Cyberpunk Future: St Macrina, St Gregory of Nyssa and Contemporary Mind/Body Dualism.' *Studies in Christian Ethics*. (2019).

Emma Brown Dewhurst, 'The 'Divisions of Nature' in Maximus' Ambiguum 41?' in *Studia Patristica Vol LXXV*. Leuven: Peeters, (2017): 149-154.

Emma Brown Dewhurst, 'How Can We Be Nothing? The Concept of Nonbeing in Athanasius and Maximus the Confessor' in *Analogia: The Pemptousia Journal for Theological Dialogue*. Vol. 2, Issue 1 (2017): 29-34.

Emma Brown Dewhurst, 'The Ontology of Virtue as Participation in Divine Love in the Works of St. Maximus the Confessor.' *Forum Philosophicum* 20, no. 2 (2015): 157-169.

Emma Brown Dewhurst, 'The Cosmology of St Maximus the Confessor as a Basis for Ecological and Humanitarian Ethics' in *Teologikon* 3. (2014), 126-140.

### Book Chapters:

E. Brown Dewhurst, 'Apophaticism in the Search for Knowledge: Love as a Key Difference in Neoplatonic and Christian Epistemology' in *Platonism and Christian Thought in Late Antiquity*. Pavlos, P.G., Janby, L.F., Emilsson, E.K., and Tollefsen, T.T. (eds.) 239-257. London: Routledge, 2019.

Emma Brown Dewhurst, 'To Each According to their Needs: Anarchist Praxis as a Resource for Byzantine Theological Ethics' in *Essays in Anarchism and Religion. Vol II*. Christoyannopoulos, A. & Adams, M. (eds.) 58-93. Stockholm University Press, 2018.

### Book Reviews:

Emma Brown Dewhurst, 'Space-Time in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century: Book Review: S. Mitralaxis, Ever-Moving Repose: A Contemporary Reading of Maximus the Confessor's Theory of Time. James Clarke & Co, 2018.' in *The Expository Times* 130:6 (2019), 280-281.

Emma C J Brown, 'Book Review: Toward an Ecology of Transfiguration: Orthodox Christian Perspectives on Environment, Nature and Creation.' Chryssavgis, J. & Foltz,

B. (eds.), Fordham: Fordham University Press, 2013.' in *Sobornost* 36:2 (2015), 90-5.

## INVITED SPEAKER

- 28<sup>th</sup> May- 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017 'The Cosmic Dimension of Virtue: Holistic Ethics in the Thought of St Maximus the Confessor' *The Metochi Seminar: Transformation in Response to Climate Change - an Interdisciplinary Dialogue* (University of Agders Metochi Study Centre, Lesbos)
- 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 'Crisis in the Microcosm: The Ethical Challenge of Byzantine Cosmic Theology' *UCSIA International Workshop: Sustainable Development And The Contribution Of Church Communities* (University of Antwerp, Antwerp)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015 'Creation as Microcosm: Maximus the Confessor as a Response to Environmental Ethics', *Theology, Science and the Environment: Human Beings in Context*, *The Albertus Institute for Science, Knowledge and Religion* (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Sept 2018- **Course Manager, Lecturer & Course Designer**, *Neoplatonism in Late Antique Christianity [10000]*, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München (Level 10)
- 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 **Visiting Lecturer**, 'Early Church Theology as a Resource for Ethics Today' *Residential Weekend Lectures*, Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership, Emmaus Village, Consett
- Jan 2018 **First Marker**, *Economy, Ecology and Ethics [THET11034]*, University of Edinburgh (Level 11)
- Jan 2018 **First Marker**, *Economy, Ethics and Theology [THET10041]*, University of Edinburgh (Level 10)
- Sept 2017 – Aug 2018 **Course Manager, Lecturer & Course Designer**, *Christian Ethics [THET11008]*, University of Edinburgh (Level 11)
- Sept 2017 – Aug 2018 **Course Manager, Lecturer & Course Designer**, *Christian Ethics [THET10007]*, University of Edinburgh (Level 10)
- Sept 2016 – Aug 2017 **Course Organiser and Lecturer**, *Environmental Theology [TMM3217]*, Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership, Accredited by Durham University (Level 10)
- Sept 2014- Aug 2015 **Postgraduate Teaching Assistant**, *Topics in Christian Ethics [THEO2381]*, Durham University (Level 10)
- Sept 2014- June 2015 **Course Organiser, Lecturer & Course Designer**, *Environmental Theology [TMM3217]*, Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership Accredited by Durham University (Level 10)

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

- \*19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019 'Asexuality in the Theology of Maximus the Confessor: A Seventh Century Challenge to Gender Norms', *XVIIIth International Conference on Patristic Studies*. (University of Oxford)
- 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 'Gregory of Nyssa on the Soul and the Cyberpunk Future', *Seventh British Patristics Conference*. (Cardiff University)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2016 'Knowledge as a Relationship of Impossibility and Intimacy in Maximus the Confessor', *International Workshop in Oslo on the Philosophy of Late Antiquity: Platonism and Christian Thought in Late Antiquity*. (Department of Philosophy, University of Oslo)
- 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016 'An Ethics of Unity and Distinction: Love in Maximus' Cosmic and Ascetic

22 <sup>nd</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2016	Theology', <i>The Sixth British Patristics Conference</i> . (University of Birmingham) 'How Can We Be Nothing? The Concept of Nonbeing in Athanasius and Maximus the Confessor', <i>23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies</i> (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade)
21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2016	'Demanding the Impossible – Reaching for the Divine: Anarchist Living and the Theology of Maximus the Confessor', <i>2016 Society for the Study of Christian Ethics Postgraduate Conference: Christian Hope: Embodying the Resurrection in the World Today</i> (Abbey House, Durham University)
4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2015	“Φιλάλληλόν τε καὶ συμπαθὲς προσκαλεῖται” (Called to Mutual Love and Sympathy): A Critique of the State in Light of Gregory of Nyssa’s Sermon on Mercy’, <i>Society for the Study of Christian Ethics Annual Conference 2015: Power and the Limits of Power</i> (Westcott House, University of Cambridge)
10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2015	'The “Divisions of Nature” in Maximus’ Ambiguum 41?', <i>XVIIth International Conference on Patristic Studies</i> . (Examination Schools, University of Oxford)
19 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	'A Return to Class Discourse: Hermeneutical Injustice and the Language of Social Mobility', <i>Rags to Riches?: Experiences of Social Mobility</i> . (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, Oxford) [Joint paper with Jonathan Lee, Philosophy Dept, University of Edinburgh]
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014	'The Ontology of Virtue as Participation in Divine Love in the Works of St Maximus the Confessor', <i>Durham Patristic Seminar</i> (Ustinov College, University of Durham)
26 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2014	'The Ontology of Virtue as Participation in Divine Love in the works of St Maximus the Confessor', <i>Maximus the Confessor as a European Philosopher: International Colloquium</i> (Freie Universität, Berlin)
3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2014	'The Ontology of Virtue in St Maximus the Confessor’s Cosmology', <i>The Fifth British Patristics Conference</i> (Queen Mary, University of London)
14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	'The Concept of Love in Byzantine Asceticism as a Radical Critique of National Borders', <i>Society for the Study of Christian Ethics Postgraduate Conference</i> (School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh)
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2013	'The Cosmology of St Maximus the Confessor as a Basis for Ecological and Humanitarian Justice', <i>Ar.tic.u.late: New College Postgraduate Conference</i> (School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh)
4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2012	'Radical Reflections: Theosis of the Image', <i>Society for the Study of Theology Postgraduate Conference</i> (Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge)

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Aug 2019- July 2021	Incoming LMU Fellowship
April 2016	MA and PhD Legacy Award for Overseas Research (£500)
July 2014	Fellowship of St Sergius and St Alban’s Grant (£250)
Sept 2013- Sept 2016	Durham AHRC Doctoral Scholarship (£53,478)
Sept 2013	Edinburgh College of Humanities and Social Science Studentship (£47,000) [Declined to accept Durham AHRC Doctoral Scholarship]
Sept 2013	Edinburgh School of Divinity Doctoral Scholarship (£23,700) [Declined to accept Durham AHRC Doctoral Scholarship]
Sept 2012- Aug 2013	Edinburgh School of Divinity Post-Graduate Scholarship (£2,000)

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

June 2017	Durham Safeguarding CPD Certification
Oct 2014	Durham Postgraduate Teacher Induction Course

## LANGUAGES

French	<u>Reading:</u> Competent; <u>Writing:</u> Competent; <u>Speaking:</u> Competent <u>Qualification:</u> GCSE
Ancient Greek	<u>Reading:</u> Competent <u>Qualification:</u> Studied at UG and PG level
Latin	<u>Reading:</u> Competent <u>Qualification:</u> A Level
German	<u>Reading:</u> Beginner; <u>Writing:</u> Beginner; <u>Speaking:</u> Beginner <u>Qualification:</u> None

## OTHER SERVICE AND RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Jan 2019-	<b>Reading Group Convenor</b> , Munich Byzantine Theology Reading Group
May 2018-	<b>Member</b> , International Association of Byzantine Studies
Oct 2017-	<b>Founding Member</b> , Christian Patristics and Anarchist Research Network
Sept 2017-	<b>Freelance Website Designer</b> , Hydrology.UK (Experience coding in HTML, XHTML, CSS, and JavaScript)
Feb 2015- June 2016	<b>Postgraduate Member</b> , Ethics Committee for the Dept. Theology and Religion, Durham University
9 <sup>th</sup> June 2014	<b>Conference Organiser</b> , Living in the Cosmos: Ethical and Ascetic Reflections on Patristic and Contemporary Theology, Durham University
Nov 2013-	<b>Primary Contributor</b> , Microcosmology: Meditations on the Person in the Byzantine and Patristic Tradition Blog
Sept 2012-Aug 2018	<b>Reading Group Convenor</b> , Edinburgh Byzantine Theology Reading Group
Sept 2012-	<b>Member</b> , Academics and Students Interested in Religious Anarchism (ASIRA)
Sept 2012-	<b>Member</b> , Anarchist Studies Network (ASN)
2012-	<b>Member</b> , North East Permaculture Network
2012- 2014	<b>Office Bearer</b> , Edinburgh Orthodox Christian Student Society
2012-	<b>Member</b> , Society for the Study of Christian Ethics (SSCE)
2012-	<b>Founding Member and Website Creator</b> , Bewcastle House of Prayer Project
2011-2012	<b>Convenor</b> , Edinburgh University Anglican Society
2009- 2014	<b>Office Bearer</b> , Edinburgh University Anarchist Society
2009-2014	<b>Music Teacher</b> , Trumpet and Music Theory

## REFEREES

*Available on request.*

Last updated 26.07.2019