

Connor M. Ritchie

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Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Villanova University

EDUCATION

Villanova University	Villanova, PA
Ph.D., Theology and Religious Studies (ABD)	Expected 2027
M.T.S., with Distinction	2023

Dissertation: *Apophasis and Excess: Apophatic Theology as a Hermeneutic of Divine Manifestation*

Co-Directors: Kevin Hughes and William Desmond

Readers: Rachel Smith and Fr. Martin Laird, O.S.A.

Boston College	Chestnut Hill, MA
M.A., Philosophy, with Distinction	2019

Villanova University	Villanova, PA
B.A., Philosophy and Humanities (Double Major)	2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization

Apophatic Theology; John Scottus Eriugena and the Dionysian Tradition; Historical Theology; Continental Philosophy of Religion

Areas of Competence

Patristic Theology; Christian Mysticism; Systematic and Philosophical Theology; Phenomenology and Hermeneutics; History of Western Philosophy

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Villanova University

Adjunct Professor of Theology and Religious Studies	August 2026—Present
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Editorial Assistant, <i>Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society</i>	August 2023—May 2024
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Graduate Assistant, Center for Graduate Research and Education	April 2022—December 2022
Adjunct Professor of Philosophy	August 2019—May 2021
Rowan College at Burlington County	
Senior Adjunct Professor of Philosophy	August 2022—Present
Adjunct Professor of Philosophy	August 2019—August 2022
Rowan University	
Adjunct Professor of Philosophy	January 2020—May 2021
Boston College	
Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology	January 2018—May 2019

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Donald J. Keefe, S.J. Summer Research Fellowship, Institute for Saint Anselm Studies, Saint Anselm College	2026
Laura Bassi Scholarship, Publication Support Award (40% editorial fee waiver), Bassi Foundation	2026
Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova University	2026
Professional Development Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova University	2025
Mann Fellowship for Exceptional Professional Promise, Theology and Religious Studies Department, Villanova University	2024-2025
The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Grant for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of The Americas	2024
Professional Development Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova University	2023
Villanova University Doctoral Fellowship, Theology and Religious Studies	2021-2027

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Beyond Darkness and Silence: Apophatic God-Talk and the Grammar of Excess in Dionysius and Eriugena,” *The Journal of Religion*. **(Under Review)**

“John Scottus Eriugena and the Medieval Dionysian Affective Tradition: Love, Knowledge, and Mystical Union in the *Periphyseon*,” *The Journal of Theological Studies* vol. 77, no. 2 (2026): pp. **(In Press)**

“The Christology of Eriugena’s *Carmina*: The Theophany of the Bloodied Christ,” Special Issue, ‘Johannes Eriugena,’ *Modern Theology* vol. 42, no. 4 (2026): pp. **[Invited]**

“Revelation, Negative Theology, and Apophasis: Jean-Luc Marion and John Scottus Eriugena on the Incomprehensibility of Revelation,” Special Issue, ‘Phenomenology and Revelation,’ *Münchener Theologische Zeitschrift* vol. 76, no. 2 (2025): pp. 152-168. **[Invited]**

“Reading John Scottus Eriugena’s *Carmina* as Devotional Poetry,” *Medieval Mystical Theology: The Journal of the Eckhart Society* vol. 33, no. 1 (2024): pp. 47-60.

Book Chapters

“Is There a Future for Metaphysics?” in *Continental Philosophy and Theology Across Cultures: Phenomenology, Ontology, and Selfhood*, ed. Jack Nuelle and Colby Dickinson (Bloomsbury Academic, 2027). **[Invited] (Forthcoming)**

Book Reviews

Review of Jean-Luc Marion, *Revelation Comes from Elsewhere: A Contribution to a Critical History and a Phenomenal Concept of Revelation*, translated by Stephen E. Lewis and Stephanie Rumpza (Stanford University Press, 2024) *The Journal of Continental Philosophy of Religion* vol. 8, no. 1 (2026), pp. 121-123.

Review of Simon Critchley, *Mysticism* (New York Review Books, 2024) *The Journal of Continental Philosophy of Religion* vol. 7, no. 2 (2025), pp. 249-251.

Review of Adrian Guio, *A Companion to John Scottus Eriugena* (Brill, 2020) *Medieval Mystical Theology: The Journal of the Eckhart Society* vol. 31, no. 2 (2022), pp. 124-5.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Soteriology of John Scottus Eriugena: Blood, Deification, and Christ’s Defeat of Death in the *Carmina*,” at Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference: Mysticism, Mystery, and Trinitarian Life in Times of Crisis October 2025

“Theopoetics as Spiritual Practice: Richard Kearney and John Scottus Eriugena on Theopoiesis” at Phenomenology, Religious Experience, and Spiritual Practices International Conference	June 2025
“John Scottus Eriugena and the Medieval Dionysian Affective Tradition: Love, Knowledge, and Mystical Ascent in the <i>Periphyseon</i> ” at Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference: Ever Ancient, Ever New: The Tensions of Tradition and Mission	November 2024
“Is There a Future for Metaphysics?” at The Limits of Continental Philosophy in a Catholic Context, a colloquium hosted by Loyola University Chicago	April 2024
“The Christology of Eriugena’s <i>Carmina</i> : On the Theophany of the Bloodied Christ” at Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference: The Visible Sacred in Theology, Art, and Culture	October 2023
“Jean-Luc Marion and John Scottus Eriugena on the Incomprehensibility of Revelation” at Phenomenology and Revelation International Conference	August 2023
“Eriugena’s Christ and Cross” at Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference: Through the Cross	October 2022
“White Imagination: An Essay on Theological Aesthetics of Race” at College Theology Society Annual Convention: Why We Can’t Wait, Racism and the Church	June 2022
“Recovering the Spiritual Self After Heidegger” at Boston College Graduate Philosophy Conference: God and the Human Person	March 2022
“Is Metaxology Onto-Theology?” at Boston College Graduate Student Philosophy Forum	April 2019

COURSES TAUGHT

(#) Denotes number of sections taught

Villanova University

(1) *Introduction to Theology: Faith, Reason, Culture*

Introductory theology course for all Villanova undergraduate students that explores the Christian intellectual tradition as faith seeking understanding through sustained engagement with reason, justice, and culture.

(4) *Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge, Reality, Self*

Introductory philosophy course for all Villanova undergraduate students that surveys key figures throughout the western philosophical and Catholic intellectual traditions, with special attention to critical race theory and post-colonial studies.

Rowan College at Burlington County

(22) Introduction to Philosophy

An introductory philosophy course surveying key figures throughout the history of philosophy and contemporary philosophical issues, such as race, gender, and social justice.

Rowan University

(2) Introduction to Ethics

An introductory ethics course that surveys major ethical theories throughout the western philosophical tradition, such as virtue ethics, natural law theory, and utilitarianism, as well as contemporary ethical issues concerning systemic racism, environmental ethics, and technology.

(1) Social and Political Philosophy

An introduction to themes across political philosophy and social theory including how humans should be organized into societies, the nature of political systems, and the meanings of freedom, justice, and citizenship.

(1) Logic of Everyday Reasoning

An informal logic course designed to improve students' reasoning skills and introduce what is required for sound reasoning and coherent patterns of argumentation in writing.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-chair of *Fides Quaerens* Annual Conference
(Formerly known as CPAV: Christian Philosophy at Villanova)

September 2021—Present

Conferences Planned:

- Political Violence and Vulnerability (2026)
 - Plenary Speakers: James Alison and John Ranieri
- Authority and Its Discontents (2024)
 - Plenary Speakers: Vincent Lloyd and Michele E. Watkins
- Hospitality and the Impossible (2023)
 - Plenary Speakers: Richard Kearney and John Caputo

- God and The Unconditional (2022)
 - Plenary Speakers: Crina Gschwandtner, John Caputo and William Desmond

Doctoral Student Council, Villanova University	August 2021—Present
Recurring guest lecturer for master's and doctoral levels seminar course "Structure and Philosophy of American Higher Education," Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Villanova University	June 2020—Present
Student Representative, Doctoral Program Committee, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, Villanova University	August 2024—May 2026
Peer Reviewer, <i>Modern Theology</i> — Introductory Essay for Special Issue in John Scottus Eriugena	June 2026
Peer Reviewer, <i>Modern Theology</i> — Article on John Scottus Eriugena	September 2025
Campus Master Planning Committee, Villanova University	September 2022
Hiring Committee for the Assistant Director of The Graduate Center for Research and Education at Villanova University	July 2022
Hiring Committee for the Director of The Graduate Center for Research and Education at Villanova University	April 2022
Philosophy Department Master's Student Council, Boston College	August 2018—May 2019
Philosophy Department Diversity Committee, Villanova University	August 2016—May 2017

PANELS MODERATED

"Naming God" at Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference: The Visible Sacred in Theology, Art, and Culture	October 2023
Plenary Address by Richard Kearney and Response by John Caputo at Fides Quaerens Annual Conference: Hospitality and the Impossible	April 2023
"Ancient Theologies, Modern Concerns" at Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference: Through the Cross	October 2022
Co-moderated Roundtable Discussion with John Caputo, William Desmond, and Christina Gschwandtner at Christian Philosophy at Villanova: God and Unconditionality	March 2022

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

French	Academic Reading Knowledge
Latin	Academic Reading Knowledge
Classical Greek	Academic Reading Knowledge

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Religion
College Theology Society
Delaware Valley Medieval Association