



MARY G. NICKEL

2431 Park Street, Columbia SC 29201
t 706 358 8128 e mnickel@sc.edu w marynickel.org

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Instructor of Philosophy

University of South Carolina
SPRING 2024 — PRESENT

Courses taught: Communicating Moral Issues, Ethics and the Body
*Affiliate faculty in Women & Gender Studies Department

Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Virginia
FALL 2023

Courses taught: Ethics and the Body

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Religion, Ethics, and Politics

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Dissertation: *Matrices: Pregnancy, piety, and the social constitution of human agency*, supervised by Eric Gregory, Leora Batnitzky, Lara Buchak, and Andrew Chignell
General exams read by Jeffrey Stout, Eddie Glaude, Elizabeth Harman, and Eric Gregory
MAY 2023

Master of Arts, Religion

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
JUNE 2020

Master of Divinity

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ
MAY 2016

Master of Arts, Politics and Government

Illinois State University, Normal, IL
MAY 2012

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy & Human Rights Studies

Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA and Masarykova Univerzita, Brno, Czech Republic
DECEMBER 2006

HONORS

Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship, Princeton University, 2022–2023
Teaching Transcript, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University, 2021
William G. Bowen Merit Fellowship, Princeton University, 2020
Department of Religion Teaching Award, Princeton University, 2020
Selected participant, Wabash Center Doctoral Teaching Seminar, Wabash Center, 2018
Fellow, Fellowship at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE), 2017
Silver Research Talk Award, Princeton Research Day, Princeton University, 2017
Political Philosophy Graduate Travel and Research Grant, Princeton University, 2017
Princeton University Fellowship, Princeton University, 2016–2021
University Center for Human Values Merit Grant, Princeton University, 2016
Frederick Buechner Prize (best writing in graduating class), Princeton Seminary, 2016
Fellowship in Religion and Society (best senior thesis in the subfield), Princeton Seminary, 2016
Silas G. Kessler Scholarship, Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation, 2015
Presbyterian Study Grant, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 2015
Presbyterian Leadership Award, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2013–2016

HONORS
(CONTINUED)

Full Teaching Assistantship, Illinois State University, 2007, 2011–2012
Alice Ebel Award and Alice Ebel Scholarship, Illinois State University, 2012

PUBLISHED
RESEARCH

Publications in a peer reviewed journal

- “Critical Piety: Our urgent need to recover an ancient virtue.” Forthcoming in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*.
- “Choris Andros: St. Paul on worlds without men.” *Political Theology* 25, no. 6 (2024): 1–21.
- “The theological vindication of resistance against enforced motherhood.” *Body and Religion* 6, no. 2 (2024): 196–219.
- “The Pentecost as a Resource for Democratic Politics.” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 43, no. 2 (2024): 349–363.
- “Incorporating Intimacy: The evocative story of Francis J. Grimké.” *Black Religious Thought* 1, no. 2 (2022): 196–227.
- “Conceiving Selves: What pregnancy can teach us about the ethics and piety.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 49, no. 2 (2021): 337–357.

Scholarship under review (drafts available upon request)

- “Authority Usurped: Theological Republicanism from Paul to Milton.” Submitted for review to the *Journal of the History of Ideas*.
- “How we conceive children: the merits and demerits of regarding children as public goods.” Submitted for review to *Political Theology*.

SELECTED
PRESENTATIONS

- “At the Center of the Arc: tracing the forces that bend our moral futures.” Forthcoming at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago, January 9, 2025.
- “Bearing with one another: Protestantism’s conversation-demandingness and the abortion debate.” Presented at the 2024 Eighth Annual Meeting of the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society. New Orleans, November 14, 2024.
- “Mothers and the Principle of Fair Play.” Presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the International Association of Maternal Action and Scholarship. Boston, June 21, 2024.
- “‘La Labor de Nuestras Matrices’: On the unpaid and underappreciated labor of pregnant persons.” Presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 21, 2023.
- “A Roundtable on Birthing the Maternal Turn in Religious Studies.” Presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 19, 2023.
- “Out of bounds: on the disciplining of unruly pregnant bodies.” Presented at the 2023 Political Theology Network Conference. Philadelphia, September 7–9, 2023.
- “Who is ‘She’?: Inclusivity, language, and pregnancy.” Presented at the 2023 Annual Museum of Motherhood Conference. St. Petersburg, Florida, March 25–27, 2023.
- “Seeing Visions, Dreaming Dreams, Prophesying: The Pentecost as a Resource for Democratic Politics.” Presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago, January 8, 2023.
- “That they may all be one: Religious resources for collective action.” Presented at the 2022 Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November 21, 2022.
- “The theological conception of voluntary motherhood.” Presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November 19, 2022.
- “Mothers and Rawls’ principle of fair play.” Presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Montréal, September 16, 2022.
- “Hysterics: Gender and the diachronicity of life.” Presented at the 2022 Symposium of the Fellowship for Protestant Ethics. Nashville, July 9, 2022.

SELECTED
PRESENTATIONS
(CONTINUED)

- “Choris Andros: St. Paul on Worlds without Men.” Presented at the 2022 Political Theology Network Conference. Tempe, April 7-9, 2022.
- “Critical Piety: Our need to recover an ancient virtue.” Presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 21, 2021.
- “Expecting: Cooperation, Social Norms, and Collective Action.” Presented at the 2021 Yale Ethics Colloquium. Virtual, November 6, 2021.
- “Regarding the Body: Reflecting on Vaccine Mandates with Saint Paul.” Presented at the 2021 Inaugural Meeting of the Society for Christian Bioethicists. Virtual, November 5, 2021.
- “Blessed Assurance: A Theological Ethics of Collective Action Problems.” Presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. Virtual, January 8, 2021.
- “Blessed Assurance: A Theology of Collective Action Problems.” Presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Virtual, December 10, 2020.
- “Expecting: Hysterics and the Diachronicity of Human Life.” Presented before Princeton’s Gender, Sexuality, and Religion Working Group. Virtual, November 18, 2020.
- “Conceiving anew: What pregnancy can teach us about the relationship between ethics and politics.” Presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. Washington, DC, January 11, 2020.
- “Redeeming Power: What John’s portrayal of Christ’s kingship means for politics today.” Presented at the inaugural Notre Dame Political Philosophy and Religion Workshop. South Bend, November 8-9, 2019.
- “The Confessing Prophet: Righting Wrongs and Facilitating Moral Repair in Prophetic Confession.” Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November 17, 2018.
- “Authority Usurped.” Presented at the inaugural Political Theology Network Conference. Atlanta, February 15-17, 2018.
- “Body Language: The Virtues and Troubles of the Society-As-Body Analogy.” Presented at the Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Student Conference. Princeton, February 10, 2018.
- “Discerning the Body: Paul’s Portrayal of Corporate Identity in 1 Corinthians.” Presented at the 2017 Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Conference, themed “Justice & Reconciliation.” Princeton, February 17-18, 2017.
- “A Revolutionary Political Theology.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 18-22, 2016.
- “Against Rulers and Authorities? Political Theology in Castro’s Cuba.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Meeting. Dallas, Texas, March 11-13, 2016.
- “On the Road Again: The Resurgence of the Pilgrimage and Embodied Devotion.” Presented at the 2015 Annual Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Montreal, May 1-2, 2015.
- “Virtually Present?” Presented at the 2015 Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Columbia, Maryland, March 5-6, 2015.
- “The Structural Transformation of the Cybersphere.” Presented at the First Annual Comparative Literature Association of Ireland Conference. Cork, Ireland, June 28-30, 2012.
- “Democratic Networks (and Networks of Networks).” Presented at the International Studies Association, Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies Section Conference. Prague, Czech Republic, June 24-26, 2012.

INVITED
LECTURES

- “Women and Christian Ethics.” Christian Ethics and Modern Society, Princeton University, November 10, 2022.
- “The Bible and Sexuality.” Invited to lecture and facilitate two sessions of the Bible and Comparative Ethics, Rhodes College, March 1-3, 2021.
- “Pedagogical Knots: Teaching Gender, Sexuality, and Religion.” Invited Panelist, Gender, Sexuality, and Religion working group, Princeton University, April 12, 2021.
- “Lincoln’s Confession.” Invited lecture at All Saints Episcopal Church, Fall 2018.
- “Autonomy and Harm.” Ethics and Public Policy, Princeton University, Fall 2017.
- “Politics and the Media.” Citizens and Governance, Illinois State University, Spring 2012.
- “Citizenship.” Citizens and Governance, Illinois State University, Spring 2012.
- “W.E.B. DuBois.” American Political Thought, Illinois State University, Fall 2007.
- “Empirical and Normative Statements.” Quantitative Reasoning, Illinois State University, Spring 2007.
- “Development and Globalization.” Introduction to the Politics of Africa, Asia and Latin America, Illinois State University, Spring 2007.

TEACHING

Instructor

University of South Carolina
SPRING 2024
Communicating Moral Issues

Instructor

University of Virginia
FALL 2023
Ethics and the Body

Co-instructor

Princeton University
FALL 2023
Reparative Ethics (Wintersession course, taught with Candace Jordan)

Teaching Assistant

Princeton University
FALL 2017 & FALL 2019
Christian Ethics & Modern Society
Ethics & Public Policy

Teaching Assistant

Princeton Theological Seminary
SPRING 2016
Koine Greek

Teaching Assistant

Illinois State University
SPRING & FALL 2007, FALL 2011 & SPRING 2012
Citizenship & Governance
American Political Thought
Introduction to the Politics of Africa, Asia, and Latin America
Quantitative Reasoning in Political Science
Introduction to International Relations

SERVICE	<p>Secondary Reader, Senior Honors Thesis Committee for Caroline Evans, <i>University of South Carolina Honors College</i>, 2024</p> <p>Coordinator, Pedagogy Workshop, <i>USC Philosophy Department</i>, 2024–2025</p> <p>Member, <i>Social Ethics Network of the PC(USA)</i>, 2016–Present</p> <p>Member, <i>Fellowship for Protestant Ethics</i>, 2023–Present</p> <p>President, <i>Fellowship for Protestant Ethics</i>, 2022–2023</p> <p>Vice President, <i>Fellowship for Protestant Ethics</i>, 2021–2022</p> <p>Co-convenor, <i>Political Theology Network Workshop Series</i>, 2020–2022</p> <p>Co-convenor, <i>Student Caucus of the Society of Christian Ethics</i>, 2021–2022</p> <p>Board Member, <i>Fellowship for Protestant Ethics</i>, 2020–2021</p> <p>Student Member, <i>Nominating Committee of the Society of Christian Ethics</i>, 2019</p> <p>Panelist, Women in the Academy, <i>Princeton Seminary Center for Theology, Women, and Gender</i>, 2018</p> <p>Production Editor, <i>Princeton Theological Review</i>, 2015 and 2016</p> <p>Production Editor, <i>Lenten Devotional</i>, 2015 and 2016</p> <p>Coordinator, <i>Anam Cara Mentorship Initiative</i>, 2014</p> <p>Editor, <i>Critique</i>, 2007, 2011</p> <p>Treasurer, <i>ISU Politics & Government Graduate Student Association</i>, 2007</p> <p>President, <i>Juniata Model UN</i>, 2006</p> <p>President, <i>Juniata Philosophy Club</i>, 2003–2005</p>						
LANGUAGES	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Spanish, intermediate</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Koine Greek, competent in reading</td> </tr> <tr> <td>German, competent in reading</td> <td>Biblical Hebrew, competent in reading</td> </tr> <tr> <td>French, competent in reading</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Spanish, intermediate	Koine Greek, competent in reading	German, competent in reading	Biblical Hebrew, competent in reading	French, competent in reading	
Spanish, intermediate	Koine Greek, competent in reading						
German, competent in reading	Biblical Hebrew, competent in reading						
French, competent in reading							
RESEARCH INTERESTS	<p>Political theology; motherhood and pregnancy; collective responsibility and structural injustice; the development of moral agency; religious and political resistance and social change; gender and sexuality studies; democracy and deliberative theory; philosophy of religion</p>						
REFERENCES	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Dr. Eric Gregory Professor of Religion Princeton University gregory@princeton.edu</p> <p>Dr. Leora Batnitzky Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies Princeton University batnitzk@princeton.edu</p> <p>Dr. Stephen Macedo Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics Princeton University macedo@princeton.edu</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Dr. Lara Buchak Professor of Philosophy Princeton University lbuchak@princeton.edu</p> <p>Dr. John Bowlin Robert L. Stuart Professor of Philosophy and Christian Ethics Princeton Theological Seminary john.bowlin@ptsem.edu</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Dr. Eric Gregory Professor of Religion Princeton University gregory@princeton.edu</p> <p>Dr. Leora Batnitzky Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies Princeton University batnitzk@princeton.edu</p> <p>Dr. Stephen Macedo Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics Princeton University macedo@princeton.edu</p>	<p>Dr. Lara Buchak Professor of Philosophy Princeton University lbuchak@princeton.edu</p> <p>Dr. John Bowlin Robert L. Stuart Professor of Philosophy and Christian Ethics Princeton Theological Seminary john.bowlin@ptsem.edu</p>				
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