

ERIC G. FLETT

Curriculum Vitae

eflett@eastern.edu

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a creative and engaging teacher who enjoys working in a collegiate setting where diverse disciplines are being explored and personal values are being formed. The focus of my teaching is two fold: first, to serve the church as a witness to the triune God of grace through effective teaching and scholarship and, second, as a minister of Jesus Christ, to serve those whom I come into contact with, both colleagues and students.

I value and practice the creative engagement, development and presentation of the Christian tradition in my teaching and research and assume its abiding relevance for personal and social life. I find use of the arts and cross-cultural experience to be especially helpful in illuminating and communicating the unique qualities and dynamics of our trinitarian faith.

Regarding my students, I understand myself to be a model, catalyst, resource and advocate for their walks of faith. I'm interested in assisting them as they negotiate the challenges of their student years, helping them integrate their learning experiences into a Christian identity that is both personally and socially meaningful and to the expression of that identity in concrete forms of spirituality.

EDUCATION

1998-2004	University of London, England	Ph.D. in Theology and Religious Studies
1997	Fuller Theological Seminary, USA	M.A. in Theology
1989	Prairie Bible College, Canada	Bachelor of Religious Education

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Persons, Powers, and Pluralities: Toward a Trinitarian Theology of Culture, with special reference to the thought of Thomas F. Torrance. Supervisors: Murray Rae and Colin Gunton, King's College, London. Ph.D. awarded 2005.

ABSTRACT OF RESEARCH

For many cultures conceptions of the nature of God, the world and humanity are intimately interrelated. Scottish theologian and philosopher of science T. F. Torrance suggest that Christian assumptions in these areas had an important influence upon the development of Western scientific culture. This project draws upon his work to develop a theology of culture rooted in his understanding of God as triune, creation as contingent, and human persons as stewards created in the image of God.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2013	Research Grant (200k award over 2 years)	The Templeton Foundation
2013	Travel/Research Grant (20k award)	Nagel Institute Global Christianity
2011	Sabbatical Leave (Spring)	Eastern University
2010	Provost's Fellowship	Eastern University (Meneses, et al.)
1998-2001	Postgraduate Resident	The Goodenough College, London
1999-2001	Research Grants	King's College, London
1998	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, London	Rotary International

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2007 – Present *Associate Professor of Theology and Culture*, College of Arts and Sciences, Eastern University. Promotion.
- Autumn 2014 *Adjunct Faculty*, College of Arts and Sciences (MA in Theological and Cultural Anthropology), Eastern University.
Courses taught: *Theology of Culture*
- Spring 2012 – Present *Adjunct Faculty*, Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies (School of Leadership and Development), Eastern University.
Courses taught: *Theology of Poverty*
- Spring 2008 – Present *Adjunct Faculty*, Campolo College of Graduate and Professional Studies (School of Management Studies), Eastern University.
Courses taught: *Spiritual Environment of Management* and *Biblical Literature in Contemporary Context* (online and on-ground, Main Campus and at Esperanza College).
- Autumn 2004 – Spring 2007 *Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture*, College of Arts and Sciences, Eastern University.
Core courses: *Introduction to Faith, Reason, and Justice (INST 150)*, *Theological Thinking* (regular and honors), and *Church History* (Patristic and Medieval, Reformation and Modern).
Upper division courses: *Theology of Culture*, *Jesus Christ: Savior and Lord*, *Doctrine of Revelation*, *On Being Human*, *Contextual Theology*, *Karl Barth*, *Global Christianity*, *The Triune Spirit*, *Thesis Supervision*.
- Autumn 2002 – Spring 2004 *Visiting Instructor in Christian Foundations*, Seattle Pacific University. Full-time faculty position responsible for the courses *Christian Formation*, *Christian Theology*, and *Exploring Christian Doctrine: Human Personhood and Culture*.
- Winter 2003 *Christian Theology 101*. Six-hour seminar on Christian Doctrine for KOINOS lay-education program. Seattle, WA.
- Spring 2002 *The Mysterious Equations of Love: How the First Christians Embraced Jesus and Got the Holy Trinity*. Five-session course at University Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA.
- Winter 2002 *The Trinity and Christian Discipleship*. Ten-session course for Spiritual Foundations series at University Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Autumn 2010 “Defining a Theology of Culture” for the colloquium series *On Knowing Humanity: Developing a Christian Anthropology*, Eastern University, November 19, 2010.
- Autumn 2009 “Engaging the Religiously-Committed Other: Cross-Border Conversations in Anthropology.” Paper read at the *American Anthropological Society* Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. *Theme*: The End/s of Anthropology.
Reader: Eloise Meneses
Writers: Eloise Meneses, David Bronkema, Lindy Backues, Ben Hartley, Eric Flett
- Autumn 2007 “Culture as a Social Coefficient: Toward a Trinitarian Theology of Culture.” Paper read for the *Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship*. American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA.

- Autumn 2003 “Priests of Creation, Mediators of Order: Reading Thomas F. Torrance as a Theologian of Culture.” Paper read for the *Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship*. American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA.
- Autumn 2003 Convener, *Christian Theological Research Fellowship* ‘Book Session’ on Jeremy Begbie’s *Theology, Music and Time*. American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA.
- Autumn 2000 “Human Being as Cultural Being: T. F. Torrance’s Theological Anthropology.” King’s College, London, *Systematic Theology Seminar*.
- Winter 2000 “The Ontological Trinity and the Divine Economy in the Thought of T.F. Torrance.” King’s College, London, *Systematic Theology Seminar*.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Search Committees

- Chair, Biblical Studies Search Committee* (two positions), Eastern University, 2013-present.
- Coordinator of Student Ministries and Service Learning Search Committee*, Eastern University, 2013.
- Biblical Studies Search Committee*, Eastern University, 2011 (search cancelled).
- Political Science Search Committee*, Eastern University, 2009.
- Philosophy Search Committee*, Eastern University, 2008.
- Biblical Studies Search Committee*, Eastern University, 2005.
- Theology Search Committee*, Eastern University, 2005.

Academic Committees/Leadership

- Chair*, Christian Studies Department, Eastern University, 2012 (Spring)-present.
- Program Developer*, MA in Christian Anthropology, Eastern University, 2009-present.
- Member*, Student Development Committee, Eastern University, 2013-present.
- Senator*, Faculty Senate, Eastern University, 2011-13.
- Faith-Learning Paper Sub-Committee*, Eastern University, 2011.
- CORE Oversight Committee*, Eastern University, 2009-11.
- CORE Review Committee* Eastern University, 2006-2008.
- Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee*, Eastern University, 2005-2006.

Speaking/Presenting/Invited Respondent

- Respondent*, to presentation by Dr. Glen Hinson (Anthropologist at U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) as a part of the 2012-13 colloquium *On Knowing Humanity*, March 15, 2013.
- Respondent/Panel Participant*, public viewing and discussion of the documentary *Miss-Representation* addressing the subject of the portrayal of women in the media, October 4, 2012.
- Respondent*, to presentation by Dr. Jenell Paris (Anthropologist at Messiah College) as a part of the 2011-12 colloquium *On Knowing Humanity*, March 15, 2013.
- Public Lecture*, “Defining a Theology of Culture” for the colloquium series *On Knowing Humanity: Developing a Christian Anthropology*, Eastern University, November 19, 2010.
- Chapel Speaker*, “The Great Catch,” Eastern University, November 11, 2009.
- Presenter*, Faculty Workshop on technology in the classroom, Eastern University, 2009.

Presenter, Student Theological Society on the theme of suffering, Eastern University, 2005.

Presenter, New Faculty Orientation on the thought of Lesslie Newbigin, Eastern University, 2004.

Student Service

Organizer, Visit of Olympic Chaplain Ashley Null to address EU athletic teams/staff (Men's Soccer, Women's Lacrosse, Women's Volleyball), September 22, 2011.

Faculty Advisor/Participant, Food for the Hungry Mission Team (Dominican Republic), Eastern University, 2008.

Organizer, Visit of Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison (Professor of Theology, Seattle Pacific University) to speak at Windows on the World for Women's History Month, March 13-16, 2007.

Thesis Supervisor for Bethany Musser, Eastern University, 2007.

Faculty Advisor, Student Theological Society, Eastern University, 2004-2006.

Miscellaneous

Moderator/Administrator, Blackboard site for Nagel Seminar Research Network/Exchange, a site set up to continue conversations arising from seminar experiences, and to facilitate collaboration on the book project assigned to seminar members, September 2013 – present.

Co-organizer (with Julie Morgan), New Faculty Orientation, Eastern University, August 2012.

Faculty Representative, Middle States Accreditation Visit, March 2012.

Book Endorsements, Wipf and Stock Publishers, for Paul Metzger's *New Wine Tastings: Theological Essays of Cultural Engagement* (11/2010) and Jeff Keuss' *Your Neighbor's Hymnal: What Popular Music Teaches Us About Faith, Hope, and Love* (6/2011).

Contributor, The Waltonian, on theme of business and theology, Eastern University, April 2009.

Youth Leader, The Pittsburgh Project Work Camp, Church of the Good Samaritan, June 2008.

Trio Participant, PATI (Peer Assisted Teaching Initiative), Eastern University, 2006-2007.

Guest Speaker, Wayne Presbyterian Church morning study group (multiple occasions)

Graduate Program Feasibility Study Committee, Seattle Pacific University, 2003-2004.

Study Quarter Abroad Design Committee, Seattle Pacific University, 2002-03.

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY

Associate Editor, *Participatio: The Journal of the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship*. Spring 2003 - present.

Contributing Editor, *Cultural Encounters: A Journal of Theology and Culture*. Spring 2003 - present.

Associate Editor, *Journal for Christian Theological Research*. Spring 2003 - 2007.

Co-Vice President, Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship. Fall 2003 - 2007.

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship

Christian Theological Research Fellowship

Karl Barth Society of North America

PUBLISHED WORKS

- In preparation “Son of the Father, Sender of the Spirit: Jesus and Social Engagement in Brasil.” Book chapter in *Evangelicalism and Social Change in Brazil*, edited by Eric Miller and Gustavo Oliveira. Volume emerging out of Nagel seminar in Brazil, to be published by a university press in English and Portuguese.
- In preparation *Theology and Culture*. Volume for inclusion in Eerdmans *Guides to Theology* series. Series editors: Alan Padgett, Sally Bruyneel and David Fergusson.
- Forthcoming (Feb. 2014) “Engaging the Religiously-Committed Other: Anthropologists and Theologians in Dialog.” Article co-written with E. Meneses, L. Backues, D. Bronkema, and B. Hartley. To be published in *Current Anthropology* 55:1.
- 2013 “Dingolayin’: Theological Notes for a Contextual Caribbean Theology.” Book chapter in *A Kairos Moment for Caribbean Theology: Ecumenical Voices in Dialogue*, edited by J. Richard Middleton and Garnett Roper. Pickwick Publications.
- 2013 “Exploring an Interdisciplinary Theology of Culture.” *Cultural Encounters* 8:2, 47-58.
- 2011 *Persons, Powers, and Pluralities: Toward a Trinitarian Theology of Culture*. Princeton Theological Monographs Series. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2011.
Reviewed in: *The Expository Times*, 124:9 (June 2013), 447.
Reviewed in: *Theology*, 116:3 (March 2013), 208.
Reviewed in: *Theological Studies*, 64:1 (2013), 341-2.
Reviewed in: *Themelios*, 37:2 (July 2012), 422-24.
Reviewed in: *American Theological Inquiry*, 5:1 (January 2012), 126-29.
Reviewed in: *Colloquium*, 43:2 (2011), 275-78.
- 2009 “Culture as a Social Coefficient: Toward a Trinitarian Theology of Culture.” *Cultural Encounters* 5:1, 53-74.
- 2005 “Priests of Creation, Mediators of Order: The Human Person as a Cultural Being in Thomas F. Torrance’s Theological Anthropology.” *Scottish Journal of Theology* 58:2, 1-23.

SELECTED BOOK REVIEWS

- Sept. 2011 *Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire*, by William T. Cavanaugh. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), reviewed in *Cultural Encounters*, volume 4:1.
- March 2002 *The Meeting of Religions and the Trinity*, by Gavin D’Costa. (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2000), reviewed in *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, volume 4:1.
- Spring 2001 *Systematic Theology: Volume Two*, by Robert W. Jenson. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), reviewed in *Themelios*, volume 26:2.
- June 2000 *Karl Barth’s Theology of Relations: Trinitarian, Christological, and Human: Towards an Ethic of the Family*, by Gary Deddo. *Issues in Systematic Theology; Vol. 4*. (New York: Peter Lang, 1999), reviewed in *Themelios*, volume 25:3.
- Spring 2000 *The Logic of the Spirit: Human Development in Theological Perspective*, by James E. Loder. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998), reviewed in *Christian Scholar’s Review*, volume 29:3.

- Fall 1999 *Knowledge of the Self-Revealing God in the Thought of Thomas Forsyth Torrance*, by John Douglas Morrison. *Issues in Systematic Theology; Vol. 2.* (New York: Peter Lang, 1997), reviewed in *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, volume 42:3.
- Fall 1999 *The Moral Quest: Foundations of Christian Ethics*, by Stanley J. Grenz (Downers Grove: IVP, 1998), reviewed in *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, volume 42:3.
- Fall 1998 *The Trinity in a Pluralistic Age: Theological Essays on Culture and Religion*, edited by Kevin J. Vanhoozer (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), reviewed in *Christian Scholar's Review*, volume 28:1.
- Spring 1998 *Faith Thinking: The Dynamics of Christian Theology*, by Trevor A. Hart (Downers Grove: IVP, 1995), reviewed in *Christian Scholar's Review*, vol. 27:3.
- January 1997 *No Other Gods: Christian Belief in Dialogue with Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam*, by Hendrik M. Vroom (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996), reviewed in *Themelios*, volume 22:2.

SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Extensive travel throughout Europe, and to India, Puerto Rico, Trinidad (multiple times), Tunisia, Canada, Scotland, England, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Brasil.

International student. *As an undergraduate* in Alberta, Canada for four years where my closest friends were Canadian, Liberian and Malagasy; and *as a postgraduate* in London, England for three years. During my time in London my family and I lived in a competitive entry international postgraduate community where all conversations were, in some way, both cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary.

Church service has been a feature of my visits to Trinidad, and was the primary reason for my visits to India and Tunisia. Development work was the primary focus of my time in the Dominican Republic while working with a team of university students and local carpenters.

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Teacher and preacher for college, postgraduate, adult and high school audiences in classrooms, at chapels, retreats, morning services and special events.

Advisor and counselor for students in college and postgraduate residences and at church gatherings and retreats.

Pastoral Intern at University Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA. My chief responsibilities were to aid in the **program development** of the department so that it would more effectively care for and equip the lay leadership of the church. Of particular interest was the **development and nurture of small groups and small group leadership**.

CHURCH AFFILIATION

I am presently a candidate for ordination with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and attend Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia, PA.