

# Jonathan Sozek

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## EDUCATION

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2010-2016	PhD, Religious Studies. Brown University, Providence, RI, USA
2008-2010	BA & MA, Philosophy. Both <i>summa cum laude</i> . Catholic Univ. Leuven, Belgium
2003-2006	MA, Religious Studies. Honours. McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada
1999-2003	BA, Liberal Arts. Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY, USA Full year (2001-02) at Wadham College, Oxford University, UK

## TEACHING

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2019-present	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Albertus Magnus College
2014-present	Summer Instructor, Brown University, School of Professional Studies
2017-2019	Lecturer, Dept. of Religious Studies, Fairfield University
2016-2017	Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Theology Dept., Fordham University
2015-2019	Lecturer, Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Albertus Magnus College
2010-2016	Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Religious Studies, Brown University
2007-2008	Theology Faculty, Notre Dame - Bishop Gibbons High School
2004-2005	Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University

### ***Courses developed at Albertus Magnus College since Fall 2019***

“Critical Reasoning” (anticipated Fall 2021); “History of Christianity”; “Ancient Greek Thought”; “Catholic Intellectual Tradition”; “Religions of Asia”; “The Spiritual Life”; “Theology of the Civil Rights Movement”; “Invitation to Insight”; “Senior Humanities Seminar”; “The Variety of Christian Experience” [Gospels]; “Christianity and the Cosmos” [Religion and Science]

### ***Courses developed elsewhere / prior to Fall 2019***

- “Human Rights.” Brown University, SPS, Summers 2019-present.
- “Debating Democracy.” Brown University, SPS, Summers 2014-present.
- “Writing the College Admissions Essay.” Brown University, SPS, Summers 2017-2019.
- “Catholic Intellectual Tradition.” Fairfield University, Spring 2019.
- “Ethics.” Albertus Magnus College, Fall 2018, Mod 2. Online.
- “Religion and the Critical Mind.” Fairfield University, Fall 2017 through Fall 2018.
- “Peace, Justice, and Global Issues.” Albertus Magnus College, Fall 2017, Mod 2. Hybrid.
- “Faith and Critical Reason.” Fordham University, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017.
- “Church in Controversy.” Fordham University, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017.
- “The Question of God in the Modern World.” Albertus Magnus College, Summer 2016, Mod 5.
- “Modern Philosophy.” Albertus Magnus College, Fall 2015, Mod 2.

## **Awards**

- Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, Brown University (2015)
  - One of two graduate students selected in University-wide competition.

## **SERVICE**

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### ***Committees and programs***

- Co-Director, Honors Program (2020-)
- Member, Search Committee for Director of new Dominican Center (2021-)
- Member, Faculty Status Committee (2020-)
- Member, Focus Group for new Dominican Center (2020-)
- Member, General Education Task Force (convened by O'Connell) (2020-)
- Member, NECHE Standard 4 Working Group (2020)
- Member, Dominican Advisory Board (2019-)
- Member, Justice Panel Planning Committee (2019-)
- Member, General Education Advisory Committee (convened by Edwards) (2019-2020)
- Member, Cooperative Council (2019-2020)

### ***Campus engagement***

- Veritas talk with CTLE, "Personalist Pedagogy and Catholic Higher Education," February 2021
- Invited prayer leader for Academic Planning Day in January 2021
- Panelist, Aquinas Lecture with James F. Keenan, SJ, January 2021
- Video production for the CTLE: Tutorial on recording online lectures (January 2021)
- Faculty Advisor, FEED New Haven (student club) (2020-)
- Faculty Advisor, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) University, Yale-Albertus Chapter (2020-)
- Workshop Presenter (with Sedjic), "A PDF Workflow," June 2020
- Workshop Presenter (with DeVaul-Robichaud & Cole), "Engaging Online learners," August 2020
- Presenter, Founders' Day 2019 (session on centering prayer)

### ***Prior to Fall 2019***

- Member, "Work Group on Dominican Heritage and Mission." Albertus Magnus College. (2019)
- Member, University Seminar on Mission, Fordham University (2016)
- Member, Constructive Diversity Pedagogy PAR Project, Fordham University (2016)
- Member, LGBT Ally Network of Support, Fordham University (2016)
- Member, Search Committee for Director of Writing Support, Brown University (2014-2016)

## RESEARCH

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### **Profile**

My research focuses on the Catholic intellectual tradition, including Catholic social thought, activist movements (such as the Catholic Worker), and interactions with trends in modern philosophy, such as existentialism and phenomenology. I have long had an interest in the work of Charles Taylor and Thomas Merton and debates in political theology.

### **Dissertation and theses**

- “The Politics of Personalism” [\[PDF\]](#)  
*Dissertation. Brown University, 2016, 274pp.*  
*Advisors:* Thomas A. Lewis (primary), Mark Cladis, Stephen Bush
- “Secularization and Political Myth: The Schmitt-Blumenberg Debate” [\[PDF\]](#)  
*MA Thesis. Catholic University of Leuven, 2010, 113pp.*  
*Advisors:* André Cloots (promoter), Antoon Braeckman
- “Openness and Orthodoxy: Charles Taylor’s Therapeutic Ambitions in *A Secular Age*” [\[PDF\]](#)  
*BA Thesis. Catholic University of Leuven, 2009, 37pp.*  
*Advisors:* Guido Vanheeswijk (promoter), André Cloots
- “After rationalism: Taylor and Rorty on epistemology, morality, and religion” [\[PDF\]](#)  
*MA Thesis. McGill University, 2006, 122pp.*  
*Advisor:* Lisa Sideris

### **Publications**

- 2021. “Personalist Pedagogy and Catholic Higher Education.” *Journal of Catholic Higher Education*, Vol. 40, 1 (Winter 2021). (under review)
- 2006. “Osama bin Laden’s Global Islamism and Wahhabi Islam.” *McGill Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. VIII, pp. 33-54. [\[PDF\]](#)

### **Presentations**

- “Personalist Pedagogy and Catholic Higher Education.” Catholic Intellectual Tradition Conference: Challenges and Opportunities for the Catholic University in the 21st Century. Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT, October 2020.
- “Youth, Faith, and Vocation: On Pope Francis’s New Post-Synodal Exhortation.” Talk at the Community of Ss. Isidore and Maria, Glastonbury, CT, April 2018.
- “The ‘Three Advents’ of Christ: A Seasonal Meditation on Thomas Merton and St. Bernard of Clairvaux.” Talk at the Comm. of Ss. Isidore and Maria, Glastonbury, CT, December 2018.
- “Two New Saints: Pope St. Paul VI and St. Oscar Romero.” Talk at the Community of Ss. Isidore and Maria, Glastonbury, CT, November 2018.
- “Pope Francis and the Call to Holiness: *Gaudete et Exsultate*.” Talk at the Community of Ss. Isidore and Maria, Glastonbury, CT, June 2018. [\[VIDEO\]](#)

- “Thomas Merton on Justice and Mercy.” Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY, June 2017.
- “The Memories of Paul Ricoeur.” Yale Graduate Student Working Group on Memory Studies in Modern Europe, Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 2017. [\[AUDIO\]](#)
- “Peter Maurin and Personalism.” Friday Night Meeting at the Catholic Worker, Maryhouse, New York, NY, February 2017. [\[VIDEO\]](#)
- Respondent for panel, “Responding to *Laudato Si*.” St. Nicholas of Myra Conference on Catholic Social Thought, Providence College, Providence, RI, December 2015.
- “Thomas Merton on being a person.” General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society, Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY, June 2015.
- “The personalist roots of Charles Taylor’s *A Secular Age*.” Symposium “Towards a Critique of Secular Reason?” Higher Institute of Philosophy, KU Leuven, December 2014.
- “Bridging eschatology and history: Blumenberg and Schmitt on the *katechon*.” Conference “Radical Secularization?” University of Antwerp, September 2012.
- Respondent for panel, “Mythmaking = Community-Making?” German Studies Graduate Student Conference, “(Re)Making Myths: The Creation, Use, and Abuse of Myths in German Literature, History, and Culture,” Brown University, April 2011.
- “Merton in conversation with Charles Taylor’s *A Secular Age*.” General Meeting of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Rutland, UK, April 2010.
- “Openness and orthodoxy: Charles Taylor’s *A Secular Age*.” Conference “A Secular Age: Tracing the Contours of Religion and Belief,” Mater Dei Institute, Dublin, June 2009.
- “Charles Taylor on modern secularity.” Symposium “Pluralism, Politics, and God?” McGill University, September 2007.

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

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2017-2020	<p>Director of Faith Formation, Saints Isidore and Maria Parish, Glastonbury, CT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directed a religious education program for 600 students. Oversaw work of three staff members. Designed and maintained the parish website. Produced a weekly podcast of pastor’s homilies. Offered training and support to 52 catechists. Led a weekly Bible study with 25 participants.</li> </ul>
2012-2018	<p>Founder and Director, Good Letters, LLC, in Providence, RI and New Haven, CT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Copyedited book manuscripts, articles, and dissertations for academic authors in Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, and India. Developed a team of five copyeditors to carry out this work.</li> </ul>
2012-2016	<p>Fellowship Advisor, Office of the Dean of the College, Brown Univ., Providence, RI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Worked with Dean to support applicants. Facilitated workshops and informational sessions. Served on mock interview committees. Head Advisor for Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships, 2014-2016.</li> </ul>

- 2011-2016 Staff Associate, Writing Center, Brown University, Providence, RI  
- Met with students in one-hour sessions to discuss written work, 3-9 hours weekly. Mentored new Staff Associates.
- 2005-2008 Director of Faith Formation, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Loudonville, NY  
- Designed and directed religious education program for 200 students. Served as youth minister. Planned and directed activities and retreats.

## REFERENCES

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Prof. Matthew Waggoner  
Chair, Department Philosophy and Religion, Albertus Magnus College  
Email: [mwaggoner@albertus.edu](mailto:mwaggoner@albertus.edu)

Prof. Thomas A. Lewis  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Religious Studies, Brown University  
Email: [thomas\\_lewis@brown.edu](mailto:thomas_lewis@brown.edu)

Prof. Mark S. Cladis  
Brooke Russell Astor Professor of Humanities, Professor of Religious Studies, Chair of Religious Studies, Brown University  
Email: [mark\\_cladis@brown.edu](mailto:mark_cladis@brown.edu)