

# 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***

“The Study of Religion”; “Nature and American Literature”; “Critical Reasoning”; “History of Christianity”; “Ancient Greek Thought”; “Catholic Intellectual Tradition”; “Religions of Asia”; “The Spiritual Life”; “Theology of the Civil Rights Movement”; “Invitation to Insight I & II”; “Senior Humanities Seminar”; “New Testament”; “Christianity and the Cosmos”

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

- “Debating Democracy.” Brown University, SPS, Summers 2014-present.
- “Human Rights.” Brown University, SPS, Summers 2019-2021.
- “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***

- Member, Meister Eckhart Center Advisory Board (2021-)
- Co-Director, Honors Program (2020-)
- Member, General Education Task Force (convened by O'Connell) (2020-)
- Member, Dominican Advisory Board (2019-)
- Member, Justice Panel Planning Committee (2019-)
- Member, Search Committee for Director of the Meister Eckhart Center (2021)
- Member, Focus Group for the Meister Eckhart Center (2020-21)
- Member, Faculty Status Committee (2020-21)
- Member, NECHE Standard 4 Working Group (2020)
- Member, General Education Advisory Committee (convened by Edwards) (2019-2020)
- Chair, Cooperative Council (2019-2020)

### ***Campus engagement***

- Faculty Advisor, Albertus Magnus College Fantasy Fan Club
- Faculty Advisor, Albertus Magnus College Debate Team
- 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) (2020-21)
- Faculty Advisor, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) University, Yale-Albertus Chapter (2020-21)
- 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, "Working 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 philosophy of personalism and the Catholic intellectual tradition, including Catholic social thought, activist movements (such as the Catholic Worker Movement), and interactions between Catholic thought and trends in modern philosophy, such as existentialism and phenomenology.

## Articles

- 2022. "Personalist Pedagogy and Catholic Higher Education." *Journal of Catholic Higher Education*, Vol. 40, 1 (forthcoming, Spring 2022).
- 2006. "Osama bin Laden's Global Islamism and Wahhabi Islam." *McGill Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. VIII, pp. 33-54. [\[PDF\]](#)

## Monographs

- "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

## 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 SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, Glastonbury, CT, April 2018.
- "The 'Three Advents' of Christ: A Seasonal Meditation on Thomas Merton and St. Bernard of Clairvaux." Talk at SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, Glastonbury, CT, December 2018.
- "Two New Saints: Pope St. Paul VI and St. Oscar Romero." Talk at SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, Glastonbury, CT, November 2018.
- "Pope Francis and the Call to Holiness: *Gaudete et Exsultate*." Talk at SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, 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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2017-2021	<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.</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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Dr. Matthew Waggoner  
Chair, Department Philosophy and Religion  
Albertus Magnus College  
Email: [mwaggoner@albertus.edu](mailto:mwaggoner@albertus.edu)

Dr. Sean O'Connell  
Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of Faculty, and Professor of Philosophy  
Albertus Magnus College  
Email: [soconnell@albertus.edu](mailto:soconnell@albertus.edu)

Dr. 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)