

CYNTHIA R. NIELSEN, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Dallas, 2011
M.A. University of Dallas, 2006
B.A. Music University of North Florida, 1994, *magna cum laude*
Non-degree Moscow State University (1997–98) advanced Russian studies,
Portland State University (1999) advanced Russian studies, University
of Texas, Arlington (2003–4), graduate studies in Humanities and
Philosophy

DISSERTATION

“Constructed Subjectivities and a ‘Thick’ Account of Agency: A Foucauldian
Dialogue with Douglass, Fanon, and the Augustinian-Franciscan Tradition”

Philipp W. Rosemann, dissertation director
Joerg Rieger, Charles Sullivan, readers
Accepted with distinction, August 29, 2011

PUBLICATIONS—BOOKS & BOOK CHAPTERS

“Rehumanizing the Inmate: Wacquant on Race-making, Sequestered Spaces, and
the Quest for a ‘We’ Narrative,” in *Philosophy Imprisoned. The Love of
Wisdom in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, edited by Sarah Tyson and Joshua
M. Hall. (New York: Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield, Aug. 2014).

*Interstitial Soundings. Philosophical Reflections on Improvisation, Practice, and Self-
Making* (forthcoming 2015, [Cascade Books/Wipf & Stock Publishers](#)).

*Foucault, Douglass, Fanon, and Scotus in Dialogue: On Social Construction and
Freedom* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. Book series, *New Approaches to
Religion and Power*, edited by Joerg Rieger).

“Strategic Afro-Modernism, Dynamic Hybridity, and Bebop's Socio-Political
Significance,” in *Music and Law. Sociology of Crime, Law, and Deviance*,

vol. 18, edited by Mathieu Deflem. (Bingley UK: Emerald Group Publishing, 2013).

PUBLICATIONS—PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- “Inmates, Education, and the Public Good: Deploying Catholic Social Thought to Deconstruct the Us-Versus-Them Dichotomy.” Co-authored with Dr. Peter S. Dillard. Research for this project supported in part by a *Veritas* Grant from Villanova University. (Early view online publication, July 22, 2014, DOI: 10.1111/heyj.12167; print version forthcoming 2015, *Heythrop Journal*).
- “Foucault’s Polyphonic Genealogies and Rethinking Episteme Change via Musical Metaphors” (*Radical Orthodoxy: Theology, Philosophy, Politics* 2.1 (Jan. 2014): 1–50).
- “Unearthing Consonances in Foucault’s Account of Greco-Roman Self-Writing and Christian Technologies of the Self,” *Heythrop Journal* 55:2 (Jan. 2014): 188–202.
- “Hearing the Other’s Voice: How Gadamer’s Fusion of Horizons and Open-ended Understanding Respects the Other and Puts Oneself in Question,” (*Otherness: Essays and Studies* 4.1 ‘*Philosophy and the Other*,’ Sept. 2013).
- “Frantz Fanon and the Négritude Movement: How Strategic Essentialism Subverts Manichean Binaries,” *Callaloo: Journal of African Diaspora* 36 (2013): 342–51.
- “Racism,” *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Eds. Robert Fastiggi and Joseph Koterski, S. J. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013. [Encyclopedia entry]
- “Philosophy of Music,” *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Eds. Robert Fastiggi and Joseph Koterski, S. J. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013. [Encyclopedia entry]
- “Resistance Through Re-Narration: Fanon on De-constructing Racialized Subjectivities,” *African Identities: Journal of Economics, Culture, and Society* 9:4 (Dec. 2011): 363–85. DOI: 10.1080/14725843.2011.614410.
- “Resistance is Not Futile: Frederick Douglass on Panoptic Plantations and the Un-Making of Docile Bodies and Enslaved Souls,” *Philosophy and Literature* 35.2 (2011): 251–68. DOI: 10.1353/phl.2011.0018.
- “What Has Coltrane to Do With Mozart: The Dynamism and Built-in Flexibility of Music,” *Expositions* 3 (2009): 57–71.

"St. Augustine on Text and Reality (and a Little Gadamarian Spice)," *Heythrop Journal* 50 (2009): 98–108.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Solidarity, Striving, and Struggle: The Moral, Political, and Religious Thought of Frederick Douglass, eds. Timothy Golden and Cynthia R. Nielsen. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. (Chapter contribution, forthcoming, Dec. 2015).

PUBLICATIONS–BOOK REVIEWS

Ables, Travis E. *Incarnational Realism. Trinity and the Spirit in Augustine and Barth*. T&T Clark Studies in Systematic Theology. New York: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2013 (forthcoming, 2015, *Anglican Theological Review*).

Buccola, Nicholas. *The Political Thought of Frederick Douglass: In Pursuit of American Liberty*. New York: New York University, 2012. *Review of Politics* 75:2 (Spring 2013): 279–281.

Kolbet, Paul R. *Augustine and the Cure of Souls: Revising a Classical Ideal*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2010. *Speculum* 87:3 (June 2012): 890–891.

Jeremy S. Begbie. *Resounding Truth: Christian Wisdom in the World of Music*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007. *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 84:1 (Winter 2010): 166–168.

Edward T. Oakes (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Hans Urs Von Balthasar*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 82:2 (Spring 2008): 374–378.

Louis Dupré. *The Enlightenment and the Intellectual Foundations of Modern Culture*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 2004. *Philotheos* 6 (2006): 333–340.

James K.A. Smith. *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism? Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006. *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 80:4 (Fall 2006): 642–646.

Jean-Luc Marion. *Being Given*. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 2002. *Ars Disputandi: The Online Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, Vol. 5 (2005), <http://www.ArsDisputandi.org>. ISSN 1566-5399.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Bebop as a Hybrid Inflection of Strategic Afro-Modernism," *Modern Musics and Political Aesthetics*, University of Nottingham, April 2015 (proposal accepted).
- "Jennings on Race, Place, and a Decolonized Christian Imaginary," *Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference*, Texas Christian University, Ft. Worth, TX. Oct. 22–24, 2014.
- "Inmates, Education, and the Public Good," *Freedom School Conference* (honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.), Villanova University, Villanova, PA. Jan. 2014.
- "Frantz Fanon and the Négritude Movement: Historically-Attuned Strategies for Dismantling Manichean Binaries," *Mid-Atlantic Region American Academy for Religion*, Baltimore, MD, March 13–15, 2013.
- "The Struggle Continues: On White Habitus, Legislative Challenges, and the Need for Solidarity," *Freedom School Conference* (honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.), Villanova University, Villanova, PA. Jan. 2013. Co-presentation with Dr. Timothy J. Golden, West Chester University.
- Presider and respondent at the "Author Meets Critic" panel for Jeffrey P. Bishop's book, *The Anticipatory Corpse*, AAR, Chicago, Nov. 2012.
- "Augustine on Empire Critique and the Pursuit of 'Earthly' Peace," *37th Annual Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference*, Villanova Conference Center, Philadelphia, PA. Oct., 2012.
- "Fanon and Foucault on 'Humanism' and Rejecting the 'Blackmail' of the Enlightenment" *North Texas Philosophical Association, Annual Conference*, University of North Texas, April 2012.
- "Augustine and Foucault On Self-Writing, Social Construction, and the Sexualized Subject." Philosophy Colloquium, University of Dallas, Spring 2012.
- "Mos Def on Socially Constructed Subjectivities, Stigmatized Spaces, and the Mutability of 'Blackness'." Philosophy Colloquium, University of Dallas, Fall 2010.
- "Michel Foucault and Frederick Douglass on Power Relations and Resistance Strategies "From Below." *15th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture* hosted by St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, Sept. 2010.

- "St. Augustine and Frederick Douglass: Counternarratives from the Underside as a Mode of Resistance and *Confessio*." *35th Annual Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference*, Villanova Conference Center, Philadelphia, PA. Oct., 2010.
- "Phenomenological Reflections on Music as Performed: Embracing Continua and Deconstructing Dichotomies." *North Texas Philosophical Association, Annual Conference*, University of North Texas, April 2010.
- "Fanon and the Quest for a Phenomenology That Saves Difference." *34th Annual Conference National Council for Black Studies*, Atlanta, GA. March 2010.
- "Paul and Slavery: Submit, Subvert or Something In-Between?" *Society of Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA. Nov. 2009.
- "Scotus and the Will as a Self-Determining Active Power," *33rd Annual Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference*, Villanova Conference Center, Philadelphia, PA. Oct., 2008.
- "A Glimpse at Christocentric Friendship in the Heartbeat of Hans Urs von Balthasar," *Symposium on Faith and Culture, Friendship: Quests for Character, Community and Truth*, Baylor University, Oct., 2007.
- "St. Augustine on Text and Reality and a Little Gadamerian Spice," *32nd Annual Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference*, Villanova Conference Center, Philadelphia, PA. Oct., 2007.
- "Hermeneutical Continuities: St. Augustine and Hans-Georg Gadamer," *Institute of Philosophic Studies Colloquium*, University of Dallas, Oct. 2007.
- "The Anti-Enlightenment Nature of Jazz: Embracing Particularity and Universality, Freedom and Form, Tension and Resolution," Baylor University, Nov. 2006.

TEACHING COMPETENCE

Primary: Social & Political Philosophy, Ethics (broadly construed), History of Philosophy (Continental Tradition)

Secondary: Philosophy/phenomenology of Race (esp. Frederick Douglass), Philosophy/phenomenology of Music, Philosophical Hermeneutics & Aesthetics (esp. Gadamer)

TEACHING HISTORY

Villanova University, *Lancaster, PA*, Fall 2012–Spring 2014

- ETH 2050 Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems (Fall 2012-Spring 2014); ETH 2050-Honors: Ethical Traditions and Contemporary Life, Spring 2014)
 - Text: *Ethics The Essential Writings*. Gordon Marino, ed. Modern Library: New York, 2010.
 - Additional course readings provided via Blackboard. Readings include: Charles Taylor, “Comparison, History, Truth”; Loïc Wacquant, “From Slavery to Mass Incarceration”; James P. Bailey, “Assets and Human Capabilities,” in *Rethinking Poverty: Income Assets and the Catholic Social Justice Tradition*; Robert Solomon, “Victims of Circumstances? A Defense of Virtue Ethics in Business”; Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue* (honors), William Cavanaugh, “The Unfreedom of the Market,” Martha Nussbaum, “Capabilities and Social Justice,” Tom Reagan, “We Are What We Eat” and “The Case for Animal Rights,” JPII's, "Declaration on the Environment" and selections from *Centesimus Annus*, Jeffrey Stout, “A Conversation We Ought to Be Having Over Adoption”; Maria Teresa Davila, “Who is Still Missing? Economic Justice and Immigrant Justice,” “Economic Justice for All,” U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1986
- PJ 2800 Race, Class, and Gender (Spring 2014)
 - Texts (selections from): *What White Looks Like*, edited by George Yancy; bell hooks, *Where We Stand: Class Matters*
 - Additional course readings provided via Blackboard. Readings include: Sally Haslanger, “Ontology and Social Construction” and “Gender and Race: (What) are They? (What) Do We Want Them to Be?”; Linda Martín Alcoff (selections from) *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*; Ron Mallon, “‘Race’: Normative, Not Metaphysical or Semantic”

University of Dallas, *Irving, TX*, 2008–2012

- Philosophy of the Human Person (Fall 2008, Spring 2011, Fall 2011)
 - Texts: Plato, *Symposium*, Aristotle, selections from, *De Anima*; St. Augustine, selections from, the *Confessions*; St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* I.75–83; René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*; Kierkegaard, selections from *Fear and Trembling, The Concept of Anxiety, Philosophical Fragments, Concluding Unscientific Postscript*; Foucault, selections from *Ethics, Subjectivity and Truth*.

- Texts: Plato, *Phaedo*; Aristotle, selections from, *De Anima*; St. Augustine, selections from, the *Confessions*; St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* I.75–83; René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*; John Locke, selections from, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*
- Philosophy and the Ethical Life (Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2014)
 - Texts: Plato, *Republic*; Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*; St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* I-II.94 (natural law); Frederick Douglass, selections from *Frederick Douglass: Autobiographies: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* and Douglass's 1852 Orations, "The Internal Slave Trade" and "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"; selections from Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, selections from Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*
- Philosophy of Being (Spring 2010)
 - Texts: Aristotle, *Metaphysics*; St. Thomas Aquinas, *De Ente et Essentia*; Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*; Heidegger, selections from *Basic Writings* "What is Metaphysics?," "The Question Concerning Technology," "The End of Philosophy"
- Recent Philosophy: From Modernism to Postmodernism (Spring 2012)
 - Selected Readings *From Modernism to Postmodernism*, ed. Lawrence Cahoone (Wiley-Blackwell, 2003), *Black Skin, White Masks* (F. Fanon), and *Feminist Contentions* (ed. Linda Nicholson). Texts covered: Kant, "An Answer to the Question: 'What is Enlightenment?'" ; From the Preface to *Critique of Pure Reason*; Hegel, "Absolute Freedom and Terror"; Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lies in a Non-moral Sense"; "The Madman"; "How the 'True World' Finally Became a Fable"; "The Dionysian World"; Heidegger, "The Question Concerning Technology"; Derrida, "Differance"; Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History"; From "Truth and Power"

Eastfield College, Mesquite, TX, 2005–2012

- Introduction to Western Philosophy
 - Texts: *Sophie's World: A Novel About the History of Philosophy* by Jostein Gaarder; *Philosophy: A Text with Readings* by Manuel Velasquez
- History and Literature of the Bible
 - Text: *Introduction to the Bible* by Christian E. Hauer and William A. Young

THESIS COMMITTEE SUPERVISION

- Joshua Cutts. West Chester University, Master's Thesis: "The 'Editorial' Rejection of Capitalist Oppression: Resisting Psychologically-Oppressive Discourses Through Self-Care, Counter-Narrative, and Political Action." (Summer 2014)

INVITED LECTURES/PANELS

- "Celebrating Frederick Douglass: A Political Philosopher for Our Time," West Chester, PA West Chester University, Fall 2013 (panel participant and presenter)
- World Religion Day, Interfaith Dialogue on "The Golden Rule and Being a Neighbor," Villanova University, Villanova, PA, Fall 2013
- "Loïc Wacquant and Frantz Fanon on the Hyperghetto-Carceral Continuum and Manichean Colonized Spaces," *University of Chicago*, "Race and Religion Student Group," Chicago, IL, May 2013
- "How Dr. King's 'Letter from a Birmingham Jail' Still Rings True," for the "Professor Talks" Series, Graterford Prison, PA, Spring 2013
- "Douglass's 'Word' to Hegel: Truth, Not Labor Sets the Slave Free," *West Chester University*, West Chester, PA, Fall 2012
- "Frantz Fanon and Racialized Subjectivities," *University of Dallas*, HUSC-3331: Sciences of Society and Culture Course, Irving, TX, Spring 2012

READING LANGUAGES

- French
- German
- Latin
- Russian

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2013 Summer Veritas Faculty Research Grant
- Dissertation accepted with distinction, August 29, 2011
- Travel stipend to attend *34th Annual Conference National Council for Black Studies*, Atlanta, GA. March 2010, awarded granted via the University of Dallas Graduate Student Association, Spring 2010
- Travel stipend to attend the *15th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture* hosted by St. Catherine's College, Oxford, Sept. 2010
- *McDermott Fellowship in Philosophy*, University of Dallas, 2007–2009
- *Edwin L. Jones Graduate Fellowship*, Redeemer Seminary, 2005
- Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society: The International Honor Society for Philosophers
- Music Scholarship, University of North Florida
- Golden Key National Honor Society, 1990–94
- Graduated *magna cum laude*, University of North Florida

ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

- American Philosophical Association
- DASEIN (Dallas Area Seminar on European Inquiry)
- North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics
- North Texas Philosophical Association
- Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology
- Society for Phenomenology and Existentialist Philosophy

EDITORIAL AND REVIEW WORK

- Reviewer for *Radical Orthodoxy: Theology, Philosophy and Politics* (Essay category: music and philosophy)
- Reviewer for *Journal of Dialogue Studies* (Essay category: Gadamer and dialogue)
- Reviewer for *Culture, Theory and Critique* (Essay category: Fanon, existentialism, and subjectivity)

UNIVERSITY INVOLVEMENT, DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Ethics Faculty Development Workshop, Villanova University, Spring 2014.
- Guest speaker at St. Paul's Multicultural Episcopal Church, "Race, Inmates, and the Public Good," Elkins Park, PA. Feb. 2014
- "Inmates, Education, and the Public Good," *Freedom School Conference* (honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.), Villanova University, Villanova, PA. Jan. 2014

- “Celebrating Frederick Douglass: A Political Philosopher for Our Time,” West Chester, PA West Chester University, Fall 2013 (panel participant and presenter)
- Ethics Faculty Development Workshop, Villanova University, Fall 2013
- 2013 Ethics Symposium, Villanova University, Fall 2013. (Discussion moderator and selection/award committee member)
- World Religion Day, Interfaith Dialogue on “The Golden Rule and Being a Neighbor,” Villanova University, Villanova, PA, Fall 2013 (panel participant and presenter representing the Christian tradition)
- Pedagogical Workshop led by Dr. George Yancy of Duquesne University: “Engaging Race and Diversity in the Classroom,” Villanova University, Fall 2013
- Ethics for Lunch Coordinator, Fall 2013–Spring 2014, Villanova University
- Catholic Social Teaching and Issues of Justice Curriculum Development Seminar, May 13-17, 2013, Villanova University
- Invited lecturer for “Professor Talks” at Graterford Prison, Spring 2013
- “The Struggle Continues: On White Habitus, Legislative Challenges, and the Need for Solidarity,” *Freedom School Conference* (honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.), Villanova University, Villanova, PA. Jan. 2013 Co-presentation with Dr. Timothy J. Golden, West Chester University
- Ethics for Lunch, Villanova University, Fall 2012. Speaker
- Ethics Bowl, Villanova University, Fall 2012 (Judge panel participant)
- Ethics Steering Committee (advisory member), Fall 2012–Spring 2014
- 2012 Ethics Symposium, Villanova University, Fall 2012 (Discussion moderator)
- Advisor for the University of Dallas Undergraduate Philosophy Club, 2011–12
- Braniff Graduate Student Association, University of Dallas, 2002–2011
- Faculty/graduate student reading group, University of Dallas, Fall 2010, Summer 2011
- Community Service and Outreach (2007–present)
 - Volunteer for and contributor to Food and Clothing Projects for Genesis Women’s Shelter, White Rock Center for Hope, Austin Street Center (sandwich program), Dallas, TX (2007–2012)
 - Contributor to St. Mary’s Food Cupboard (Wayne, PA 2012–2014)
 - Occasional volunteer and regular contributor to the Guion Bluford Elementary School in West Philadelphia (2012–2014)
 - Inmate Correspondence/Advocacy (2010–2014)
 - Contributor to the Food Outreach Ministry and Austin Street Center Outreach of the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany (2014–present)

REFERENCES

- Dr. Mark Doorley, Associate Professor and Director of the Ethics Program, Villanova University, 800 E. Lancaster, SAC 104, Villanova, PA 19085; 610.519.4736; mark.doorley@villanova.edu
- Dr. Timothy Golden, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Director of the Frederick Douglass Institute at WCU, West Chester University, 106 Anderson Hall, 725 S. Church Street, West Chester University, PA 19383; 610.430.4423; TGolden@wcupa.edu
- Dr. Philipp W. Rosemann, Professor of Philosophy, Department Chair, University of Dallas, Department of Philosophy, 1845 E. Northgate Dr., Irving, TX 75062, 972.721.5166; rosemann@udallas.edu
- Dr. Helen Schroepfer, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair, West Chester University, 108A Anderson Hall, 725 S. Church Street, West Chester University, PA 19383; 610.436.1004; HSchroepfer@wcupa.edu