

CURRICULUM VITAE

James J. DiCenso

Fall, 2015

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. PERSONAL

Born: September 13, 1957; Montréal, Québec.
Canadian Citizen.

Address: (office) Room 328, Jackman Humanities Bldg., 170 St. George St., Toronto, ON,
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2. DEGREES

Ph.D. 1987, Religion, Syracuse University (specialization in philosophy of religion).
Doctoral Thesis: "Hermeneutics and the Disclosure of Truth: A Study in the Work
of Heidegger, Gadamer, and Ricoeur."

M.A. 1981, Religion, Carleton University (specialization in psychology of religion).

B.A. 1979, Religion, *Magna Cum Laude*, Concordia University (specialization in comparative
religious traditions).

3. EMPLOYMENT

July 2011, to present: Full Professor, Department for the Study of Religion, University of
Toronto (specialization in the philosophy of religion).

July 1, 2012-July 1, 2013: Professor and Acting Chair, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.

July 2002-July 2007:
Associate Professor and Chair, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.

July 1996-June 2011:
Associate Professor; Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto
Full Member, School of Graduate Studies.

July 1996-July 1998:
Associate Professor and Associate Chair; Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.

January 1992-July 1996:
Assistant Professor; Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto,
Associate Member, School of Graduate Studies

1989-1991:
Assistant Professor of Religion and Modern Culture; Department of Religious Studies, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

1988-89:
Visiting Assistant Professor in Modern Religious Thought; Department of Religion, Oberlin College.

1987-88:
Visiting Assistant Professor; Department of Religion, Syracuse University.

Summer 1987:
Instructor; Summer Institute, Syracuse University.

4. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

American Academy of Religion
American Philosophical Association
Canadian Society for the Study of Religion
North American Kant Society

B. SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

5. Refereed publications.

A. BOOKS

Hermeneutics and the Disclosure of Truth: A Study in the Work of Heidegger, Gadamer, and Ricoeur. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1990 (xviii + 183 pp.).

The Other Freud: Religion, Culture and Psychoanalysis. London: Routledge, 1999 (174 pp.).

Kant, Religion, and Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011 (294 pp.).

- A 2012 Choice Outstanding Academic Title, philosophy category.
- Paperback edition published July, 2013.

Kant's Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason: a Commentary. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012 (270 pp.).

- Paperback edition published July, 2015.

B. Articles.

“Heidegger’s Hermeneutic of Fallenness.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, LVI/4: 667-679 (Winter, 1988).

“Religion as Illusion: Reversing the Freudian Hermeneutic.” *The Journal of Religion*, Vol.71, No.2: 167-179 (April, 1991).

“Deconstruction and the Philosophy of Religion: World Affirmation and Critique.” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 31: 29-43 (January, 1992).

“Symbolism and Subjectivity: A Lacanian Approach to Religion.” *The Journal of Religion*, Vol.74, No.1: 45-64 (January 1994).

“Contemporary Approaches to Psychoanalysis and Religion: Julia Kristeva’s *Black Sun*.” *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*. Vol.24, No.3, 1995: 279-295.

“The Displaced Origin: Masuzawa’s Analysis of Freud.” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, Vol.8, No.3, 1996: 305-309.

“*Totem and Taboo* and the Constitutive Function of Symbolic Forms.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, LXIV/3: 557-574 (Fall, 1996).

“Splitting Religion: Heteronomy, Autonomy, and Reflection.” *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*, 1.3, August, 2000 (www.jcrt.org).

“Levinas and the Irreducibility of the Other,” in Jan Sochoń and A. Wiercinski, eds., *Studia z Filozofii Boga, Religii i Człowieka* 3, Warsaw, Poland: 2005 (pp. 271-282).

“Kant, Freud, and the Ethical Critique of Religion.” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, Volume 61, number 3, June 2007 (pp. 161-179).

“The Concept of *Urbild* in Kant’s Philosophy of Religion.” *Kant-Studien*, 2013: Band 104, Heft 1, pp. 100-132.

“Grace and Favor in Kant’s Ethical Explication of Religion.” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, Volume 78, number 1, August 2015, pp. 29-51.

C. Chapters in edited volumes

“Time.” In *New Handbook of Christian Theology*. D. Musser and J. Price, eds. Nashville: Abington Press, 1992: pp. 487-489.

“Religion and the Psycho-Cultural Formation of Ideals.” In *What is Religion? Origins, Explanations, and Definitions*. Thomas A. Idinopulos and Brian C. Wilson, editors. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1998: pp. 15-25.

“Hans-Georg Gadamer.” In *Modern Germany: an Encyclopedia of History, People, and Culture, 1871-1990*. Dieter Buse and Juergen Doerr, editors. New York: Garland Publishing Inc., 1998: pp. 363-64.

“Sigmund Freud.” In *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Postmodernism*. Charles E. Winquist and Victor Taylor, editors. London: Routledge, 2001 (pp. 140-141).

“The Psychoanalytic Movement.” In *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Postmodernism*. Charles E. Winquist and Victor Taylor, editors. London: Routledge, 2001 (pp. 316-320).

“Anxiety, Risk, and Transformation: Re-visiting Tillich with Lacan.” In *Secular Theology: American Radical Theological Thought*, ed. C. V. Crockett. London: Routledge, 2001 (pp. 51-72).

“Dreams, Inner Resistance, and Self-Reflection.” In *Dreams: A Reader on the Religious, Cultural, and Psychological Dimensions of Dreaming*, ed. K. Bulkeley. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2001 (pp. 285-294).

“Ethics, Representation, and Iconoclasm,” in *Between the Human and the Divine: Philosophical and Theological Hermeneutics*, ed. A. Wiercinski. Toronto: The Hermeneutic Press, 2002 (pp. 155-168).

“Ricoeur’s Reconstruction of Kantian Ethics,” in *Between Suspicion and Sympathy: Paul Ricoeur’s Unstable Equilibrium*, ed. A. Wiercinski. Toronto: The Hermeneutic Press, 2003 (pp. 67-79).

“Radical Evil and Fanaticism: A Re-Reading of Kant’s *Religion*” in *Religion and Violence in a Secular World: Toward a New Political Theology*, ed. C. V. Crockett. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006 (pp. 61-84).

“Religious Subjectivity: Psychoanalytic and Philosophical Inquiries” in *Changing the Scientific Study of Religion: Beyond Freud?* ed. J. A. Belzen. Dordrecht: Springer, 2009 (pp. 275-294).

6. Non-Refereed Publications (Book Reviews).

The Critique of Modernity: Theological Reflections on Contemporary Culture, by Julian N. Hartt, Ray L. Hart, and Robert P. Scharlemann. *Religious Studies Review*, XIV/2 (April 1988).

Language and Truth, by Garth L. Hallett. *Religious Studies Review*, XV/2 (April 1989).

God and Religion in the Postmodern World, by David Ray Griffin. *Theology Today*, XLVI/3 (October 1989).

Theological Thinking: An Inquiry, by Carl Raschke. *Religious Studies Review*, XVI/1 (January 1990).

Matter and Memory, by Henri Bergson, and *Bergsonism*, by Gilles Deleuze. *The Journal of Religion*, Vol.70, No.1 (January, 1990).

Religion, Ontotheology and Deconstruction, ed. Henry Ruf. *Studies in Religion*, Vol.20, No.3, 1991.

Spiritualism and the Foundations of C.G. Jung’s Psychology, by F.X. Charet. *Studies in Religion*, Vol.23, No.2, 1994.

The Title of the Letter: A Reading of Lacan, by Jean-Luc Nancy and Phillipe Lacoue-Labarthe. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. LXIII, No.1, Spring 1995.

NOTS, by Mark C. Taylor. *The Journal of Religion*, Vol.75, No.3 (July, 1995).

More Radical Hermeneutics, by John D. Caputo. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol.69, No.4, December 2001, 917-919.

Conscience and Other Virtues, by Douglas Langston. *Journal of Religious History*, Vol. 27, No. 1, February 2003, pp.83-84.

Medusa's Ear: University Foundings from Kant to Chora L, by Dawn McCance. *University of Toronto Quarterly*, volume 75:1 (Winter 2005/2006), pp.283-284.

The Future of Religion, by Richard Rorty and Gianni Vattimo. Edited by Santiago Zabala. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, March 2007, Volume 75, number 1, pp.173-176.

The Ground of the Image, by Jean-Luc Nancy. Translated by Jeff Fort. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, September, 2007, Volume 75, number 3, pp.709-712.

Kant's Ethics, by John Silber. *Theologische Literaturzeitung*, 138. Jahrgang, Heft 10, October, 2013, pp.1138-1140.

Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Kant on Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason, by Lawrence R. Pasternak. *Philosophy in Review* XXXIV (2014), no. 3-4, pp.117-120.

Kant's Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason: A Critical Guide. Gordon E. Michalson (ed.). *Religious Studies* Volume 51/Issue 01/ March 2015, pp 125-130.

Kant and the Meaning of Religion, by Terry F. Godlove, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, Volume 78, number 1, August 2015, pp.143-147.

7. Manuscripts accepted for publication.

“Practical Cognition of God” in *Kant and the Question of Theology*, eds. Firestone, Jacobs, and Joiner (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

8. Papers presented at meetings and symposia.

April, 1987: “Fallenness and Interpretation According to Heidegger.” Annual Meeting of the Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion; Queen's University.

May, 1990: “Affirmation and Critique in Deconstructionist Theology.” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion; University of Victoria.

May, 1991: "From Center to Periphery: Modern and Postmodern Models for Religious Thought." Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion; Queen's University.

June, 1992: "Lacan and Religious Subjectivity." Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion; University of Prince Edward Island.

November, 1993: "Aesthetic Responses to Suffering: Julia Kristeva's *Black Sun*." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion; Washington, D.C.

June, 1995: "Displacement, Supplementarity, and Symbolic Meaning in *Totem and Taboo*." Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, Université du Québec à Montréal.

April, 1996: "Otherness in *Moses and Monotheism*." Northeast Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion; LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY.

November, 1996: "Risk and Transformation: Existential Anxiety in Tillich and Lacan." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion; New Orleans, LA.

June, 1997: "Freud's Mosaic Fantasy." Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion; Memorial University of Newfoundland.

November, 1997: "Imagination as Process." Brock Philosophical Society Symposium on Julia Kristeva; Brock University.

April, 1999: "Constructive Elements in Freud's Analyses of Religion." 11th Symposium on Creativity, Psychopathology and Adaptation. Sponsored by the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society and the Dept. of Psychiatry, Montreal General Hospital, Montréal, Québec.

November, 1999: "The Dream Navel: Networks of Meaning and Undermining of Foundations." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion; Boston, MA.

February, 2000: "Splitting Religion: Heteronomy, Autonomy, and Reflection." Plenary Address, Faculty, Alumni, and Graduate Student Symposium, Department of Religion, Syracuse University.

November, 2001: "Autonomy and Heteronomy in Morality: Kant and Levinas." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO.

May, 2002: "Ethics, Representation, Iconoclasm." First International Congress on Hermeneutics; St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY.

December, 2003: “From Kant to Freud on Religion as Ethics.” Rice University Symposium on Freud and Religion; Houston, Texas.

November, 2004: “Kant’s Hermeneutics of Religion: Between Ethics and Politics.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion; San Antonio, Texas.

July, 2007: “Psychoanalytic and Philosophical Inquiries into Religious Subjectivity.” Symposium: Beyond Freud? University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 16-20, 2007.

August, 2013: “Favor as the Antitype of Moral Religion.” Annual Meeting of the UK Kant Society, London, UK, August 27-29.

April 19, 2014: Invited Symposium: “Three Commentaries on Kant’s *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*” (with S. Palmquist and L. Pasternak). Annual Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, San Diego, CA.

May 28, 2015: Plenary Address: “The Moral Law as Vocation.” Leuven Kant Conference, Institute of Philosophy, KU Leuven.

9. Invited Lectures

September, 1990: “Affirmation and Critique in Deconstruction.” Joint Seminar in the Humanities, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

October, 1990: “Deconstruction and the Philosophy of Religion.” Department of Religion, Syracuse University.

February, 1991: “Is Meaning Illusory? The Merits of Deconstruction.” Department of French and Spanish, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

February, 1991: “Freud on Religion, Reason, and Reality.” Memorial University Philosophy Society.

October, 1999: “The Nature of Reality: Three Perspectives” (with D. Rowe and T. Settle). Trinity College Colloquium Series; University of Toronto.

May 27, 2015: “Hobbes, Kant, and the Kingdom of God.” Workshop on the intersection of political philosophy and philosophy of religion, KU Leuven.

D. LIST OF COURSES

A. Undergraduate courses taught

RLG 200Y: The Phenomenon of Religion
RLG 211Y: Intro to the Psychology of Religion
RLG 301H: Freud on Religion
RLG 302H: Jung on Religion
RLG 303H: Evil and Suffering
RLG 304H: Language, Symbols, Self
RLG 310Y: Modern Atheism and the Critique of Religion
RLG 420H: Religion and Philosophy in the European Enlightenment
RLG 421H: Topics in Psychology of Religion
RLG 422H: Kant's Theory of Religion
RLG 425H: Hermeneutics and Religion

B. Graduate courses taught

RLG 1000Y: Method and Theory in the Study of Religion
RLG 2060H: Religion and Philosophy in the European Enlightenment
RLG 2062H: Hermeneutics and Religion
RLG 2072H: Kant's Theory of Religion
RLG 2090H: Topics in Psychology of Religion

C. Theses supervised.

Masters Students (primary supervision):

Eleanor Pontoriero (completed summer 1995).
Scott Petrie (completed fall 1996).
Meredith Burns-Simpson (completed spring 1997).
Melissa Pratt (completed fall 1997).
David Kolozyc (completed fall 1998).
William Wahl (completed summer 2000).
Jason McKinney (completed summer 2005).
James Lancaster (completed summer 2009).
Babak Bakhtiarynia (completed summer 2010).
Elliot Berger (completed spring 2011).
Art Ringis (completed September, 2011).
Nigel Fernando (completed January 2012).
Cole Sadler (completed January 2013).

Allison Murphy (completed September 2013).
Liam Godfrey (in progress).

Doctoral Students (primary supervision):

Donald Blais (*Toronto School of Theology*), “Passion and Pathology in Teresa of Avila’s Mystical Transformation”: defended Oct. 16, 1997.

Eleanor Pontoriero, “On ‘Loving the Neighbour’: The Implications of Emmanuel Levinas’ Intensification of Ethics after the Shoah” (co-supervised with Prof. R. Gibbs): defended Feb. 14, 2002.

William Wahl, “Suffering Truth: Interpretation, Religion and Science in Nietzsche and Freud”: defended December 13, 2005.

Ruth Mas, “Margins of *Tawhid*: Liberalism and the Discourse of Plurality in Contemporary Islam” (co-supervised with Prof. Charles Hirshkind, UC Berkeley): defended September 15, 2006.

Geraldine Fogarty, “Madness and Transformation in Early Irish Literature: A Psychoanalytic Perspective” (co-supervised with Prof. Anne Dooley, Celtic Studies): defended February 27, 2009.

Christina Reimer, “A Fountain Sealed: Virginity and the American Evangelical Family”: defended October 7, 2011.

Jason McKinney, “On the Metapolitics of Decay: Walter Benjamin’s Will to Happiness”: defended December 13, 2011.

Nicholas Dion, “Spacing Freud: Space in the Psychoanalytic Critique of Religion” (co-supervised with Prof. Marsha Hewitt, TST): defended September 4, 2012.

Bonnie deBruijn, “Julia Kristeva’s ‘Culture of Revolt’ & (Post) Modern Religious Subjectivity.” (in progress).

Paul York, “Kant, Religion, and Environmental Ethics” (in progress).

Nigel Fernando (in progress).

Zoe Anthony (in progress).

Andrew Tebbutt (in progress).

Andrew Fuyarchuk (TST; co-supervision with Prof. D. Wiebe, in progress).

Doctoral Students (secondary supervision):

Barbara Jean Whitmer, defended Oct. 7, 1994.

Keith Haartman (internal examiner) defended Dec. 16, 1999.

Jennifer Harris (*Dept. of Philosophy*) defended Sept. 29, 2000.

David Scully (internal examiner) defended Sept. 9, 2002.

David Perley (internal examiner) defended June 28, 2004.

Naomi Gold (*Toronto School of Theology*) defended September 29, 2004.

Kenneth MacKendrick, defended October 6, 2004.

Mahdi Tourage (*Dept. Of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations*) defended May 6, 2005.

David Buyze, defended May 13, 2005.

Jeffrey Sims, defended June 20, 2007.

Jenna Sunkenberg (*Centre for Comparative Literature*; internal examiner) defended August 10, 2009.

Lauren Bialystok (*Dept. of Philosophy*; internal examiner) defended August 20, 2009.

Barbara Greenberg, defended June 7, 2012.

Sarah Kleeb (in progress).

Tenzan Eaghll (in progress).

Nathan Bonney (in progress).

Kyle Derkson (in progress).

Doctoral Student General Examination Committees:

-Keith Haartman, completed March, 1995.

-Kenneth Derry, completed October 1995.

-Eleanor Pontoriero, completed June 1998.

-Kenneth McKendrick, completed August 1999.

-Ruth Mas, completed June 2001.

-Jeff Sims, completed December, 2001.

-David Buyze, completed June, 2002.

-William Wahl, completed May, 2003.

-Philip Klaassen, completed July, 2004.

-Mack Rakowski, completed September 2005.

-Christina Reimer, completed September 2005.

-Danielle Lefevre, completed September 2006.

-Benjamin Carter, completed September 2006.

-Jenna Sunkenberg (*Comparative Literature*), completed June 2007.

-Jason McKinney, completed September 2007.

-Sarah Kleeb, completed August 2008.

-Nicholas Dion, completed May 2009.

- Barbara Greenberg, completed September 2009.
- Bonnie deBruijn, completed June 2010.
- Paul York, completed April 2011.
- Tenzan Eaghll, completed January 2013.
- Andrew Fuyarchuk (TST), completed September 2013.
- Nigel Fernando, completed April 2015.
- Andrew Tebbutt, completed June 2015.
- Cole Sadler, completed July 2015.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

- a. Positions held and service on committees and organizations within the University.

Associate Chair, Department for the Study of Religion (1996-98).

Chair and Director, Department for the Study of Religion (2002-2007).

Acting Chair, Department for the Study of Religion (2012-2013).

Acting Chair, Department for the Study of Religion (2015-2016).

- b. Positions held and service on committees and organizations outside the University of scholarly and academic significance.

Board of Editors, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, (1998- 2005).

Board of Editors, *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*, (1999- 2010).

E. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

External Examiner, doctoral dissertations:

Michael Clark, “Synchronicity and Poststructuralism: C. G. Jung’s Secularization of the Supramundane.” Dept. of Religion and Classics, University of Ottawa, June 6, 1997.

Robert Wright, “In My Father’s House: *Memories, Dreams Reflections*: A Son in Search of Father,” Dept. of Religion and Classics, University of Ottawa, May 6, 1999.

External Evaluator, tenure and promotion review:
Professor Mark Wood, Virginia Commonwealth University, Fall, 2001.

External Review of Religious Studies Department and Spirituality and Personal Development Program, University of Waterloo, March 2005.

Co-organizer: Annual Meeting of the International Society for Intellectual History, Victoria College, University of Toronto, June 25-27, 2014.

Evaluation of Manuscripts:

American Academy of Religion Dissertation Series
British Journal for the History of Philosophy
Canadian Corporation for the Study of Religion/Wilfred Laurier University Press
Cambridge University Press
Columbia University Press
Duchesne University Press
Fordham University Press
History of Philosophy Quarterly
Intellectual History Review
Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory
Journal of the History of Philosophy
Journal of Religion
Journal of Religious Ethics
Journal of the American Academy of Religion
Method and Theory in the Study of Religion
Modern Theology
Routledge Press
SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Publications/University of Toronto Press
Studies in Religion
Toronto Journal of Theology
Wiley-Blackwell Publishers

Evaluation of Grant Applications:

-Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Awards:

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (1986-87).
Connaught Research Fellowship, University of Toronto (2001-2002).