

Brendan Thomas Sammon

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	The Catholic University of America, 2012
MA Th.	Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium, 2002
MA R.S.	Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium, 2001
BA	Loyola University, Maryland, 1997

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA

- Assistant Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, 2013 – 2019
- Associate Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology , full tenure, 2019 —

Georgetown University, Georgetown, Washington D.C.

- Professorial Lecturer, 2011 – 2013

The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.

- Adjunct Instructor/Teaching Fellow, 2007 – 2009
- Research Assistant, 2006 – 2007
- Teaching Assistant, 2004 – 2006

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Beauty/Aesthetics
- Late Ancient Thought
- Medieval Thought
- Continental Philosophy/Metaphysics
- Theological Anthropology
- Theology of Disability
- Addiction

PUBLICATIONS — BOOKS

The God Who is Beauty: Beauty as a Divine Name in Thomas Aquinas and Dionysius the Areopagite. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2013.

Called to Attraction: An Introduction to a Theology of Beauty, Cascade Companion Series. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2017.

William Desmond and Contemporary Theology. South Bend, IN: Notre Dame University Press, 2017. [Edited Volume]

Desmond and His Others, project in construction. [Edited Volume].

PUBLICATIONS — ARTICLES

“That Than Which Nothing More Between Can Be Thought: The Metaxological Christ of Pauline Theology,” *Hearts of Flesh: William Desmond and the Bible*. Edited by Steven E. Knepper, Wipf & Stock, forthcoming.

“Beauty and the Good in Dionysius the Areopagite,” in *Beauty and the Good: Past Interpretations and Their Contemporary Relevance*. Edited by Alice Ramos. Washington D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2019.

“The Metaxology of the Divine Names,” in *Thinking Metaxologically: William Desmond’s Philosophy between Metaphysics, Religion, Ethics and Aesthetics*. New York and London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2018.

“The Reawakening of the Between: William Desmond and Reason’s Intimacy with Beauty,” in *William Desmond and Contemporary Theology*. South Bend, IN: Notre Dame University Press, 2017.

“Redeeming Chenu: A Reconsideration of the Neoplatonic Influence on Aquinas’s *Summa Theologiae*” *Heythrop Journal* 62/6, Nov. 2021, 971 – 987.

“Hillbillies at the Gates: Frederick Christian Bauerschmidt’s *Thomas Aquinas: Faith, Reason, and Following Christ*,” in *Radical Orthodoxy: Theology, Philosophy, and Politics*, Vol. 3, no. 1 (Sept. 2015), 88–103.

“Theology, Art, and the Beautiful Bridging of Difference,” in *Theology Syndicate*, Oct/Nov, 2014, 8–16.

(Book Review) *Between System and Poetics, William Desmond and Philosophy After Dialectic*, in *Ethical Perspectives*, Volume 14, number 3, Sept 2007.

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

The Beauty of Marriage. Presented at the Valentine’s Colloquium for Regina Angelorum Academy. February 4, 2023.

What is Life? A Theological Response. Presented at the Magi Conference, The UPenn Collegium Institute, June, 2022.

Does Humanity Need Disability? A Response from the Catholic Tradition.
Presented at the Loyola University Colloquium for Catholic Social Thought, March 2020.

William Desmond and Contemporary Theology, panel organizer and presider for the AAR, Denver, 2018.

What Do We Mean When We Speak About Beauty? A Thomist Response.
Presented at the 2018 Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance (PMR) Conference, Villanova University.

The Gift of Beauty and the Passion of Being: On the Threshold Between the Aesthetic and the Religious, Villanova Conference on William Desmond, Sept. 27th, 2018.

Creating a Comfortable Classroom Climate to Enhance Student Motivation and Learning, St. Joseph's University Teaching and Learning Forum, 2018.

Can Fashion Communicate Transcendence? On Idols and Icons. Presented at the Loyola University Colloquium for Catholic Social Thought, Oct. 2017.

Cura Personalis: Accessible Courses for All Students, St. Joseph's University, Teaching and Learning Forum, 2018.

Disability and Italian Culture. Invited speaker at the Bridging the Gap forum, St. Joseph's University, Wednesday, October 26th, 2016.

Beauty, Consciousness, and the Adorning Self. Loyola University of Maryland colloquium on Catholic Social Thought, October, 2014.

What is a Family? Respondent at SJU Form on the Family, Sept. 2015.

Beauty Will Save the World, "Friday Night Meeting," presentation at the Catholic Worker in New York, on June 6th, 2014.

Beauty and Disability: The Beauty of the Disabled Body, presentation for the Loyola University of Maryland colloquium on Catholic Social Thought, October 2013.

Disability and Catholic Social Thought: Disability as the Final Frontier for a Viable Anthropology, presentation for the Loyola University of Maryland colloquium on Catholic Social Thought, March 2013.

Thomas Aquinas on Beauty and Its Relevance for Catholic Social Thought, presentation for the Loyola University of Maryland colloquium on Catholic Social Thought, April 2011.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Aquinas and Desmond on Beauty as a Divine Name, presented at the Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference (PMR), at Villanova University, 2017.

The Metaxology of Naming God: Dionysius, Aquinas, and Desmond on the Metaphysics of the Divine Names, April, 2017; presented at the 2017 International Symposium in honour of William Desmond: Between Metaphysics, Aesthetics, and Religion.

Beauty as the Intelligibility Beyond Determination in Religious Experience, presented at the AAR MAR Regional conference in Baltimore, MD, March, 2013.

Beauty as the Sacred Public, or Why Constantine Would Love Marcel Duchamp, presented at the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference (PMR) at Villanova, on Oct. 26, 2012.

You're Not the One for Me: Plotinus and Dionysius on Divine Beauty, presented at the North American Patristics Society (NAPS) conference, 2012.

Through the Splendor of Creation: Dionysius the Areopagite and the Embodiment of Divine Pedagogy, presented at the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference (PMR) at Villanova University, Oct. 2011.

Dionysius the Areopagite and Embodiment, presented at the Mid Atlantic AAR conference in New Brunswick, NJ, March 17, 2011.

Between Prayer and Work: The Contribution of Dionysian Beauty to a Catholic Work Ethic, presented at the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference (PMR) at Villanova University, 2009.

Aquinas, Dante and the Poetics of the Middle Ages, presented at the Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference (PMR) at Villanova University, 2008.

The End of the Sociological Critique of Religion, presented at the Religion and the Polis conference, held at the Catholic University of America, 2008.

A Peace More Primordial Than War: William Desmond and the Sabbath as Festive Mindfulness, presented at the Popular Culture Association Conference at Chaminade University, HI, 2007.

Theological Aesthetics and Medieval Thought: Convenientia of the Incarnation in the Theology of Thomas Aquinas, presented at the 5th Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology Conference (LEST) in Leuven, Belgium, 2005.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Honorary Speaker at the Regina Angelorum Academy Valentine's Day Colloquium, February 2023.

Invited Scholar at the UPenn, Collegium Institute Magi Conference, June, 2022.

Honorary Speaker at the Loyola University of Maryland Colloquium on Catholic Social Thought: April, 2011; March, 2012; March, 2013; October, 2014; October, 2017.

Summer SJU Research writing grant, 2014.

The Catholic University of America Doheny Dissertation Fellowship Award Winner, 2010.

The Catholic University of America Hubbard Dissertation Fellowship Award Winner, 2009.

The Catholic University of America Johannes Quaestens Scholarship, 2004 – 2008

St. Ignatius High School Teacher of the Month, April, 2003.

Cardinal Suenens 500\$ Reward Essay Contest Winner, 2001: *The Church as the People of God and Vatican II: Maintaining the Balance*

Archbishop Spalding Teacher of the Year nominee, 1998.

LANGUAGES

Italian (Speaking and Reading)

French (Reading)

German (Reading)

Ancient Greek (Reading)

Latin (Reading)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & POSITIONS

Reviews Editor for the academic journal *Radical Orthodoxy: Theology, Philosophy, and Politics*, 2012 – 2016

Chair of Theological Aesthetics section of the American Academy of Religion, Mid Atlantic Region, 2012 – 2015

Member of the American Academy of Religion, the Catholic Theological Society of America, the Metaphysical Society of America, the American Aesthetic

Society, the Catholic Philosophical Society of America, Boston
Theological Consortium; Delaware Valley Medieval Association

SERVICE TO ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

Faith/Reason GEP Committee, 2013 – 2021 (Chair, 2018 - 2021)

Committee for Addiction Education Research, 2018 –

Committee for Academic Policies and Procedures (APP), 2018 – 2020

Curriculum Committee, 2015 – 2017

Committee for Summer Scholars, 2016 – 2017

Advisory Board for Faculty Compensation (ABFC), 2015 – 2016

Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation Studies Committee, 2017 – 2021,
Chair 2019 – 2021.

Summer Scholar Mentor: 2016, 2017, 2018

Teaching and Learning Forum Presenter, 2016, 2018

HPAC Committee Member, 2020 –