

CURRICULUM VITAE

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I. Educational Background

- 6.1999 Doctor of Philosophy in Apologetics, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA. Dissertation title: "Re-Imagining Ricoeur: Popular Culture as Discursive Text, Metaphor, and Narrative."
- 6.1990 Masters of Divinity, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA.
- 6.1987 Bachelor of Arts in English Writing and Literature, minor in Philosophy, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
- 6.1983 Graduated with honors from the Stony Brook School, Stony Brook, NY.

II. Professional Background

- 9.2012 to Present Associate editor of *Foundations: An International Journal of Evangelical Theology*.
- 1.2010 to Present Visiting lecturer at Union School of Theology (formerly Wales Evangelical School of Theology), Bridgend, Wales, U.K. Class taught: "Popular Culture and the Christian Worldview."
- 9.2007 to Present Religious education teacher for juniors and seniors, Christian International School of Prague. Classes: "The Art of Apologetics" and "Comparative Worldviews."
- 1.2005 to Present Visiting lecturer for the Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary, Riga, Latvia. Classes: "Reformational Apologetics," "Introduction to World Religions," and "Comparative Worldviews."
- 9.2004 to 6.2011 Helped found the Christian International School of Prague and served as board chairman.
- 10.2003 to Present Visiting lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Classes: "Popular Culture and Media Theory I: Modernist Perspectives," and "Popular Culture and Media Theory II: Postmodernist Perspectives."

- 2.2003 to 7.2010: Editorial Advisory Board of the *Journal of Popular Culture*.
- 9.1999 to Present Lecturer in Cultural and Religious Studies at Anglo-American University, Prague, Czech Republic. Current classes: "Popular Culture and Media Theory," "Comparative Religions," "Comparative Worldviews," "Religion as a Social Force," and "Understanding Media Fandom."
- 3.2001 to 6.2001, and 10.2002 to 6.2003. Visiting lecturer, Faculty of Humanities at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. Classes: "Introduction to Culture Theory" and "Modern Intellectual History."
- 1.1998 Visiting January-term lecturer, Anglo-American College in Prague, Czech Republic. Class: "Introduction to Culture Theory."
- 3.1997 to 6.1997 Visiting lecturer, Anglo-American College. Classes: "Modern Intellectual History" and "Christianity and Western Civilization."
- 9.1996 to 12.1996 Adjunct lecturer in apologetics, Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC. Class: "Church and World in the Twentieth Century."
- 9.1991 to 12.1994 Teaching assistant and grader for Dr. William Edgar, professor of apologetics at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA, USA.
- 6.1988 to 9.1988 Volunteer counselor, Kensington Outreach Center, an inner city church-based drug-treatment center in Philadelphia, PA. Duties included administration, preaching, and drug counseling.

III. Selected Course Descriptions

Popular Culture and Media Theory

This course examines the influence of major figures who have influenced the study of popular culture and the media, including F. R. Leavis, Raymond Williams, Karl Marx, Herbert Marcuse, Roland Barthes, Jacques Lacan, and Michel Foucault and others. Primary source materials are used extensively. Examples and case studies are used to explore how best to interpret texts (movies, commercials,

songs, etc.) from popular culture and the media. This can be run as either a one or two-semester course.

Religion as a Social Force

This first part of this course examines the influence of several major thinkers who have had a major impact on how we think about the interaction between religion, culture and society. Using primary source readings, we study the influence of Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Peter Berger, and Clifford Geertz. In the second part of the course, we investigate several issues where religion, culture and society play a decisive role. Such issues include the dynamics of secularization, postmodernism and religion, religion and violence, new religious movements, and others.

Comparative Religions

This introductory class surveys the major world religions: Animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese Traditional Religion, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Source materials from the various sacred texts are used. In addition, we explore some fundamental questions, such as: What is religion? How can we analyze and compare them? This class is designed to encourage independent and critical thinking about religions.

IV. Publications

"Dialogues Concerning Cultural Engagement," essay in two parts, *Foundations* 70 (Spring 2016) and 71 (Fall 2016). Part one available online at <http://www.affinity.org.uk/foundations-issues/issue-70-article-2---dialogues-concerning-cultural-engagement-part-one>.

"Displacing the Sacred: Thoughts on the Secularizing Influence in Hollywood," *Foundations: An International Journal of Evangelical Theology* 64 (Spring 2013). Available online in March 2013 at <http://www.affinity.org.uk/foundations-issues/issue-64-article-1---displacing-the-sacred-thoughts-on-the-secularising-influence-of-hollywood>.

Popologetics: Popular Culture in Christian Perspective, Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 346 pp., May 2012.

"Popular Culture, Apologetics, and the Discourse of Desire," *Cultural Encounters* 8:2 (Winter 2012): 25-46.

"On Being Wise as Serpents: Why and How Christians Should Engage Popular Culture," *The Evangelical Magazine* (Evangelical Movement of

Wales), September/October 2010. Available online at <http://www.emw.org.uk/magazine/2010/10/on-being-as-wise-as-serpents/> (accessed 13th November, 2010).

“Review of *Eyes Wide Open: Searching for God in Popular Culture*,” *Journal of Popular Culture* vol. 42, no. 3 (June 2009): 581-83.

“Life in the Twittersphere,” The Gospel and Culture Project website, April 2009 (now defunct). Archived online at <http://www.turnau.cz/content/life-twittersphere>.

“Popular Cultural ‘Worlds’ As Alternative Religions,” *Christian Scholar’s Review* vol. 37, no. 3 (Spring 2008): 323-45.

“Jack Be Evil, Jack Be Quick: Reflections on the Necessary Evils of ‘24’”, in *Minding Evil: Explorations of Human Iniquity*, edited by Margaret Sönsner Breen (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2005): 109-25.

“Inflecting the World: Popular Culture and the Perception of Evil.” *The Journal of Popular Culture*, Vol. 38, no. 2 (November, 2004): 384-96.

“Equipping Students to Engage Popular Culture.” Article in *The Word of God for the Academy in Contemporary Culture(s)*. Edited by John B. Hulst. Budapest, Hungary: Károli Gáspár Reformed University, Faculty of Theology, 2003: 135-57.

“Reflecting Theologically on Popular Culture as Meaningful: The Role of Sin, Grace, and General Revelation,” *Calvin Theological Journal*, 37, no. 2 (November 2002): 270-296. Available online at the Ransom Fellowship http://www.ransomfellowship.org/publications/ebook_turnau_reflectingtheologically.pdf.

“Speaking in a Broken Tongue: Postmodernism, Principled Pluralism, and the Rehabilitation of Public Moral Discourse.” *Westminster Theological Journal* 56 (Spring 1994): 345-77.

V. Other Lectures and Workshops

“Engaging Popular Culture with Kids.” A series of three lectures with additional workshops given for the Bible-Centered Youth Worker’s Conference, January 19th-22nd, 2015.

“Engaging Popular Culture and the Imagination.” A series of four lectures and workshops given for Word Alive, a Christian conference in Perstatyn, Wales, April 7th-12th, 2014.

"Imaginary Landscapes: Popular Culture and Cultural Engagement in a Pluralist, Post-Christian World." A series of three lecture/workshops given for a pastor's group in Liverpool, England, January 14th, 2013.

"The Nature of Truth and the Truth about Nature." A series of four lectures given for a weekend retreat for the Latvian Reformed Church, July 2010.

"Media Fandom as New Religion," and "Creating Authentic Christian Popular Culture: Learning from the Blues." Talks given at the European Leadership Forum, May 2010.

"God and Evil," and "Why Believe in Anything? And Why Jesus?" Talks given for a college student retreat by the Christian Education and Life college ministry, Krkonose Mountains, Czech Republic, July 2008.

"Engaging Rock 'n' Roll as a Christian." A series of talks and workshops for the Novy Sad Christian Fellowship's youth retreat, Serbia, July 2008.

"The Calling of the Christian Artist: Zookeeper of the Imagination," "Dealing with Worldview Assumptions," "Speaking the Worldview Vernacular: Popular Culture as Essential to Apologetics," and "What's Right with Foucault: Learning from a Postmodern Thinker." Talks given at the European Leadership Forum, Eger, Hungary, January 2008.

"Introduction to World Religions." A seminary-level course given at the Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary, January 2008, Riga, Latvia.

"Faith, Culture and Worldview: Cultivating a Christian Imagination in a World of Unbelief." A series of lectures and workshops for a Latvian Reformed Church weekend retreat, August 2006.

"Popular Cultural Theory from a Christian Worldview Perspective." Lecture given at the International Institute for Christian Studies annual conference, July 2005, Kansas City, KS.

"Popular Culture and Worldview Analysis." A series of lectures and workshops taught at the Gimlekollen School of Journalism and Communication, January 2005, Kristiansand, Norway.

"Apologetics." A seminary-level course taught at the Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary, January 2005, Riga, Latvia (and again in July 2010).

“The New You Review: Postmodernism and the Question of Identity,” and “Screening Worldviews: How to Watch and Discuss Movies as a Christian.” Workshops given at the European Leadership Forum, June 2004, Sopron Hungary.

“The Secularization Thesis and Challenges to It: Is Religion in the Modern World Doomed?” Lecture given in Prof. Tomáš Halík’s “Sociology of Religion” class, Philosophical Faculty, Charles University, October 23, 2003.

“Using Popular Culture to Reach Postmoderns.” Workshop given at the European Leadership Forum, June 2003, Sopron, Hungary.

I have also preached in churches in the U.S., Prague, Czech Republic, Riga, Latvia, and Novy Sad, Serbia.

VI. Research Interests

I am most interested in inter-disciplinary studies, where philosophy, theology, religious studies, cultural studies, and sociology cross paths and illuminate one another. More specifically, I want to develop a hermeneutic for understanding popular culture and analyzing it in non-reductionistic ways. I am also interested in understanding how popular culture functions as religion or a religion-surrogate, as a carrier of worldview (or even “worlds,” in the Ricoeurian sense).

VII. Reference Contact Information

Anglo-American University: Tony Ozuna, Associate Chair of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Telephone: +420 2-5753-0202. Email: <mailto:tony.ozuna@aauni.edu>.

Head of the Department of Media Studies, Metropole University: Prof. PhDr. Jan Jirak. Telephone: mobile: +420 606-615-150. Email: jirak@mup.cz.

Jonathan Stephen, Principal, Wales Evangelical School of Theology. Telephone: +44 (0) 1656 645411. Email: <mailto:principal@west.org.uk>

VIII. Personal Information

I was born 28 November, 1965, in Providence, Rhode Island, U.S.A., but was raised mostly in rural Pennsylvania. I married Carolyn Ruth Stickney on 4th January, 1986. We have three children: Roger William,

born 15 April, 1991; Claire Elise, born 23 March, 1995; and Ruth Genevieve, born 15 January, 1999; two cats named Saffron and Loki, and a rabbit named Shadow.

My current interests are jazz, improvisational piano, cinema, popular culture, Japanese anime, quilting (though I enjoy that one vicariously through my wife's craftsmanship), and whatever interests are currently captivating my children. Right now, that would include meteorology, computer games and anime for Roger; reading, anime, drawing and music for Claire; and for Ruth, reading and animals.

My family and I have been living in Prague since 1999.