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UNIVERSITY of NOTTINGHAM  
Department of Theology and Religious Studies  
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## CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY | Evanston, Illinois

Research Scholar, Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences 2023–  
Research Initiative for the Study of Russian Philosophy and Religious Thought (NU RPRT Research Initiative)

NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY | Kirkland, Washington

Adjunct Professor, Department of English 2019–  
Adjunct Professor, College of Ministry 2016–

## EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Theology and Religious Studies 2023

UNIVERSITY of NOTTINGHAM, Nottingham, England, UK

SPECIALIZATION: Theology and Literature

THESIS: “A Triptych of Bottomless Light: Repetition, Originality and Transcendence in Vladimir Nabokov’s *Pale Fire*”

SUPERVISORS: Prof. Alison Milbank; Prof. Siggy Frank

EXAMINERS: Prof. Agata Bielik-Robson; Prof. Dana Dragunoiu (Carleton University)

Master of Letters in Theology, Imagination and the Arts | *merit* 2018

UNIVERSITY of ST ANDREWS, St Andrews, Scotland, UK

DISSERTATION: “‘With Every Man He Has a Secret’: Liturgical *Theōsis* in the Thought of C.S. Lewis” | *distinction*

SUPERVISOR: Prof. Judith Wolfe

Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological Studies | *magna cum laude* 2015

WESTERN SEMINARY, Portland, Oregon

SPECIALIZATION: Exegetical Track (Biblical Languages)

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration 2012

WARNER PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, Portland, Oregon

## PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY | Evanston, Illinois

Graduate Fellow, Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences 2023–  
Research Initiative for the Study of Russian Philosophy and Religious Thought (NU RPRT Research Initiative)

UNIVERSITY of NOTTINGHAM | Nottingham, England, UK

Teaching Affiliate, Department of Theology and Religious Studies 2019–20

NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY *via* CASCADE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL | Puyallup, Washington

Concurrent Credit Professor, College of Ministry 2015–17

CASCADE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL | Puyallup, Washington

Instructor of Bible and Theology 2015–17

## PUBLICATIONS

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- “Rereading the World: A Theological Appraisal of Vladimir Nabokov’s Metaliterary Eschatology.” *Religion & Literature* 57, no. 1 (2025). FORTHCOMING.
- “The Mirror and the Icon: A Theological Perspective on Nabokov’s *Pale Fire*.” *Partial Answers* 22, no. 1 (Jan. 2024). FORTHCOMING.
- “Haloed Hallucinations: Vladimir Nabokov’s *Bend Sinister* and the Cult of St. Antony from Athanasius to Gustave Flaubert.” *Religion and the Arts* 27, no. 4 (Aug. 2023). FORTHCOMING.
- “‘The Name of God has priority’: ‘God’ and the Apophatic Element in Vladimir Nabokov’s *Pale Fire*.” *Literature and Theology* 36, no. 3 (Sept. 2022): 298–315. DOI: 10.1093/litthe/frac019.  
REPRINT | *Northwestern University Forum for Russian Philosophy and Religious Thought*. April 25, 2023.
- “Do Not Be Angry at the Moon: *Pale Fire* and *The Old English Boethius*.” *The Nabokovian* 83 (Fall 2022): 1–13. No DOI: [Click for link](#).
- “The Gist of Masks: Notes on Kinbote’s Christianity and Nabokov’s Authorial Kenosis.” *Nabokov Online Journal* 15 (2021): 1–29. No DOI: [Click for link](#).
- “A green lane in Paradise’: Eschatology and Theurgy in *Lolita*.” *Nabokov Studies* 17 (2020–2021): 35–60. DOI: 10.1353/nab.2020.0000.
- “Confessing our Secrets: Liturgical *Theōsis* in the Thought of C.S. Lewis.” *Journal of Inklings Studies* 10, no. 2 (Oct. 2020): 115–38. Featured article. DOI: 10.3366/ink.2020.0076.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Crystal to Crystal: Non-Identical Repetition in Vladimir Nabokov’s *Pale Fire*.” In *New Trinitarian Ontologies: Conference Proceedings of the New Trinitarian Ontologies Conference and Symposium*, edited by John Milbank, Ryan Haecker, and Jonathan Lyonhart. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2024. FORTHCOMING.

### FORUMS & ROUND-TABLES

- Organizer and participant. “Nabokov and Religion.” Forum with Christopher Link, Mary Ross, Matthew Roth, and Michael Wood. Moderated by Yuri Leving.  
Part One: *Nabokov Online Journal* 16 (2022): 1–20. No DOI: [Click for link](#).  
Part Two: *Nabokov Online Journal* 17 (2023): 1–24. No DOI: [Click for link](#).

### UNREFEREED ARTICLES, ESSAYS & PODCASTS

- “My Precious? Review of *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*.” *Transpositions*. September 30, 2022. [Online](#).
- “Look at this tangle of thorns’: Lying with *Lolita*.” *Transpositions*. June 10, 2022. [Online](#).
- “The Million Masks of God: A Reflection on Icons, Liturgy and Seeing God.” *Resurrection South Austin Blog*. April 21, 2022. [Online](#).
- “The Passion of Meaning: Banville’s Gods and Nabokov’s ‘Signs and Symbols.’” *The Noesis Review* 8 (Dec. 2021): 72–81.
- “C. S. Lewis and His Medieval Mirror.” *Edinburgh University Press Blog*. June 21, 2021. [Online](#). INVITED CONTRIBUTION.
- “Why Poetry Is Meaningful to Us: Vladimir Nabokov and the Theology of Poetry.” *Trinity House Review* 2 (Eastertide 2021): 37–40. [Online](#). COMMISSIONED.
- “Jeffrey Epstein’s *Lolita*?” *Church Life Journal*. November 15, 2019. [Online](#).
- “The Gods are Here, Invisible, Mischievous, Meddling’: Vladimir Nabokov and the Presence of God in John 19.” *Transpositions*. December 8, 2018. [Online](#).

### REVIEWS

updated August 14, 2023

- Rachel Toombs, *Flannery O'Connor and Stylistic Asceticism* (Pickwick, 2022). *Literature and Theology*. IN PROGRESS.
- Dana Dragunoiu, *Vladimir Nabokov and the Art of Moral Acts* (Northwestern University Press, 2021). *Nabokov Studies* 18 (2022–2023): 149–54. DOI: 10.1353/nab.2022.a901984.
- Michael John Halsall, *Creation and Beauty in Tolkien's Catholic Vision: A Study in the Influence of Neoplatonism in J.R.R. Tolkien's Philosophy of Life as "Being and Gift"* (Pickwick, 2020). *Religion and the Arts* 26, no. 4 (Sept. 2022): 534–37. DOI: 10.1163/15685292-02604008.
- Robert Alter, *Nabokov and the Real World: Between Appreciation and Defense* (Princeton University Press, 2021). *Nabokov Online Journal* 15 (2021): 1–4. No DOI: Click for link.
- John Webster, *The Culture of Theology*, ed. Ivor J. Davidson and Alden C. McCray (Baker Academic, 2019). *Theology* 123, no. 3 (May–June 2020): 216–17. DOI: 10.1177/0040571X20910716d.
- Richard Harries, *Haunted by Christ: Modern Writers and the Struggle for Faith* (SPCK, 2018). *Theology* 122, no. 4 (July–August 2019): 301. DOI: 10.1177/0040571X19843769c.

## AWARDS for SCHOLARSHIP

2019 | Dieter E. Zimmer Prize for Best Postgraduate Work on Nabokov

\$1,500.00. Administered, selected, and awarded by the INTERNATIONAL VLADIMIR NABOKOV SOCIETY (IVNS). Funded by the VLADIMIR NABOKOV LITERARY FOUNDATION. For the essay, “A Green Lane in Paradise’: Eschatology and Theurgy in Humbert Humbert’s *Lolita*.”

JUDGES’ COMMENTS: “In this astute and sophisticated essay, Erik Eklund argues for a bold new way of reading Nabokov’s most controversial novel. Showing an impressive familiarity with existing Nabokov scholarship on the subject, Eklund deploys the insights of Russian religious philosopher Nikolai Berdiaev to map a way for coming to terms with the complex moral predicament posed by *Lolita*. According to the model furnished by Berdiaev and mobilized by Eklund, Humbert does find redemption at the end of his journey even as this redemption does not trivialize or justify his evil conduct towards Dolly Haze. Whether one agrees or not with Eklund’s argument, its power and nuance demand that it be taken seriously in the difficult task of analyzing the scandalous nature of *Lolita*.”

## CERTIFICATIONS

2022 | Certificate in Inclusive Pedagogy: Universal Design for Learning in Theological Education

Sponsored by the AMERICAN ACADEMY of RELIGION (AAR) COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE PROFESSION.

2019 | Online Instructor Certification

Awarded by NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY upon review of three online modules, measured against seven criteria indicating “proven expertise as an outstanding online instructor.”

## PRESENTATIONS

### INVITED TALKS

“The Art of (Theological) Conversation”

NABOKOV ONLINE SEMINARS | CLOSE READING ROUNDTABLE (IVNS)  
*Online, March 28, 2023 | Invitation by Prof. Matthew Roth (Messiah College)*

“‘Between the wolf in the tall grass and the wolf in the tall story’: The Perverse Morality of Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita*”  
THOMAS JEFFERSON CENTER FOR THE STUDY of CORE TEXTS & IDEAS LUNCH LECTURE  
*University of Texas at Austin, February 16, 2023 | Invitation by Prof. Lorraine Pangle and Dr. Erik Dempsey*

updated August 14, 2023

“Look at this tangle of thorns’: *Lolita* and the Reformed Criminal”

CATHOLICISM & MONSTERS

Online, April 8–9, 2022 | Invitation by Prof. Anne M. Carpenter (St. Mary’s College of California)

“Redemption and Metafiction after *Lolita*”

INSTITUTE FOR THEOLOGY, IMAGINATION & THE ARTS (ITIA) RESEARCH SEMINAR

University of St Andrews, November 12, 2021 | Invitation by Dr. George Corbett

“The Best and Most Successful Works of Literature’: Nabokov and the New Testament”

THE BIBLE IN ART, MUSIC & LITERATURE SEMINAR

Centre for Reception History of the Bible, Trinity College, University of Oxford, October 18, 2021 | Invitation by Dr. Christine Joynes

“Meditations on the Coincidence of Metafiction and Metaphysics in Nabokov’s Stories” | Response by Dr. Giles Waller

NOESIS SEMINAR

University of Cambridge, November 26, 2020 | Invitation by Prof. Catherine Pickstock

“Where the Tall White Fountain Plays: Mirrors and the Construction of Otherworldly Meaning in Vladimir Nabokov’s *Pale Fire*”

CENTRE FOR RUSSIAN, SOVIET, CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPEAN STUDIES (CRSCEES) POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINAR

University of St Andrews, October 17, 2019 | Invitation by Dr. Margarita Vaysman

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

“something else, something else, something else’: or, Nature Beyond the Natural Sense: Nabokov’s (Eco-)Theo-Semiotics”

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL VLADIMIR NABOKOV CONFERENCE (IVNS)

University of Lausanne, June 27–30, 2023

“It is as clear as the fact that it is raining’: Nabokov’s Theological Failures”

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE of THE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE for the STUDY of RUSSIAN PHILOSOPHY & RELIGIOUS THOUGHT (NU RPRT RESEARCH INITIATIVE)

Northwestern University, April 21–23, 2023

“Nabokov’s Religious Curiosity Shop”

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA) ANNUAL CONVENTION

Session: Nabokov and Curiosity | Sponsored by the International Vladimir Nabokov Society

San Francisco, January 5–8, 2023

“Reader, Author, Angel: The Eschatological Turn in Vladimir Nabokov’s ‘The Vane Sisters’”

INTERNAL SOCIETY FOR RELIGION, LITERATURE & CULTURE (ISRLC) BIENNIAL MEETING

Session: The Ends of Spiritual Existence

University of Chester, September 15–18, 2022

“Ultralight Beam: *Bend Sinister* and the Cult of St. Antony”

HIDDEN NABOKOV (IVNS)

Panel: Religious Mysteries

Wellesley College, June 15–19, 2022

“Alexandria is on Fire: St. Antony the Great and the Gift of Hagiography to Modern Self-Conscious Fiction”

INTERNATIONAL PATRISTIC, MEDIEVAL, & RENAISSANCE (PMR) CONFERENCE

Panel: Christian Theology in Late Antiquity

Villanova University, October 15–17, 2021

“The Flowing Charshaf: *Lolita*’s Theological Women” | Response by Dr. Alison Jack (University of Edinburgh)

LOGIA POSTGRADUATE INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

The Logos Institute for Analytic and Exegetical Theology, University of St Andrews, May 27, 2021

updated August 14, 2023

“Ever-Moving Repose: Temporality, Motion and the Infinite Gaze of Sudarg’s Triptych”  
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA) ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Session: Playing with/for Time: Nabokov’s Persistent Images | Sponsored by the International Vladimir Nabokov Society | *Selected by Prof. Judith Butler (UC Berkeley) for inclusion in the main theme of the convention Online, January 7–10, 2021*

“A Triptych of Bottomless Light: Repetition, Originality, and the Divine in Nabokov’s *Pale Fire*”  
NEW TRINITARIAN ONTOLOGIES SYMPOSIUM  
*University of Cambridge, March 6, 2020*

“Transgressive Sacramentalism: Vladimir Nabokov and the Johannine Crucifixion”  
MARGARET BEAUFORT INSTITUTE of THEOLOGY POSTGRADUATE STUDY DAY  
*Cambridge, England, July 31, 2019*

“Stallions of Lizard-like Lust: C.S. Lewis, Vladimir Nabokov, and Literature as Imaginative Praxis”  
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THEOLOGY (SST) GRADUATE CONFERENCE  
*Birmingham, England, July 13–14, 2019*

#### DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

“A Triptych of Bottomless Light: Repetition, Originality, and the Divine in Nabokov’s *Pale Fire*”  
THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR  
*University of Nottingham, April 18, 2020 | Invitation by Prof. Conor Cunningham*

TEACHING \*unless otherwise noted, I am instructor of record for each course listed below

#### NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY

<i>College of Ministry</i>	<i>Department of English</i>
BIBL 1103 Old Testament History and Literature	ENGL 1013 Composition I: Expository Writing
BIBL 1203 New Testament History and Literature	
BIBL 2213 Jesus and the Synoptic Gospels	<i>General Core</i>
BIBL 3253 Corinthian Correspondence	UCOR 1053 Life Calling
THEO 1093 Foundations of Christian Faith	
THEO 1213 Christian Thought	
THEO 2063 Gospel & Culture	
THEO 3213 Systematic Theology I	
THEO 3223 Systematic Theology II	

#### UNIVERSITY of NOTTINGHAM

THEO 1009 Building the Christian Church (Teaching Affiliate for Prof. Tom O’Loughlin)

#### NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY *via* CASCADE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Augustine’s *Confessions*: Knowledge of God and Self  
Introduction to Biblical Theology: The Gospel according to St. Matthew

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Participant, Working Group for Academic Freedom and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion 2022–23  
*To devise a set of guidelines for future Nabokov conferences under the rubrics of academic freedom and equity, diversity, and inclusion. Guidelines are intended to provide conference organizers with a set of tools for dealing with potential conflict arising during a conference. Co-chairs: Marie Bouchet (University of Toulouse) and Dana Dragunoiu (Carleton University).*  
INTERNATIONAL VLADIMIR NABOKOV SOCIETY (IVNS)

Anonymous Manuscript Referee: *Nabokov Studies*

2022