

## **Tyler T. Roberts**

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Grinnell College  
Grinnell, IA 50112  
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### **POSITION**

Professor of Religious Studies, Grinnell College

### **EDUCATION**

Harvard University, Divinity School, Th. D. in Theology, 1993

Dissertation: "Asceticism and Affirmation: Nietzsche's Relevance as Religious Thinker" Advisor: Prof. Gordon Kaufman. Defended Nov. 30, 1992.

Harvard University, Divinity School, M.T.S in Christianity and Culture, 1987

Albert-Ludwigs Universität (Freiburg, Germany), Philosophy, 1984-5

Brown University, A. B. in Philosophy and Religion (Honors), 1982

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2008-Present	Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Grinnell College.
2002-2008	Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Grinnell College.
1998-2002	Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Grinnell College.
1994-97	Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Education, Committee On the Study of Religion, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
1993-94	Instructor, Honors Program, Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts

### **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Book**

*Contesting Spirit: Nietzsche, Religion, Affirmation*, Princeton University Press, 1998.

Reviews of the book have appeared in the following journals, among others: The Journal of Religion, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, Eidos, Germanic Notes and Reviews, International Philosophical Quarterly, Theological Studies, Religion and Literature, and New Nietzsche Studies (forthcoming).

**Manuscript in Process**

*Encountering Religion: Religious Studies and Humanistic Criticism*, a book-length project examining new models for the humanistic study of religion.

**Articles**

- “Militant Love: Zizek and the Christian Legacy” *Transforming Philosophy and Religion*, eds. Norman Wirzba and Bruce Ellis Benson, Indiana University Press (2008).
- “Nietzsche’s Passion and Compassion,” in *Reading Nietzsche on the Margins*, Steven V. Hicks and Alan Rosenberg, Purdue University Press (2008).
- “Toward Secular Diaspora: Relocating Religion and Politics,” in *Secularisms*, Janet Jakobsen and Ann Pellegrini, eds., Duke University Press (2008).
- “Between the Lines: Exceeding Historicism in the Study of Religion,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, September 2006, v 72, n 3, pp. 697-719.
- “Rhetorics of Ideology and Criticism in the Study of Religion,” *The Journal of Religion*, July, 2005.
- “Sacrifice and Secularization: Derrida, De Vries, and the Future of Mourning,” in *Other Testaments: Derrida and Religion*, eds. K. Hart and Y. Sherwood (Routledge, 2005).
- “Exposures and Explanations: On the New Protectionism in the Study of Religion” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, March 2004, v. 72, n.1, pp. 143-72 (Spring 2004)
- “Ecstatic Philosophy,” in *Nietzsche and the Divine*, eds. J. Lippitt and J. Urpeth, Clinamon Press (2000): 200-225.
- “Confessing Philosophy/Writing Grace” *Soundings* (Fall 1996): 489-510.
- “This Art of Transfiguration is Philosophy: Nietzsche's Asceticism,” *The Journal of Religion* (July 1996): 402-427.
- “Michael Walzer and the Critical Connections,” *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, Fall (1994): 333-353.
- “Theology and the Ascetic Imperative: Narrative and Renunciation in Taylor and Hauerwas,” *Modern Theology* (April 1993): 181-200.

**Reviews and Reference Entries**

- “Nietzsche,” *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Daniel Patte, General Editor, Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming.
- Review of Tim Murphy’s *Nietzsche, Metaphor, Religion* (SUNY, 2001), *New Nietzsche Studies*, Winter 2003/Spring 2004.
- Review of Peter Murray, *Nietzsche’s Affirmative Morality*, *New Nietzsche Studies*, Spring/Summer 2002
- "Nietzsche," *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Postmodernism*, Routledge, 2001 (500 wds)
- Review of Bruce Lincoln, *Theorizing Myth*, in *Boston Review of Books*, 7/1 (January/February, 2000) 28-9.
- Review of Richard E. Rubenstein, *When Jesus Became God*, in *The Boston Review of Books*, 6/8 (October 1999): 11.
- Review of Simon Critchley, *Ethics-Politics-Subjectivity*, in *The Boston Review of Books*, 6/5 (June 1999) 22.
- Review of Richard Marius, *Martin Luther: The Christian between God and Death*, in *The Boston Review of Books*, 6/4 (May 1999) 13.

Review of John Keenan, *The Meaning of Christ*. in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, 17/3 (Spring 1999): 128-131.

### **Conference Papers (selected)**

- “Religious Studies as Cultural Criticism” presented at the annual meeting for the American Academy of Religion, Washington D.C., November 19, 2006.
- “Exposing Revelation,” presented at “Theology and Religious Studies or Theology vs. Religious Studies,” St. Anne’s College, Oxford, UK, July 6-7, 2006.
- “Criticism as Conduct of Gratitude: Stanley Cavell and Critical Piety,” presented at the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2005.
- “Militant Love: Zizek and the Christian Legacy,” presented at the annual meeting for the Society for Continental Philosophy and Theology, Wheaton, Ill., March 2005.
- “Turns and Returns Towards the Philosophy of Religion,” presented at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2004.
- “Testimonies of Trauma,” presented at the national meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 2003.
- “Ecstatic Philosophy,” presented at Nietzsche Symposium, Grinnell College, May 5, 2000.
- “Ecstatic Philosophy: Mystical Elements in Nietzsche’s Thought,” Opening Plenary Paper at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society, University of Greenwich, England, Sept. 1998.
- “Stanley Cavell and the Mysticism of the Ordinary in Emerson and Thoreau,” presented to the Mysticism Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 1996.
- “The Way of Abandonment: Nietzsche's Faith,” presented to the Nineteenth Century Theology Group, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, 1995.
- “Philosophy as Tragic Spectacle: Reading Nietzsche's *Ecce Homo*” Presented at the New England American Academy of Religion Regional Meeting, April, 1993.

### **TEACHING**

Responsible for courses in Christianity, philosophy of religion and selected comparative topics at Grinnell College. Included among these courses are:

- “Philosophy of Religion”
- “Modern Religious Thought”
- “Major Western Religions”
- “Religion in U. S. Public Life”
- “Senior Seminar: Religious Identity on the Margins”
- “Senior Seminar: Mysticism”
- “Junior Seminar: Theory and Method in the Study of Religion”
- “First-Year Tutorial: Religion and Nature in American Culture”
- “Nietzsche Seminar” (co-taught with Alan Schrift)

### **FACULTY SERVICE**

Chair, Search Committee, Film History/Theory, 2007-2008  
 Committee on Academic Standing, 2007-2008

Executive Council, 2005-2007  
Chair, Division of Humanities, 2005-2007  
Chair, Department of Religious Studies, 2000-01, Spring 2003-4, 2006-present  
Advisory Committee for Grinnell College Humanities Center, 1999-present  
Faculty Organization Committee, 2002-2004  
Curriculum Committee, 2003-4  
Lilly Steering Committee, 2003-4  
Director, NEH Humanities Focus Grant, Department of Religious Studies, 2000-01  
Acting Director, Grinnell College Humanities Center, 2001  
Director of Departmental Grant Proposals to Fund for Excellence, NEH, and the Iowa  
College Foundation Faculty Development and Enrichment Program, 1999-00.  
Instructional Support Committee, Grinnell College, 2000-01  
Center for Prairie Studies Committee, 1999-present  
Multi/Interdisciplinary Curricular Development Committee, 1998-00  
Cultural Film Committee, 1998-00 (Chair, 1999-00)  
Bowen Interviews, 1999  
Organizer for Departmental Self-Study, Department of Religious Studies, 1998-99  
Fulbright Committee, 1998-99