

Daniel J. Ott
Union Presbyterian Seminary

Education

Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA

Ph.D. 2006 Philosophy of Religion and Theology

Dissertation: “The Church in Process: A Process Ecclesiology” directed by Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY

Master of Divinity 1996

West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Bachelor of Music in Music Composition 1993

Professional Experience

Union Presbyterian Seminary (2025-present)

- Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean
- Professor of Theology

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia (2022-2025)

- Dean of the School of Theology, Humanities, and Performing Arts
- Professor of Theology and Religion

Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois (2011-2022)

- Final rank: Professor (2022)
- Associate Dean for Academic Initiatives, Monmouth College (2019-2022)
- Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies (Fall 2017, 2018-2022)
- Coordinator, Integrated Studies, Monmouth College (2017-2019)
- Coordinator, Peace, Ethics and Social Justice Program, Monmouth College (2014-2022)
- Co-coordinator, Reflections Course Set, Integrated Studies, Monmouth College (2013-2017)

St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, North Carolina (2004-2010)

- Final rank: Assistant Professor (2010)
- Chair, Department of Religious Studies, St. Andrews Presbyterian College (2007-2009)

Publications

Book

Christian Thought in America: A Brief History, with Hannah Schell, (Minneapolis: Fortress Press 2015)

Book Contributions

“Means and Ends When the Future Is Open” in *Partnering With God*, (SacraSage Press, August, 2021)

“Leading with Faith” in *Open and Relational Leadership: Leading with Love*, (SacraSage Press, 2020)

Theological perspective essays on Matthew 25:1-13, Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 25:31-45 in *Feasting on the Gospels: Matthen, Volume 2*, (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Naturalistic Fruits of the Spirit: Faith, Hope, and Love,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol 42.1 (January 2021), pp. 32-49.

“Nonviolence and the Nightmare: King and Black Self-Defense,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 39, No. 1 (January 2018), pp. 64-73

“In einem Augenblick”: Christian naturalism, death, and Brahms’s Ein deutsches Requiem,” *Theology Today*, Vol. 74, No. 2 (July 2017), pp. 138–148.

“Nonviolence and Moral Equivalency,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (May 2014), pp. 172-183.

“Toward a Realistic, Public, Christian Pacifism,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 3 (September 2012), pp. 245-257.

“Church, Community and Democracy,” *Political Theology* 12.3 (2011), pp. 347-362.

“Process Communitarianism,” *Concrescence: The Australasian Journal of Process Thought*, (2009), pp. 67-75.

Review Articles

Review of *Christian Naturalism: Christian Thinking for Living in This World Only* by Karl E. Peters, *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (May 2023)

Review of *Pragmatic Nonviolence: Working toward a Better World* by Andrew Fitz-Gibbon, *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, Vol. 43, No. 2-3 (May-September, 2022)

Review of *Healthy Conflict in Contemporary American Society: From Enemy to Adversary* by Jason Springs, *Reading Religion*, August 2018

Review of *Transforming Faith: Individual and Community in H. Richard Niebuhr* by Joshua Daniel, *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (May 2018)

Review of *The Purposes of God: Providence as Process-Historical Liberation* by G. Michael Zbaraschuk, *Sophia: International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions*, Vol. 55, No. 2 (June 2016)

Review of *Expressing Theology: A Guide to Writing Theology that Readers Want to Read* by Jonathan C. Roach and Grisel Dominguez, *Reflective Teaching* (2016)

Review of *The Life and Thought of Bernard Eugene Meland, American Constructive Theologian, 1899-1993* by W. Creighton Peden, *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (September, 2015)

Review of *Spiritual Bankruptcy: A Prophetic Call to Action* by John B. Cobb Jr., *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, Vol. 66, No. 3 (July, 2012)

Review of *The God Debates: A 21st Century Guide for Atheists and Believers (and Everyone in Between)* by John R. Shook, *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (January 2012)

Review of *A Theology of the Church for the Third Millennium: A Franciscan Approach* by Kenan Osborne, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 3 (Summer, 2011)

Review of *A Passion for Christian Unity* ed. by John M. Imbler and *Ecclesiological Trends in the Catholic and Protestant Churches and Their Significance for the Church in Africa* by Dunstan M. Mbano, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 1 (Winter 2010)

Review of "Follow Me": *A History of Christian Intentionality* by Ivan J. Kauffman, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 3 (Summer, 2010)

Review of *Ecumenical Reception: Its Challenge and Opportunity* by William G. Rusch, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 4 (Fall, 2008)

Other

"No Wisdom in Sheol: A Theology of Death," *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Vol. 205, No. 3, (March, 2023)

"Killing," *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Vol. 203, No. 15, (October 25, 2021)

"Sound Off: Recent Violence in Sacred Spaces," *Political Theology Network*, Quick Takes, <https://politicaltheology.com/sound-off-recent-violence-in-sacred-spaces/>, (June, 2019)

Reflections on Five Peacemaking Affirmations for *A Season of Peace*, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, (Fall, 2017)

“Analysis of Presbytery Responses to the Five Affirmations for Peace Discernment” in *Risking Peace in a Violent World: Five Peacemaking Affirmations*, a report to the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), (February, 2016)

“Let’s Focus on Nonviolence,” *Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice*, www.justiceunbound.org, (July 23, 2014)

Reviewing and Editing

Editorial Advisory Board, Wildhouse Publications, 2021 - present

Editorial Board, *Studies in Open and Relational Theology*, SacraSage Press, 2020 – present

Reviewer for *Political Theology*, 2020 - present

Guest Editor with Hannah Schell, “Faith and Solidarity,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, Vol. 37, No. 2, (May 2016)

Reviewer for *American Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, 2014 – present

Reviewer for *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 2011 - present

Presentations

“Nationalisms and God’s Borders: An Argument for the Iconoclastic Force of the Plural Divine” The Eighth International Conference of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Berlin, Germany, June 2023

“Moral Injury and Corporate Sin,” Co-presented with student, Jeremy Fuller, The Third Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference, 2023

“Naturalistic God Metaphors, Nonviolence, and Violence,” Liberal Theologies, Open and Relational Theologies, and Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr. Units, American Academy of Religion Meeting, November 2019

“The Religious Qualities of Naturalistic God Metaphors,” The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2019

“Transcendence and Death Denial: Historicizing What Is Naturalized in Terror Management Theory,” The Seventh International Conference of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Berlin, Germany, June 2018

“Nonviolence and the Nightmare,” The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2017

“*In einem Augenblick*: Brahms, Death, and Christian Naturalism,” The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2016

- “Engaging Scripture as Myth: Revisiting Bernard Meland and (Re)Mythologizing Process Theology,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2015
- Panelist, “Implications: The Presbyterian Church (USA) and Christian Ethics,” Social Ethics Network, October 2015
- Program director with Hannah Schell, “Faith and Solidarity,” The Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2015
- “(Re)Making Martin Luther King Jr. an Icon of Nonviolence,” International Whitehead Conference: Seizing an Alternative: Toward an Ecological Civilization, June 2015
- “The Reciprocal Relationship between Vocational Discernment Programming and Community Building,” Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, Council of Independent Colleges, March 2015
- “Nonviolence and Moral Equivalency”
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2013
- “When God holds his assizes: A Thick Description of War”
The Sixth International Conference of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Pamplona, Spain, July 2013
- “At the root of all war is fear’: Thomas Merton’s Realist Account of the Spiritual Dimensions of Violence” Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, March 2012
- “Toward a Realistic, Public, Christian Pacifism”
The Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought Annual Meeting, June 2011
- “Science and the Breaking of Myths”
St. Andrews Religion and Science Roundtable, April 2010
- “Community and the Church: The Redemptive and Transformative Power of Community” 2008 Memorial Bible Lectures, Laurinburg, NC (series of three commissioned lectures)
- “Church, Community and Democracy”
The Fifth International Conference of the Highlands Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, Assisi, Italy, August 2008
- “Inclusive Love Beyond Inclusivism: Modeling the Church’s Mission after the Inclusive Love of the Trinity” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2006

“Open God, Open Church”

Co-Presented with Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

The Sixth International Whitehead Conference, Salzburg, Austria, July 2006

“Pragmatism and Loyalty, Plurality and Totality, God: A Contrasting of the Pragmatic Theologies of William James and Josiah Royce”

Western Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, March 2000

“Toward an Ecological Christology”

Western Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, March 1999

“Directions for a Process Ecclesiology”

Silver Anniversary International Whitehead Conference, August 1998

Memberships in Professional Associations

American Academy of Religion, 2006 – present

Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought, 2008 – present

- Board Member 2012-2023

Social Ethics Network – Presbyterian Church (USA), 2015 – present