

## Hilary Jerome Scarsella

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School  
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### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Vanderbilt University: **Religion: Theological Studies**  
Minor: Religion, Psychology, and Culture  
Carpenter Certificate in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality  
Dissertation: "Sexual Violence & the Problem of Belief: Trauma in Theological Perspective"  
2019
- M.A. Vanderbilt University: **Religion: Theological Studies**  
2017
- M.Div. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: **Theology & Ethics**  
Concentration: Peace Studies  
2012
- B.A. Indiana University: 1) **Religious Studies**, 2) **Philosophy**  
2007
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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2020 Assistant Professor of Ethics  
Director of Women and Gender Studies in Church and Society  
Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
- 2019 Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics  
Memphis Theological Seminary
- 2019 Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2017 Instructor  
Belmont University
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## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

"Sexual Violence: Christian Theological Legacies and Responsibilities," *Religion Compass* e12337 (2019) DOI: 10.1111/rec3.12337. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/rec3.12337>

"Testimony & Witness as Liberative Praxis: Authority Refigured," *The Other Journal* 30 (2019) <https://theotherjournal.com/2019/05/30/testimony-and-witness-as-liberative-praxis-authority-refigured/>.

"What's Love Got to Do with It? Theodicy, Trauma and Divine Love," *The Other Journal* 25 (2015): 100-105.

### Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

"Bearing Witness to Jesus, Resurrected Survivor of Sexual Violence," In *Liberating the Politics of Jesus*, edited by Darryl W. Stephens, 151-166. London: T&T Clark, 2020.

"Belief: A Practice of Resistance to the Alchemy of Reality into Incoherence," In *Feminist Trauma Theologies: Body, Scripture, and Church in Critical Perspective*, edited by Karen O'Donnell and Katie Cross, 43-62. London: SCM Press, 2020.

"Victimization via Ritualization: Christian Communion and Systems of Sexualized Violence," In *Trauma and Lived Religion: Transcending the Ordinary*, edited by R. Ruard Ganzevoort and Srdjan Sremac, 225-252. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019.

"Theology and Trauma: Prospects and Limits in Light of the Cross," In *Trauma and Transcendence: Suffering and the Limits of Theory*, edited by Eric Boynton and Peter Capretto, 256-82. New York: Fordham University Press, 2018.

### Web-Based Academic Publications

Editor for the Symposium on Political Theology and Sexual Violence, published by the *Political Theology Network*, October-November 2018. <https://politicaltheology.com/symposium/pttoo/>

"Kavanaugh, Ronell, and Political Theology's Prospects for Making a Difference in Sexual Violence Today," *Political Theology Network*, October 22, 2018. <https://politicaltheology.com/kavanaugh-ronell-and-political-theologys-prospects-for-making-a-difference-in-sexual-violence-today/>

"Not Making Sense: Why Stanley Hauerwas's Response to Yoder's Sexual Abuse Misses the Mark," *ABC Religion & Ethics*, November 30, 2017, <http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2017/11/30/4774014.htm>.

## Manuscripts in Preparation

“When Survivors Come Forward: Analyzing Patterns of Institutional Response and Proposing Transformative Interventions,” In *Sexualized Violence in Church Contexts. New Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Forthcoming from De Gruyter.

Book manuscript, working title: *Sexual Violence & the Problem of Belief: Trauma in Theological Perspective*.

## Reviews

Review of *Women and Genocide: Survivors, Victims, Perpetrators*, edited by Elissa Bemporad and Joyce W. Warren. Review published in *Reading Religion* (by the American Academy of Religion), January 7, 2019, <http://readingreligion.org/books/women-and-genocide>.

## Publications for a Public Audience

“Why the Betrayal of Bill Cosby, Eric Schneiderman, and Other Influential Men is Deeper than You Think” *The Conversation*, May 10, 2018, <https://theconversation.com/why-the-betrayal-of-bill-cosby-eric-schneiderman-and-other-influential-men-is-deeper-than-you-think-96247>

“The Lord’s Supper: A Ritual of Harm or Healing?” *Leader*, summer 2016, 33-48.

*Do You See This Woman? Undoing Patriarchy and Moving toward Right Relationships*, Elkhart: Mennonite Church USA, 2013.

Contributor to *Women in Theology* (<https://womenintheology.org/>)

Contributor to *Into Account* (<https://intoaccount.org/>)

## Mentions in the News

Salgado, Soli. “What politics—and the Biden campaign—can learn from the church about sexual assault,” *National Catholic Reporter*, May 26, 2020, <https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/what-politics-and-biden-campaign-can-learn-church-about-sexual-assault>

Mahon, Ed, Holly Meyer, and Xeres Wilson. “Why the Roman Catholic Church Still Struggles with Sexual Abuse Scandals,” *USA Today*, August 17, 2018, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/08/17/roman-catholic-church-sex-abuse-scandals-struggle/1024427002/>

Schlumpf, Heidi. “Catholic #MeToo Victims and Advocates Face Backlash,” *National Catholic Reporter*, July 17, 2018, <https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/catholic-metoo-victims-and-advocates-face-backlash>

Eisenstadt-Evans, Elizabeth. “On Sexual Assault, Churches Reflect Society In General” *Lancaster Online*, January 12, 2018, [https://lancasteronline.com/features/faith\\_values/on-sexual-assault-churches-reflect-society-in-general/article\\_afd4c0d8-f7ba-11e7-84d3-73404e36981f.html](https://lancasteronline.com/features/faith_values/on-sexual-assault-churches-reflect-society-in-general/article_afd4c0d8-f7ba-11e7-84d3-73404e36981f.html)

Schlumpf, Heidi. "Silence on Sexual Violence Makes Church Leaders Complicit, Say Victim Advocates," *National Catholic Reporter*, November 6, 2017, <https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/silence-sexual-violence-makes-church-leaders-convict-say-victim-advocates>

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### **AWARDS, HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS (Limited List)**

2019 Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship  
Louisville Institute

2018 Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship  
Louisville Institute

2018 Religion and Its Publics Emerging Scholar  
University of Virginia, Center for the Study of Religion

2018 Protestant Ethics Fellow  
Princeton University & Baylor University: Fellowship for Protestant Ethics

2014 Vanderbilt Graduate Fellowship  
Vanderbilt University

2012 Marlin E. Miller Award for Excellence in Theological Studies  
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

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### **GRANTS (Limited List)**

2017 Participant, International Grant for Research in the Humanities  
Project: "The Refugee Today"  
Vanderbilt University. Principle investigators: Kelly Oliver & Silvia Stöller

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### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2020 "When Survivors Come Forward: Analyzing Patterns of Institutional Response and Proposing Transformative Interventions." Women and Religion unit. American Academy of Religion. Virtual meetings scheduled for November.

2019 "Title IX is a Tool: A Focus on its Misuses." Harassment, Discrimination, and Title IX. American Academy of Religion. San Diego, CA.

2019 "Blessed are Those Who Have Believed but Not Seen: The Theo-Logics of Misogyn(oir)istic

- Incredulity In Women's Testimonies of Harm." Co-sponsored session: Comparative Approaches to Religion and Violence unit and Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection unit. American Academy of Religion. San Diego, CA.
- 2019 Participant-moderator of a panel discussion titled "Doing Political Theology in Jail, the Streets, and the Bedroom: From ACT UP to Pleasure Activism." Political Theology Network Conference. New York, NY.
- 2018 "Interpretive Authority in Traumatic Circumstances: Theology and Method." Ecclesiology and Ethnography Conference. St. John's College. Durham, England, UK.
- 2017 "A Spotlight on Religion: The Role of Religion (and Politics) in Historically Boston Based Movements of Resistance to Sexual Violence." Psychology, Culture, and Religion. American Academy of Religion. Boston, MA.
- 2017 "Is the State a Sword? Gender, Justice, and Peace Theology." Crossing the Line. Eastern Mennonite University. Harrisonburg, VA.
- 2016 "Resisting Rape in the Sanctuary: Feminist Theory and Christian Liturgical Practice." Feminist Theory and Religious Reflection. American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, TX.
- 2016 "Sexual Abuse, LGBTQI Injustice, and Ritualization: A Bourgeoning Crisis of Power in Mennonite Church USA's Response to Sexualized Violence." Power in Perspective(s). Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Elkhart, IN.
- 2015 "Gendered Dynamics of Symbol & Ritual: Women's Vulnerability to Abuse." Precarity. National Women's Studies Association. Milwaukee, WI.
- 2015 "Ritualization and Trauma: Formative Functions of Communion for Survivors of Sexualized Violence." Trauma and Lived Religion. The Amsterdam Center for the Study of Lived Religion. Amsterdam University. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 2014 "The Lord's Supper in Relation to Sexualized Violence: Harm and Healing throughout the Ecclesial Body." Mennonite Scholars and Friends. American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, GA.
- 2013 "Gender, Power & Taking: Learning About Justice from Survivors of Sexualized Violence." Bible & Justice. St. Ambrose University. Davenport, IA.
- 2013 "Peace Theology, the Lord's Supper, and Sexualized Violence." American Academy of Religion Midwest. Ada, OH.
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## **INVITED TALKS**

- 2019 “Society of Biblical Literature Panel on Title IX.” Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego, CA, November.
- 2018 “Doing Religious Scholarship in Unjust Times: A Roundtable Conversation.” Christian Scholars’ Conference. Lipscomb University: Nashville, TN, June 7.
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## **CAMPUS TALKS**

- 2019 “Abuse in Religious Communities.” Vanderbilt Interfaith Council and Project Safe Center. Vanderbilt University: Nashville, TN, April 4.
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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Courses Taught at CRCDS (2020)**

- The Problem and Promise of Belief: Christianity and Violence Against Womxn

### **Courses Taught at Other Institutions (2017-20)**

- Christian Ethics
- Christian Heritage 1
- Introduction to the Old Testament

### **Courses Taught as a Teaching Fellow (2015-17)**

- Constructive Christian Theology I
  - Constructive Christian Theology II
  - Formation of Christian Traditions
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## **OTHER RESEARCH**

2017, The Refugee Today, grant-funded academic project exploring the refugee crisis in Europe and how we conceive of “the human” in light of contemporary, conflict-motivated migration. Vanderbilt University & the University of Vienna

2015 & 2016, Scholars in Action Working Group: Religion Scholars Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls  
Faith Trust Institute & Jimmy Carter Center

2016, Anabaptist Lord's Supper Working Group: Addressing sexual violence in the Church through ritual performance  
Principle Researcher and Convener

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## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

### **CRCDS Service**

Member Strategic Planning Committee of the Board, 2020  
Member Curriculum Committee, 2020  
Member Lectures and Conferences Committee, 2020

### **Other Professional Service**

President Fellowship for Protestant Ethics, 2020-2021  
Chair Professional Ethics Committee, Fellowship for Protestant Ethics, 2019-2021  
Vice President Fellowship for Protestant Ethics, 2019-2020  
Board member Fellowship for Protestant Ethics, 2018-2021  
Member Educational Development Committee, Memphis Theological Seminary, 2019-2020

### **Manuscript Reviews**

Articles: *Anabaptist Witness*, 2016

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## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Limited List)**

2017-current Director of Theological Integrity for Into Account ([www.intoaccount.org](http://www.intoaccount.org))  
2013-14 Member of the Board of Directors for the Center for Community Justice, Elkhart, IN (historic restorative justice center)  
2012-14 Associate for Transformative Peacemaking; Co-Coordinator of the [Women in Leadership Project](#), Mennonite Church USA, Elkhart, IN.  
2008-14 Member of the Iraqi Kurdistan team with Christian Peacemaker Teams (<http://www.cpt.org>)

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## **SERVICE TO CHURCH & COMMUNITY (Limited List)**

2019 "Sexual Violence in the Congregation: Responding with Courage, Compassion, and Transparency." MennoCon19. The Biennial Convention of Mennonite Church USA: Kansas City, KS, July 5.

- 2018 “When Sexual Violence Happens in the Church: A Guide to Ethical Response.” JustSex Conference. Alliance of Baptists: Nashville, TN, October 19.
- 2018 “Forgiveness in Contexts of Abuse.” SafeChurch Ministry 2018 Bi-National Conference. Christian Reformed Church: Grand Rapids, MI, September 22.
- 2018 “#MeToo? Pastoral & Prophetic Approaches to Sexual Misconduct.” Earth: Beloved Community. Alliance of Baptists 2018 Annual Gathering: Dayton, OH, April 27 & 28.
- 2015 “The Lord’s Supper Liturgy: Creating a Safe Place for Abuse Survivors and the Wider Church.” Leadership Clinic at Pastors Week. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: Elkhart, IN, January 26.
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## **LANGUAGES**

English: First language

Spanish: Research competence

French: Research competence

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## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

### **Current**

American Academy of Religion

Fellowship for Protestant Ethics

National Women’s Studies Association

Political Theology Network

Society of Christian Ethics

### **Previous**

North American Academy of Liturgy

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