

# HOWARD PICKETT

## EMPLOYMENT

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### Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia

Associate Professor of Ethics and Poverty Studies, and Director of the Shepherd Program for the Interdisciplinary Study of Poverty and Human Capability, 2019-present

Assistant Professor of Ethics and Poverty Studies, and Director of the Shepherd Program for the Interdisciplinary Study of Poverty and Human Capability, 2013-2019

Adjunct Professor of Law, 2013-present

Adjunct Professor of Poverty Studies, 2011–2013

## EDUCATION

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### University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Ph.D., 2012; M.A., 2011 in Religious Studies (Ethics)

### Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi

B.A., 1998

Phi Beta Kappa, *Summa cum laude* in Religious Studies and Classics

## RESEARCH

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### Publications

*Rethinking Sincerity and Authenticity: The Ethics of Theatricality in Kant, Kierkegaard, and Levinas* (University of Virginia Press, 2017).

“Epistemic Mercy and Incarceration: Rethinking the Demands of Justice,” *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (forthcoming 2022).

“Review of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Ethics of Formation by Ryan Huber,” *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 41.1 (Spring/Summer 2021).

“Doing Time and Narrative: Teaching In (and Out of) Prisons with Paul Ricoeur,” *The Just University: Paul Ricoeur and the Hope of Higher Education*, eds. Daniel Boscaljon and Jeff Keuss (Lexington Books, 2021).

“Beyond the Mask: Kierkegaard’s *Postscript* as Anti-theatrical, Anti-Hegelian Drama,” *Kierkegaard, Literature, and the Arts*, ed. Eric Ziolkowski (Northwestern Press, 2018).

“How (Not) to Write a Kierkegaardian Political Theology: Between Niebuhr and Levinas on Anxiety, Faith, and Love,” *Kierkegaard and Political Theology*, eds. Roberto Sirvent and Silas

Morgan (Wipf and Stock, 2018).

“‘It’s the Real Thing’: Identity and Sincerity in *Mad Men*,” *The Universe is Indifferent: Theology, Philosophy, and Mad Men*, eds. Ann Duncan and Jacob Goodson (Cascade Books, 2016).

“Theatrical Samaritans: Performing Others in Luke 10:25–37,” *The Journal of Scriptural Reasoning* 11.1 (August 2012).

## **Works in Progress**

### Works on the Ethics of Incarceration and Prison Reform

“Epistemic Justice and Incarceration: Beyond Testimonial Injustice” (under revision)

“The Art of Reconciliation: Incarceration and Re-entry in the Tribal Memoirs of Deborah A. Miranda” (under revision)

“The Ethics of Incarceration: What’s Wrong with *Just Mercy*?” (in progress)

*Listen to Me: Incarceration, Epistemic Injustice, and Mercy* (book manuscript in progress).

### Works on the Ethics of Taking the Place of Another

“Taking the Place of Another: Is Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Ethics of Substitution Oppressive?” (under revision)

“Feelings, Nothing Moral than Feelings: Do We Owe Empathy to Others?” (under revision)

“The Principles of Anti-Poverty Ethics: Respecting the Dignity of the Person” (under revision)

“Two Types of Mercy: Reconciling the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan” (in progress)

“Pictorial Ethics: The Golden Rule, Norman Rockwell, and Race” (in progress)

“Talking Tools: Martin Luther Reimagines the Golden Rule” (in progress)

“The White Savior Industrial Complex: Commentary on a Controversial Concept”

*Taking the Place of Another: Advocacy, Role Reversal, and the Ethics of Substitution* (book manuscript in progress).

### Works on Kantian Ethics

“Kant Reads the Bible,” *Logos: Modern Philosophers Read Scripture*, eds. Nicholas Adams and Jacob Goodson (under review with Cambridge University Press)

“How to Do Things with Lords (and Words): Kant on the Role of (Religious) Representation in the Moral Life” (in progress)

“Vita Activa, Vita Contemplativa: Kant and the Moral Uses of Contemplation” (in progress)

### **Presentations**

“Epistemic Mercy and Incarceration: Rethinking the Demands of Justice,” The Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting, online (formerly Chicago, IL), January 2021

“Doing Time and Narrative: Reflections on Education and Incarceration during the Covid-19 Pandemic,” part of a panel discussion, The Society of Ricoeur Studies, Annual Meeting, online, October 2020

“Equality of Opportunity, Race, and Life-Course Outcomes in U.S.,” through the W&L Office of Life-Long Learning, October 2020

“Real Opportunity for All: An Inside Look at Poverty and its Many Causes with Howard Pickett,” W&L After Class Podcast, September 2020.

“Doing Time and Narrative: Teaching In (and Out of) Prisons with Paul Ricoeur’s Philosophy of Education,” Ricoeur Unit, Accepted for the American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2019.

“Taking the Place of Another: Is Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Ethics of Substitution Oppressive?” The Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY, January 2019.

“Troubling Reciprocity: Asymmetries of Power and Recognition in Paul Ricoeur, Delores Williams, and Iris Marion Young,” a joint meeting of Ricoeur Unit and Critical Theory and Discourses Unit, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2018.

“The Prison Gives Rise to Thought: Bonhoeffer and Ricoeur on Incarnation and Incarceration,” a joint meeting of Ricoeur Unit and Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Unit, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 2017.

“As You Would: Subjunctive Reciprocity and Welfare Work Requirements,” Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2015.

“How (Not) to Write a Kierkegaardian Political Theology: Heidegger, Niebuhr, and Levinas on Anxiety and Non-reciprocal Neighbor-love,” Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Unit

and Niebuhr Society, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2014.

“The Ethics of Imitation and Incarnation: Kant Reads John 1:1–14,” Scriptural Reasoning Unit, American Academy of Religion, Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2012.

“The End Is Preexistent in the Means: Martin Luther King’s Rationale for Nonviolent Resistance,” Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr. Unit, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2011.

“Theatrical Samaritans: Performing Others in Luke 10:25–37,” Scriptural Reasoning Unit, American Academy of Religion, Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2011.

“The Torso and the Hypocrite: Polyphonic Integrity in Bonhoeffer’s *Letters and Papers from Prison*,” Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Unit, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2010.

“Beyond the Mask: Kierkegaard’s *Postscript* as Anti-theatrical Drama,” Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Unit, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2008.

“Sincerity and Hypocrisy: The Ethics of Theatricality,” Proseminar in Religion and Literature, The Divinity School, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, November 2008.

“‘Something more than fantasy’: Metatheater as Religious Discourse in *Hamlet*,” Religion and Theatre Panel, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2006.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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ACS Blended Learning Grant, Teaching Poverty, 2013  
 Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2012  
 Junior Fellow, University of Virginia Society of Fellows, 2010–2011  
 Religious Studies Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Virginia, 2010  
 Nominee for University-Wide Graduate Teaching Award, University of Virginia, 2010  
 BB&T Teaching Fellow: Business, Ethics and Society, 2009–2010  
 Assistant to the Editor, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2009–2011  
 Scholar-in-Residence: Newberry Library, Chicago, 2008–2009  
 Phi Beta Kappa, Millsaps College, 1998

## TEACHING

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**Philosophy/Poverty and Human Capability Studies**

Justice and Mercy (spring term course at the state prison)  
 Justice, Love and Forgiveness: The Life and Thought of M.L. King (taught at the state prison)  
 Poverty, Oppression and Privilege  
 Poverty, Dignity and Human Rights  
 Poverty, Justice and Love: The Philosophical and Religious Ethics of M.L. King  
 Poverty, Ethics and Religion

**Poverty and Human Capability Studies**

Advanced Research Seminar in Poverty and Human Capability Studies  
 Interdisciplinary Introduction to Poverty and Human Capability Studies  
 Introduction to Community-Based Poverty Studies  
 Facing Uncertainty: A Senior Symposium in Poverty and Human Capability Studies

**ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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**University Service**

Director, Shepherd Program, 2013-present  
 Advisory Board Member, Roger Mudd Center for Ethics, 2013-present  
 Member, Community Engagement/Service Learning Committee, 2013-present  
 Project Director, Americorps VISTA Project, Lexington, VA, 2018-2020  
 Member, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, W&L, 2017-2020  
 Faculty-elected Member, Faculty Executive Committee, 2016-2018

**Professional Service**

Reviewer, *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, Routledge  
 Governing Board Member, Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty, 2015-2021  
 Council Member, Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty, 2013-present  
 Editorial Member, *VA Engage Journal*, 2016-present  
 Assistant to the Editor, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2009–2011

**LANGUAGES**

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French (Reading Proficiency)  
 German (Reading Proficiency)

**REFERENCES**

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Available upon request