

# 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 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

*Published or Accepted*

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

“‘The Ugly Side of Chance’: Moral Luck, Mass Incarceration, and *The Lincoln Highway*,” *The Readerly Imagination: Literature, Philosophy, and Interpretive Reflection*, ed. Garry Hagberg (Palgrave Macmillan, anticipated 2025) (invited essay; volume under review).

“A Pedagogy of Responsibility: Autonomy, Vulnerability, and the Future of the Humanities,” *Études Ricoeurriennes/Ricoeur Studies* (December 2023).

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

## Projects

### *Under Review*

“Is the Ethics of Substitution Oppressive? Sympathy, Saviors, and Self-Sacrifice in the Works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer” (under review with *The Bonhoeffer Legacy: An International Journal*).

“Incarceration and the Art of Reconciliation: Resentment, Recognition, and Reframing Past Wrongs” (under review with *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*).

“Pity and the Art of Compassion: A Postcritical Approach to the Ethics of William Blake” (under review with *Literature and Theology*).

### *Under Revision*

“Farewell, Comrade’: Rethinking Incarceration and *Stellvertretung* in Bonhoeffer’s Prison Fiction” (under revision, invited for a volume on Bonhoeffer and incarceration).

“The Torso and the Hypocrite: Polyphonic Integrity in Bonhoeffer’s Prison Poetry and Fiction” (under revision, invited for a *Festschrift* for Larry Bouchard).

“Saving Face: Responsibility & *Stellvertretung* in Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Prison Fiction” (under revision).

“How to Do Things with Lords (and Words): Kant, Character, and Religious Representations” (under revision, invited for a volume on modern philosophers and the bible).

“The Principles of Anti-Poverty Ethics: Lessons from Biomedical Ethics” (under revision).

*In Progress*

- “‘Feelings, Nothing More Than Feelings’: Empathy, Morality, and Emotional Responsibility” (in progress).
- “The Ethics of Eating and Imprisonment: Food Justice, Forgiveness, and the Moral Horror of Mass Incarceration” (in progress for submission to *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*).
- “Epistemic Injustice and Incarceration: Beyond Testimonial Injustice” (in progress).
- “Pictorial Ethics: Rockwell, Race, and Reimagining the Golden Rule” (in progress).
- “Poverty and Inequality: A Guide to Practical Ethics and Public Policy for Polarized Times” (in progress, initially submitted as a Mellon Foundation grant proposal).

**Presentations**

- “The Ethics of Eating and Imprisonment: Food Justice, Forgiveness, and the Moral Horror of Mass Incarceration,” Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2025.
- “On Helping One’s Neighbor: Severe Poverty and the Religious Ethics of Obligation by Bharat Ranganathan” (panel), American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2024.
- “Why Are We Here? The Past, Present, and Future,” Convocation Address, Washington and Lee University, September 2023.
- “Farewell, Comrade’: Rethinking Incarceration and *Stellvertretung* in Bonhoeffer’s Prison Fiction,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 2023.
- “The Linchpin and the Stitch: Paul Ricoeur Rereads *and Renrites* the Classics,” VII Ibero-American Congress on the Thought of Paul Ricœur, University of Coimbra, online, September 2022.
- “Epistemic Mercy and Incarceration: Rethinking the Demands of Justice,” 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,” (panel), 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,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2019.
- “Taking the Place of Another: Is Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Ethics of Substitution Oppressive?” 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,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2018.
- “The Prison Gives Rise to Thought: Bonhoeffer and Ricoeur on Incarnation and Incarceration,” 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,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 2014.
- “The Ethics of Imitation and Incarnation: Kant Reads John 1:1–14,” 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,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2011.
- “Theatrical Samaritans: Performing Others in Luke 10:25–37,” 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*,” 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.
- “‘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)  
Hope, Justice, and Social Change (spring, state prison)  
Justice, Love and Forgiveness: The Life and Thought of M.L. King (spring, state prison)  
Poverty, Equity and Empathy  
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  
Member, Writing Program Advisory Committee, 2024-2027  
Member, Fellowships Committee, 2022-2026  
Chair, Interdisciplinary Programs Task Force, 2020  
Advisory Board Member, Roger Mudd Center for Ethics, 2013-2020  
Member, Community Engagement/Service Learning Committee, 2013-2020  
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**

Steering Committee Member, Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2021-2026

Steering Committee Member, Ricoeur Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2019-2021  
Reviewer, *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, *The Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, *Poverty and Public Policy*, 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

## REFERENCES

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Available upon request