

Jennifer L. Geddes

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Present Position

Research Associate Professor in Religious Studies, University of Virginia
Co-Director and Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia
Editor, *The Hedgehog Review: Critical Reflections on Contemporary Culture*

Education

Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of Virginia (1999)
M.A. with distinction, Religious Studies, University of Virginia (1995)
B.A., English and French, University of Virginia (1987)

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies Fellowship, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Fall 2006)
Selected Participant for “Confronting Catastrophe: Jewish Religious Responses to the Holocaust,” Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (2006)
Emilia Galla Struppa Fellowship, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (Spring 2006)
Professors as Writers Writing Grant, Teaching Resource Center (2005–6)
Selected Participant for “Seminar for Professors of Theology, Ethics, and Religion,” Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (2003)
Center on Religion and Democracy Book Manuscript Workshop Funding Award (2003)
University of Virginia Book Manuscript Workshop Funding Award (2003)
University of Virginia Summer Research Fellowship (2002)
Selected Participant for “Ethics After the Holocaust: Key Issues in Philosophy and Religion,” Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (2001)
Best New Journal Award, Council of Editors of Learned Journals (2000)
Hannah Arendt Fellowship (1997–1999)
DuPont Fellowship (1997–1998)
Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society (1997)
The Order of the Rook Award (1997)
Raven Society (1996–present)
Governor’s Fellowship (1995–1996)
Stead Fellowship (1995–1996)
Department of Religious Studies Teaching Award, University of Virginia (1995)
University Teaching Award Nominee, University of Virginia (1995)
Academic Enhancement Program Fellowship (1992–1993, 1994–1995)

Publications

Books

- Evil after Postmodernism: Histories, Narratives, and Ethics*, editor (London: Routledge, 2001)
- Salvaging Fragments: Ethics after the Holocaust*, co-editor with John K. Roth and Jules Simon (manuscript requested by Palgrave MacMillan for review)
- Hermeneutical Tyranny: Interpretation, Power, and Violence in Kafka* (manuscript in final revision)
- The Rhetorics of Evil* (current book project)

Book Chapters

- “Religious Rhetoric in Responses to Atrocity,” *The Religious in Responses to Atrocity*, ed. Thomas Brudholm and Thomas Cushman (under consideration by Cambridge University Press).
- “Attending to Suffering In / At the Wake of Postmodernism,” *The Mourning After: Attending the Wake of Postmodernism*, ed. Neil Brooks and Josh Toth (forthcoming from Rodopi Press).
- “Banal Evil and Useless Knowledge: Hannah Arendt and Charlotte Delbo on Evil after the Holocaust,” *Feminist Philosophy and the Problem of Evil*, ed. Robin May Schott (Indiana University Press, 2006).
- “Introduction.” *Evil After Postmodernism: Histories, Narratives, and Ethics* (London: Routledge, 2001) 1–8.

Articles

- “Religion and the Tragic,” *Literature and Theology* 19.2 (2005): 97–9.
- Review article on Paul S. Fiddes’s *The Promised End: Eschatology in Theology and Literature*, in *Conversations in Religion and Theology* 2.2 (November 2004): 185–191.
- “Banal Evil and Useless Knowledge: Hannah Arendt and Charlotte Delbo on Evil after the Holocaust,” *Hypatia* 18.1 (Winter 2003): 104–115.
- “Evil Lost and Found,” *The Hedgehog Review* 2.2 (Summer 2000): 88–99.
- “A Fascination for Stories: The Call to Community and Conversion in Mario Vargas Llosa’s *The Storyteller*,” *Literature and Theology* 10.4 (1996): 370–77.
- “Memory and Mourning” (Part II), *Martyrdom and Resistance* 23.1 (Nov.–Dec. 1996): 3, 15.
- “Memory and Mourning” (Part I), *Martyrdom and Resistance* 22.2 (Jan.–Feb. 1995): 3, 15.

Edited Journal Issues

Literature and Theology

- “Religion and the Tragic,” guest editor, *Literature and Theology* 19.2 (2005)

The Hedgehog Review

- “Illness and Suffering” (Fall 2006)
- “After Secularization” (Spring and Summer 2006, Double Issue)
- “Meditations on Exile and Home” (Fall 2005)
- “Special Issue: Commitments in a Post-Foundationalist World: The Possibilities of ‘Weak Ontology’” (Summer 2005)
- “Celebrity Culture” (Spring 2005)

“Discourse and Democracy” (Fall 2004)
“The Fate of the Arts” (Summer 2004)
“Religion and Violence” (Spring 2004)
“Fear” (Fall 2003)
“The Commodification of Everything” (Summer 2003)
“America in the World” (Spring 2003)
“Technology and the Human Person” (Fall 2002)
“Religion and Globalization” (Summer 2002)
“Individualism” (Spring 2002)
“Pragmatism: What’s the Use?” (Fall 2001)
“The Body and Being Human” (Summer 2001)
“Living with Our Differences” (Spring 2001)
“What’s the University for?” (Fall 2000)
“Evil” (Summer 2000)
“Democracy” (Spring 2000)
“Identity” (Fall 1999)

Other Publications

“An Interview with Arthur Kleinman,” *The Hedgehog Review* 8.3 (Fall 2006).
“Contemporary Notions of Home: An Interview with Witold Rybczynski,” *The Hedgehog Review* 7.3 (Fall 2005): 56-59.
“An Interview with Leo Braudy,” *The Hedgehog Review* 7.1 (Spring 2005): 78–81.
“An Interview with Richard Schickel,” *The Hedgehog Review* 7.1 (Spring 2005): 82–87.
Review of Andrew W. Hass’ *Poetics of Critique: The Interdisciplinarity of Textuality*, in *The Journal of Religion* 85.2 (April 2005): 358–9.
“A Brief Interview with Kathleen Hall Jamieson on Discourse and Democracy,” *The Hedgehog Review* 6.3 (Fall 2004): 77–79.
“Peacemaking among the Abrahamic Faiths: An Interview with Peter Ochs,” *The Hedgehog Review* 6.1 (Spring 2004): 90–102.
“An Interview with Margaret Jane Radin,” *The Hedgehog Review* 5:2 (Summer 2003): 98–102.
“An Annotated Bibliography on Religion and Globalization,” *The Hedgehog Review* 4.2 (Summer 2002): 116–23.
“The Possibilities of Pragmatism: An Interview with Giles Gunn,” *The Hedgehog Review* 3.3 (Fall 2001): 110–122.
“Making the Body Beautiful: An Interview with Sander L. Gilman,” *The Hedgehog Review* 3.2 (Summer 2001): 100–115.
“An Interview with Amy Gutmann,” *The Hedgehog Review* 3.1 (Spring 2001): 99–105.
“Research on Evil: An Annotated Bibliography,” *The Hedgehog Review* 2.2 (Summer 2000): 100–11.
“The University in Question: An Interview with Martha Nussbaum,” *The Hedgehog Review* 2.3 (Fall 2000): 120–132.
“On Evil, Pain, and Beauty: A Conversation with Elaine Scarry,” *The Hedgehog Review* 2.2 (Summer 2000): 78–87.

Teaching

University of Virginia Courses

Responses to the Holocaust

Negativity and Religious Imagination (with Larry Bouchard and Charles Mathewes)

Ethics and Fiction

Religion and Modern Fiction

Christianity and Modern Fiction

Evil in Modernity

Representations of Evil and Suffering (with Beth McManus)

Modern American Authors

Lectures and Presentations

Invited Lectures and Presentations

“Holocaust Testimony and the Ethics of Scholarly Response,” Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (2006)

“Towards an Ethic of Responding to Narratives of Suffering,” Humanitarian Responses to Narratives of Suffering Conference, University of Connecticut (2006).

“Religious Rhetoric in Responses to Atrocity,” The Religious in Responses to Mass Atrocity Conference, Danish Institute for International Studies, University of Copenhagen (2006)

“The Rhetorics of Evil,” Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (2006)

“Fanaticism and the Rhetorics of Evil,” Center on Critical Human Survival Issues, University of Virginia (2005)

“The Rhetorics of Evil,” Reimagining Peace after Atrocity Conference, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (2004)

“Imagining Hope Beyond Wishful Thinking,” The Carl Howie Center for Science, Art, and Theology, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA (2003)

“Imagining Hope Beyond Wishful Thinking” Charlottesville Area Presbyterians (2003)

“The Problem of Evil,” interviewed by Sarah McConnell on *With Good Reason* (Virginia Public Radio program, aired March 2003 and October 2003)

“The Literature of Trauma and Suffering,” Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (2002)

Response to “Auschwitz with or without the Cross?” by Genevieve Zubrycki, Center on Religion and Democracy, University of Virginia (2002)

“Elie Wiesel’s *Night*,” Great Books Lecture Series, University of Virginia (2002)

“Evil, Torture, and Interpretation,” Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University (2001)

Panelist, “The Diary of Anne Frank,” Four County Players, Barboursville Community Center (2001)

Panelist, “Publishing in a Changing World,” Virginia Festival of the Book (2000)

Panelist, “The Job Search in Religious Studies,” RELS 899 (1999 and 2001)

“Why and How I Do Arts, Literature, and Religion,” American Academy of Religion National Conference (1998)

“Symbolism and Suffering: Thinking About Evil in the Post-Modern Age,” The Post-Modernity Project, University of Virginia (1998)

Conference Papers

- “Ricoeur, Levinas, and the Problem of Suffering,” American Academy of Religion Conference (2006)
- “The Victim's Body and the Ethics of Viewing,” American Academy of Religion Conference (2006)
- “Using Suffering and the Rhetoric of Torture,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Roanoke, VA (2004)
- “Inscribing Meaning into the Pain of Inscription: The Tyranny of Suffering in Kafka's ‘In the Penal Colony,’” 20th Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville (2001)
- “Is Evil Taboo?” Southeast Committee for the Study of Religion, American Academy of Religion Regional Conference (2000)
- “Hermeneutical Desire and Reading the ‘Unfathomable’: *The Interpretation of* (Freud's Interpretation of His Own) *Dreams*,” South-Central Modern Language Association Conference (1999)
- “Giving Care or Imposing Need: Kafka's ‘The Judgment’ and the Call of the Other,” Midwest Modern Language Association Conference (1999)
- “Dialogically Constituted Offerings: Kafka and Bourdieu on the Dangers and Benefits of Our Interpretive Practices,” American Academy of Religion National Conference (1998)
- “The Call to Absurdity or the Absurdity of the Called: Kierkegaard and Kafka at the Hermeneutical Border,” Conference on Christianity and Literature (1996)
- “Toxic Waste: The Infecting Excess of the Other,” Southeast Committee for the Study of Religion, American Academy of Religion Regional Conference (1996)
- “The Re-Membering Gaze of the Dead,” Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches (1995)
- “Justifying the Margins: Wiesel's *Night* as a Call to Reconsider Our Categories,” Southeast Committee for the Study of Religion, American Academy of Religion Regional Conference (1995)
- “The Comic, the Tragic, and the Sacred: The Recipe for Absurdity in Kafka's Fiction,” American Academy of Religion Tri-Regional Meeting (1995)
- “Interpreting (‘)The Metamorphosis(‘): The Parallel Journey of Kafka's Characters and Readers,” Southeast Committee for the Study of Religion, American Academy of Religion Regional Conference (1994)
- “A Fascination for Stories: The Call to Community and Conversion in Mario Vargas Llosa's *The Storyteller*,” American Academy of Religion National Conference (1993)

Service to the Profession

- Co-Chair, Arts, Literature and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion (2002–present)
- Editorial Board Member, *Conversations in Religion and Theology* (2002–present)
- President, “Mourning and Responses to Suffering,” American Academy of Religion National Conference (2005)
- President, “Monuments, Memories, and the Memorializing Process,” American Academy of Religion National Conference (2004)
- President, “Religion and the Tragic,” American Academy of Religion National Conference (2003)
- Judge, Best New Journal Award, Council of Editors of Learned Journals (2003)

Reporter, Post-War Conference, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (2002)
Manuscript Reviewer for Routledge (2001)
President, “Lynda Sexson’s *Ordinarily Sacred*,” American Academy of Religion National Conference (2001)
Judge, Best New Journal Award, Council of Editors of Learned Journals (2001)
Chair, Southeast Regional American Academy of Religion, Arts, Literature and Religion Section (2000–2002)
President, “Southern Images: Spirit of Place,” American Academy of Religion National Conference (2000)
Steering Committee Member, Arts, Literature and Religion Section, American Academy of Religion (1999–2002)

University Service

Brown College Faculty Fellow (1994–present)
President, “Women, Family, and Work,” Virginia Festival of the Book, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (2006)
Discussion leader, “Celebrity Culture,” Brown College (2005)
Co-Organizer, “An Evening of Polish Poetry,” Brown College (2004)
Organizer, lecture and seminar with John K. Roth (2004)
Manuscript Reader, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (2004)
Co-Leader, Brown College discussion, “The Fate of the Arts” (2004)
Co-Leader, Brown College discussion, “The Commodification of Everything” (2003)
Speaker, student-organized, inter-faith Holocaust vigil (2003)
Co-Leader, Brown College discussion, “Technology and the Human Person” (2002)
Judge, Washington Society Literary Contest (2002)
Moderator, Discussion of “Conspiracy” with Director Frank Pierson, Virginia Film Festival (2001)
Speaker, student-organized Holocaust vigil (2001)
Co-Leader, Brown College discussion, “Pragmatism: A Middle Way?” (2001)
Panelist, “Publishing in a Changing World,” The Virginia Festival of the Book (2000)
Co-Teacher, Brown College short course, “What’s the University for?” (2000)
Co-Teacher, Brown College short, “The Bosnian Conflict” (1997)
Co-Organizer, Brown College colloquium, “The Bosnian Conflict” (1997)
Teaching Resource Center Workshop Leader, “Teaching the First Day of Class,” (1997)
Teaching Resource Center Workshop Leader, “From Dentistry and Detours to Discovery: Leading Discussions That Work” (1997)
Member, Assistant Director Search Committee, Teaching Resource Center (1996–97)
Co-Teacher, Brown College short course, “Preserving Memory” (1996)
Brown College Resident Fellow (1994–1998)

Membership

American Academy of Religion
Modern Language Association
Kafka Society of America