

**MAC LOFTIN**  
Curriculum vitae

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**EDUCATION**

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA

**PhD**, Theology. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Expected 2024.

Dissertation: “‘A Few Sheep Should Remain Outside the Fold’: Fascism, Responsibility, Renunciation, and the Problem of Political Theology.”

Committee: Profs. Matthew Potts, Michelle Sanchez, and Amy Hollywood.

**MDiv**. Harvard Divinity School. 2018.

**Boston University**, Boston, MA

**BA**, Philosophy (with honors), Classics & Religion. 2015. *Magna cum laude*.

**TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Political theology

Christian ethics

Sacramental theology

Religion and literature

Twentieth-century European social thought

Race, religion, and nationalism

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

“‘The Crime of Innocence’: James Baldwin, Georges Bataille, and the Political Theology of Climate Change Denial.” *Political Theology*. (Under Review.)

“Doing Theology as Making Future(s). The Practices and Poetics of ‘Rethinking Theology.’”  
Co-Authored with Gwen Dupré, Emily King, Tom Sojer, and Joanna Mikolajczyk Winterø.  
*LIMINA – Grazer theologische Perspektiven* 6, no. 1. (Forthcoming.)

“Corpus Fractum: Georges Bataille and Sacramental Theology.” *Body and Religion* 4, no. 1  
(December 2020), 4-31. <https://doi.org/10.1558/bar.17886>.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Tanabe Hajime: *Metanoia* as Consent to Death.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO (November 19, 2022)

“‘The Crime of Innocence’: On the Political Theology of Far-Right Climate Politics.” Presented at the Political Theology Network Conference, Tempe, AZ (April 9, 2022).

“Rethinking Theology.” Roundtable at the Forty-First Annual Colloquy of the American Weil Society, South Bend, IN (April 8, 2022).

“Translating Silence: Delores Williams and Simone Weil on ‘The Underside of the Underside.’” Presented at the Forty-First Annual Colloquy of the American Weil Society, South Bend, IN (March 19, 2022).

“Simone Weil and the Question of ‘Political Theology.’” Presented at the panel “Pluralizing Political Theology” at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX (November 22, 2021).

“‘This agony beyond all others, this marvel of love’: Simone Weil’s Theological Aesthetic.” Presented at the Fortieth Annual Colloquy of the American Weil Society, Online due to COVID-19 (April 22, 2021).

“Spiritual Exercises for an Age of Climate Death.” Presented at the Religious Studies at Brown University Graduate Student Conference, Providence, RI (March 7, 2020).

“Henri de Lubac and the Three Bodies of Christ: An Analytic of Ethno-Nationalist Social Imaginaries.” Presented at the international conference Imagined Borders, Epistemic Freedoms: The Challenge of Social Imaginaries in Media, Art, Religion, and Decoloniality; Center for Media, Religion and Culture; Boulder, CO (January 8, 2020).

“Corpse Mysticum: White Supremacy, Fascism, and the Eucharist in Georges Bataille’s *Summa Atheologica*.” Presented at and organized the panel “The Rites of Race” at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA (November 26, 2019).

“Simone Weil’s Political Theology of the *Corpus Mysticum*: Rending the Body of Christ.” Presented at the Political Theology Network Conference, New York, NY (October 18, 2019).

“‘A Well-Nigh Filthy Ecstasy’: Sacrilege and Sacrament in Georges Bataille’s *Story of the Eye*.” Presented at the International Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Cambridge, MA (March 30, 2019).

“‘*Requiem Aeternam Deo*’: Nietzsche and the Unwriting of Christianity.” Presented at the Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference on Religion, Cambridge, MA (October 28, 2017).

“Literature as Theology: Foucault on Kant, Sade, and Hölderlin.” Presented at the New England and Canadian Maritimes Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA (April 8, 2017).

“‘There’ll be nobody here but death and his days will be numbered too’: Thinking Global Extinction through Revelation and *The Road*.” Presented at the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Raleigh, NC (March 4, 2017).

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Andreas Malm and the Zetkin Collective. *White Skin, Black Fuel: On the Danger of Fossil Fascism* (Verso, 2021). Reviewed for *Theology and Society*.  
<https://theologyandsociety.com/petrofueled-white-supremacy/>

Yoon Sook Cha. *Decreation and the Ethical Bind* (Fordham University Press, 2017). Reviewed for the American Weil Society. [http://www.americanweilsociety.org/book\\_reviews](http://www.americanweilsociety.org/book_reviews)

## **SERVICE**

Student Representative. Doctoral Subcommittee. Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University.

## **MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS**

“Ungovernable Saints: Renunciation, Solidarity, and Ecstasy at the End of the World.” *Earth & Altar* (July 9, 2021). <https://earthandaltarmag.com/posts/1v92b9hrhsquh0s26q3mkf9x1da90m>

“Choosing the Lesser Evil is Still Choosing Evil.” Political Theology Network (October 29, 2020). <https://politicaltheology.com/choosing-the-lesser-evil-is-still-choosing-evil/>

## **INVITED TALKS**

“Georges Bataille’s Political Medievalism.” Given at the Methods and Practice Workshop of the Harvard University Department of the Classics, Cambridge, MA (April 6, 2022).

“Christianity and Fascism: Responsibility and Response.” Given at the Faith & Life Forum of the Memorial Church, Cambridge, MA (October 31, 2021).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Seminar Leader, Harvard University.

“MTS Research Seminar.” Harvard Divinity School. Academic Year 2021-2022.

“MDiv Senior Seminar.” Harvard Divinity School. Academic Year 2021-2022.

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University.

“Human Trafficking, Slavery & Other Forms of Servitude in the Modern World.” Harvard College. Spring 2023.

“Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion.” Harvard Divinity School. Fall 2022.

“Teresa of Avila.” Harvard Divinity School. Fall 2021.

“The Sacramental Imagination.” Harvard Divinity School. Spring 2021.

“Foucault, Religion, Christianity.” Harvard Divinity School. Fall 2020.

“Love and Loss.” Harvard Divinity School. Fall 2020.

Teaching Assistant, Boston University Prison Education Program.

“Contemporary American Fiction.” Massachusetts Correctional Institution – Norfolk. Fall 2015.

## **AWARDS, HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS**

Junior Weillienne Scholar Grant. American Weil Society. Spring 2022.

General Exams Passed. Spring 2021.

1. Theory and Method in the Study of Religion
2. Modern West: Sovereignty and Political Theology

3. Specialization: Sacramental and Mystical Theologies

4. Specialization: Georges Bataille and Simone Weil

Harvard Summer School Tuition Fellowship. Harvard University. Summer 2019.

Karbank Fellowship. Boston University. Summer 2015.

### **PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS**

Lumen Christi Institute Seminar. "Catholic Social Thought: A Critical Investigation." Berkeley, CA. Summer 2019.

### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES**

American Academy of Religion. Member.

American Weil Society. Member.

### **LANGUAGES**

#### **French**

Advanced speaking and reading knowledge (High Pass: Harvard Divinity School Qualifying Exam, 2015).

#### **German**

Advanced reading knowledge (High Pass: Harvard Divinity School Qualifying Exam, 2017).