

THE REV. E. ROSS KANE, PH.D.

Virginia Theological Seminary
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Academic Appointments

Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia

Associate Professor of Theology, Ethics, and Culture	<i>2022-present</i>
Director of Doctoral Programs	<i>2017-present</i>
Assistant Professor of Theology, Ethics, and Culture	<i>2017-2022</i>

Education

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia *May 2017*

Ph.D. in Religious Studies, concentration in Theology, Ethics, and Culture

Advisors: Charles Mathewes and Paul Dafydd Jones

Dissertation: *The Syncretism of Tradition: Reappraising Cultural Mixture in Christianity*

Duke University Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina *May 2009*

Master of Divinity with Certificate in Anglican Studies

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia *May 2002*

B.A. in Foreign Affairs with a minor in Religious Studies

Publications

Books

Syncretism and Christian Tradition: Race and Revelation in the Study of Religious Mixture. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

The Good News of Church Politics. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2024.

with Simeon Ilesanmi, ed, essay collection on African political theologies in the Routledge series *Transforming Political Theologies*, forthcoming.

Peer-Reviewed Essays

s.v. "Syncretism," in *Routledge Encyclopedia of African Studies*, forthcoming. Article-length encyclopedia entry.

"Political *Ressourcement*: Decolonizing through Retrieval in African Political Theologies." *Political Theology*, 24:2 (2023), pp. 148-163.

"Inculturation as Doctrinal Development." *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, 24.2 (2022), pp 237-256.

"Reforming Tradition: Anglican Spirited Continuity." *Anglican Theological Review*, invited article in *Brief Introductions to Anglican Theology* series, 104.2 (2022), pp. 177-193.

"Plural Politics as Christian Discipleship: A Response to Markham." *Anglican Theological Review*, 102, No. 2 (Winter 2020), pp. 193-199.

"Tragedies of Communion: Seeking Reconciliation amid Colonial Legacies." *Anglican Theological Review*, 97, No. 3 (Summer 2015), pp. 391-412.

"Ritual Formation of Peaceful Publics: Sacrifice and Syncretism in South Sudan." *Journal of Religion in Africa*, 44, No. 3/4 (2014), pp. 386-410.

"Negotiating tension toward a hipper groove: Jazz improvisation as a metaphor within Christian ethics" *Theology*, 115, No. 1 (2012), pp. 36-43.

Book Reviews

"*Effective Altruism and Religion: Synergies, Tensions, Dialogue* by Dominic Roser, Stefan Riedener, Markus Huppenbauer (eds)." Review in *Anglican Theological Review*, forthcoming.

"*The Facts on the Ground: A Wisdom Theology of Culture* by William A. Dyrness." Review in *Theology Today* 79.4 (2023), pp. 464-465.

"*Asian Americans and the Spirit of Racial Capitalism* by Jonathan Tran." Review in *Theology Today* 79.4 (2023): 458-459.

"*Resurrecting Democracy: Faith, Citizenship, and the Politics of a Common Life* by Luke Bretherton." Review in *Anglican Theological Review*, 100.1 (2018), pp. 167-170.

"*The Ethics of Everyday Life: Moral Theology, Social Anthropology, and the Imagination of the Human* by Michael Banner." Review in *Anglican Theological Review*, 98, No. 4 (2016), pp. 747-749.

"*Music as Theology: What Music Says about the Word* by Maeve Louise Heaney." Review in *Theology*, 116, No. 6 (2013), pp. 463-464.

"*Worship Across the Racial Divide: Religious Music and the Multiracial Congregation* by Gerardo Marti." Review in *Theology*, 116, No. 2 (2013), pp 150-151.

"*America's Four Gods: What We Say About God and What that Says about Us* by Paul Froese and Christopher Bader." Review in *Conversations in Religion and Theology*, 9.1 (2011), pp. 95-102.

Popular Publications and Media

Host of the “Love Your Neighbor” podcast, launching 2024.

Bimonthly newsletter “Ministry, Ethics, and Culture,” <https://rosskane.substack.com>.

“Kwame Bediako’s Christianity without Domination”: review of *Kwame Bediako: African Theology for a World Christianity* by Tim Hartman.” *Christian Century*, 140.5 (2023), pp. 79-81.

with Simeon Ilesanmi, “New Directions in African Political Theologies,” *The Political Theology Network*, October 8, 2021.

“Theology’s Insult: How Syncretism Became a Bad Word,” *Christian Century*, 138.12 (2021), pp. 22-25. (Cover article)

“*The Birth of Modern Belief: Faith and Judgment from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment* by Ethan Shagan.” Review in *Christian Century*, 136.11 (2019), pp. 52-53

“The Communion of Ancestors: From Africa, a Case for Reverencing the Dead”, *Christian Century*, 135.8 (2018), pp. 30-33.

“Should Episcopalians Repent? American Liberals in a Global Communion”, *Christian Century*, 133.4 (2016), pp. 32-36.

“Training in transcendence”, *Faith and Leadership*, Duke Divinity School publication, August 2014, <http://www.faithandleadership.com/content/ross-kane-we-need-training-transcendence>.

“Is the Church Helping? Christians and the Conflict in South Sudan”, *Christian Century*, 131.10 (2014), pp. 11-12.

“In South Sudan, We Do Not Lose Heart”, *Faith and Leadership*, February 2014, <http://www.faithandleadership.com/content/ross-kane-south-sudan-we-do-not-lose-heart>.

“Sustaining relationships in a changing mission paradigm,” *Faith and Leadership*, November 2010, <http://www.faithandleadership.com/content/sustaining-relationships-changing-mission-paradigm>.

“Tension gives it groove,” *Faith and Leadership*, August 2009, <http://www.faithandleadership.com/tension-gives-it-groove>.

Numerous publications in parish and church newsletters.

Conference Presentations

“The Ethics of Authenticity in the Quests for Jesus.” Historical Jesus Unit, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 18-22, 2022.

Panelist for AAR/Oxford University Press book series “Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion.” Publications Committee, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 18-22, 2022.

“Is Christ’s Body Gentrified?: An Analysis of Congregations and Gentrification.” Ethnicity Unit, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 18-22, 2022.

“Teaching the Saints Through Comparative Pedagogy.” Panel presentation of the Hagiography Society, Annual Meeting of the *American Academy of Religion*, November 19-23, 2021.

“Anglican Parish Model: Tool of Racism or Antiracism?”. Anglican Social Ethics and the Search for Justice, Workshop for *Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes*, August 13, 2020.

Respondent for discussion of Michael Banner’s *The Ethics of Everyday Life*. Anglican Theological Ethics Working Group, Annual Meeting of the *Society of Christian Ethics*, January 9-12, 2020.

“Enlarging the Cloud of Witnesses: Ancestors and the Church in Jean-Marc Éla and Kwame Bediako”. Ecclesiological Investigations Unit and African Association for the Study of Religion, Annual Meeting of the *American Academy of Religion*, November 17-20, 2018.

Keynote Address for annual chaplains’ conference, *National Association of Episcopal Schools*, May 2018.

“Reforming Tradition: A Protestant Account of Spirited Continuity”. Christian Systematic Theology Unit, Annual Meeting of the *American Academy of Religion*, November 18-21, 2017.

“Sola Scriptura or the White Man’s Book?: Negotiating Reformation Legacies in the Global South”. History of Christianity Unit, Annual Meeting of the *American Academy of Religion*, November 18-21, 2017.

“The Politics of Sexuality: Global and Colonial Dynamics of Anglican Ecclesial Divisions”. Ecclesial Investigations Group, Annual Meeting of the *American Academy of Religion*, November 18-22, 2016.

“Renewing Sacrifice: Rituals of Social Healing in South Sudan”. Religions, Social Conflict, and Peace Group, Annual Meeting of the *American Academy of Religion*, November 21-24, 2015

“What’s in a Name?: How the Concept of Ethnicity impacts War and Peace in South Sudan”. American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan Annual Conference, October 22-24, 2015.

“Kingian Coalitions: Mobilizing for Peace through Synthetic Ritual”. Martin Luther King Theology Group, Annual Meeting of the *American Academy of Religion*, November 22-26, 2014.

“Rooted in Scripture and Tradition”. Panel Presentation for the Society of Scholar Priests, June 26-28, 2014.

“A Methodology of Meta-mixture: Interpreting Bovine Peace Sacrifice in South Sudan”. *Remixing Religion* Conference at University of Texas, Austin, April 4-6, 2014.

Courses Taught

Ministry in Context: Methods of Doctoral Study (doctoral)

Pluralism and Ministry (doctoral)

Biblical and Theological Studies I (doctoral)

Biblical and Theological Studies II (doctoral)

The Historical Witness of the Church, Reformation to Present (masters)

Cross Cultural Colloquy (masters)

Christianity and Modern Politics (masters)

Service

Academic Service

Co-chair for Internal Evaluation and Planning, Steering Committee for	
VTS Self-Study with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)	2021-2024
Chair, Faculty Doctoral Committee	2017-present
Christian Ethics Faculty Search	2021-2022
Church Music Faculty Search	2019-2020
Christian Formation and Practical Theology Faculty Search	2018-2019
Learning Management System Advisory Committee	2017-2018
Referee, Anglican Theological Review	2015-present
Blurber for Routledge Press	2021

Supervision of Theses

Advisor:

- Bingham Powell, “Learning from Each Other: Toward an Episcopal Understanding of Testimony,” DMin thesis, 2023. (Doctoral Thesis Award recipient)
- Jeff Littlefield, “Becoming a Safer and More Welcoming Place for Conversations about Mental Health and Mental Illness: Transformation at St. Bart's,” DMin thesis, 2023.
- Stephen Schmidt, “Pastoring Evolving Faiths: Faith Deconstruction and Reconstruction in a Post-Evangelical Church,” DMin thesis, 2023.
- Robert Renix, “Welcoming People with Serious Mental Illness into the Body of Christ,” DMin thesis, 2022. (Doctoral Thesis Award recipient)
- Alberto Moreno Casas, “By His Wounds We Are Healed: Healing Prayer in a Holistic, Eucharistic and Latin American Approach,” DMin thesis, 2022.
- Ambrose Adega, “Church in the Forefront: Addressing Violence against Women in the Diocese of Bondo,” MA thesis, 2021.
- Olaph Mhema, “The Significance of Inculturation for Evangelism: A Case Study of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania,” MA thesis, 2021.
- Nyasha Gumbeze, “Evangelistening: Listening as Evangelism in Caring Concern for Community,” DMin thesis, 2020.
- Guimond Pierre Louis, “Living the Gospel in Haiti with *Konbit*: The Intersection of the Gospel and Culture for a Responsive and Responsible Church,” MA thesis, 2020.
- Hosam Elias Naoum, “Reimagining Women’s Ministry and Leadership in Light of the Eucharist: A Palestinian Anglican Perspective,” DMin thesis, 2020. (Doctoral Thesis Award recipient)

Mwape Musondo, “A Community Covenant for Change in Zambia: A Study of Early Girl-Child Marriage and Education,” DMin thesis, 2019.

Adam Trambley, “Discovering God in the City: Prayerwalking with Community Leaders,” DMin thesis, 2018.

Advising in process: Ashley Brandon, Katherine Stanford, Eric Dixon, David Hilton Jackson, Randy Alexander

Reader:

Doctoral: Lynne Jones (2023), Kate Kelderman (2022), Jerald Hyche (2022), Timothy Holder (2021), Susan Snook (2020), Jeunee Godsey (2020), Jamie Pahl (2018)

Masters: Carolyn Adhola (2023), Elta Wilson (2019)

Awards, Honors, and Grants

Conant Grant Research Grant, The Episcopal Church, 2023-2024

The Suzanne F. Thomas Award for Faculty Research, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2022

Wabash Grant, “Enhanced Integration of the Christian Spirituality Track in VTS Doctoral Programs”, 2018-2019

Honoree for Alexandria, Virginia’s *40 under 40* inaugural awards in 2016

University of Virginia (Ph.D.): Skinner Scholar, 2011-2016

Duke University: Graduation *summa cum laude*

Duke Scholar, three-year tuition scholarship (Divinity School’s highest scholarship)

U.Va. (undergraduate): Graduation with Distinction

Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society for Religious Studies/Theology

Languages

Proficient Spanish; Proficient reading in German, French, and Biblical Greek.

Church Employment

St Paul’s Episcopal Church – Alexandria, VA

2009-2017

Associate Rector and Senior Associate Rector

Volunteer with Episcopal Church Young Adult Service Corps 2002-2005

Liaison and Resource Mobilization Officer for The New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC)

The Church of the Holy Family – Chapel Hill, NC 2007-2009

Seminarian

The Chapel of the Cross – Chapel Hill, NC *Summer 2007*

Seminarian

Lambeth Conference 2008 – Canterbury, United Kingdom *Summer 2008*

Resident Steward

Duke Center for Reconciliation – Durham, NC 2007-2009

Student Associate for Great Lakes Initiative, Africa

Additional Relevant Experience

Community Organizing Leadership and Development Training *June 2013*

Industrial Areas Foundation

Clinical Pastoral Education – University of North Carolina Hospital *Summer 2009*

Summer Chaplain – Experience ministering in trauma, long-term illness, and end of life care.

Serco, Inc. – Vienna, Virginia 2005-2006

Project Controller for program facilitating prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault within the armed forces. Learned practices of care for social workers serving in adverse situations.