

Hannah Black, PhD

July 2025

Visiting Professor of History and Theology, Virginia Theological Seminary
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EDUCATION

- 2023 PhD in Divinity, University of Cambridge, Clare College
Supervisor: Simeon Zahl; Examiners: Mark Smith and Gabrielle Thomas
- 2019 MPhil in Divinity, University of Cambridge, Clare College
Supervisor: Ian McFarland
- 2017 BA in Biblical and Theological Studies, Biola University, Torrey Honors College
- 2016 Scholar's Semester in Oxford (SCIO), University of Oxford, Wycliffe Hall

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2025–2027 Visiting Professor of History and Theology, Virginia Theological Seminary
(Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship)
- 2024–2025 Lecturer, Yale Divinity School
- 2023–2025 Assistant Director, Leadership and Communications, Berkeley Divinity School,
the Episcopal Seminary at Yale
- 2022–2025 Research Fellow, Jonathan Edwards Center, Yale Divinity School
- 2021–2022 Lecturer, University of Cambridge, Westminster College
- 2021–2022 Supervisor, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Divinity
- 2020–2022 Decani Scholar, University of Cambridge, Clare College
The Decani Scholar assists the Dean in leadership of Clare College Chapel.
- 2021 Short-Term Predoctoral Fellowship (Byzantine Studies), Dumbarton Oaks

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Under Contract Gregory of Nyssa. *On the Life of Virtue*. Translated by Hannah Black. Popular Patristics Series. Crestwood, New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2026.

In Review *Re-Imagining Salvation: A Ressourcement of Gregory of Nyssa's Biblical Imaginary for Nonviolent Soteriology*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2025.

Articles

In Review "Sea Monsters in Soteriology: The Misconception of Gregory of Nyssa as a Ransom Theorist."

Book Reviews

- 2021 Review of *The Image of God in the Theology of Gregory of Nazianzus*, by Gabrielle Thomas in *Modern Theology* 38, no. 3 (September 2021): 645-648.
- 2018 Review of *Christian Women in the Patristic World*, by Lynn H. Cohick and Amy Brown Hughes. *Cultural Encounters* 14, no. 1.

- 2018 Review of *How Repentance Became Biblical*, by David A. Lambert. *Cultural Encounters* 14, no. 1.

Popular Publications and Work

- 2025 “What is the Creed?” guest on *And Also With You* podcast
 2025 “The Story of Nicaea,” in *Earth & Altar* magazine
 2024 “What is Hope?” guest on *And Also With You* podcast
 2023–2025 *The Leader’s Way: Yale’s podcast on spirituality, leadership, and theology*, podcast host and producer, episodes 7–55.
 2022 The Book of Job, director of a live performance with organ interludes
 2021 Though Once We Walked in Darkness, Advent carol text for Clare College Choir
 2021 “Who is God?” in *Earth & Altar* magazine
 2021 “Finite Words: A Reflection on T.S. Eliot’s ‘Four Quartets’” in *Macrina Magazine*, no. VII
 2020 “St. Anselm’s Glimpse,” *Noesis*, no. VII

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2025 Award of Excellence for *The Leader’s Way* podcast, Episcopal Communicators Polly Bond Awards
 2024 Dean’s Scholar, Virginia Theological Seminary
 2022 Don Stebbings Prize, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Divinity
 Awarded to students who have given to the department beyond their academic work such as nurturing the spirit of the community.
 2021 Clare–Yale Mellon Fellowship, University of Cambridge, Clare College
 2021 New Visions in Theological Anthropology PhD Student Participation Grant, University of St Andrews
 2019–2021 Liddon Fund, PhD research
 2019–2021 St. Matthias Fund, PhD research
 2017 Order of Peter and Paul (top 10%), Biola University, Torrey Honors College
 2017 G. Campbell Morgan Award, Biola University, Torrey Honors College
 Awarded to one outstanding graduate who continues to pursue God’s truth, thoughtfully and scholastically, creatively and lucidly, and with great relevance in our time.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 “Celebrating the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea,” St. Paul’s Alexandria Horne Dyer Lecture
 2022 “The Soteriological Image of Healing in Gregory of Nyssa’s *Oratio Catechetica*,” Yale Institute of Sacred Music
 2018 Guest Discussion Leader for “Bonhoeffer’s Life Together,” Biola University, Torrey Honors College

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

- 2025 Sea Monsters in Soteriology: The Misconception of Gregory of Nyssa as a Ransom Theorist, The North American Patristics Society (NAPS)
- 2025 Be Still & Know: Preventing Burnout & Rediscovering Joy in Ministry, Forma Conference Workshop
- 2022 Imagery for Soteriological Transformation in *De Anima et Resurrectione*, Gregory of Nyssa: 15th International Colloquium
- 2021 The Soteriological Image of Healing in Gregory of Nyssa's *Oratio Catechetica*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
- 2021 The Κῆτος in the Imagination of the Early Greek Church," Byzantine Society of North America conference: Aquatic Animals in the Global Middle Ages
- 2021 Must Reconciliation Be Violent? Feminist Critiques of Violent Atonement Theories and What is Next, Society for the Study of Theology conference: Reconciliation

Talks and Panels Chaired

- 2024 Chair, Why Feminist Theology Needs Art, Talk by Natalie Carnes, Feminist Theology Network
- 2024 Chair, Let's Bury Atonement Theology for Good, Talk by Rita Nakashima Brock, Feminist Theology Network
- 2023 Chair, The Place of Transgender People in the Church, Fireside Chat with Sophie Grace Chappell, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale
- 2021 Panel Chair at Society for the Study of Theology conference: Reconciliation

Departmental Talks

- 2022 The Question of the Greedy Fish in Gregory of Nyssa's *Oratio Catechetica*, Cambridge University Faculty of Divinity Religions of Late Antiquity Seminar
- 2021 Looking for Sea Monsters: The Κῆτος, Dumbarton Oaks
- 2021 Early Byzantine Portrayals of Crucifixion...or Not? Dumbarton Oaks
- 2021 The Doctrine of the Atonement, Clare-ity Research Symposium, Clare College
- 2019 Gregory of Nyssa's Use of Metaphor to Elucidate the Concept of Spiritual Transformation, Clare-ity Research Symposium, Clare College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Virginia Theological Seminary

- The Historical Witness of the Church (Co-Taught with Katherine Sonderegger)
- The History of The Episcopal Church

Yale University

- The Anglican Way I (Co-Taught with Justin Crisp)
- Ideas of Salvation in Early Christianity (Co-Taught with Teresa Morgan)
- Systematic Theology (Teaching Fellow for Willie Jennings)

University of Cambridge

Theology and Literature
Beginning Biblical Greek

One year of experience teaching high school English.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2025–present Center for Anglican Communion Studies faculty committee, Virginia Theological Seminary
2024–present Theologia leadership team
2023–present Leadership Collective, Feminist Theology Network
Founded in 2023 by Karen O'Donnell
2023–2025 Faculty Advisor, Yale Divinity School Anglican Fellowship Club
2020–2023 Undergraduate Admissions Interviewer, University of Cambridge, Clare College
2021–2022 Editor, *Noesis* Journal, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Divinity
2020 Participant in ecumenical dialogues leading up to the Lambeth Conference at Westminster Abbey
2018–2020 Chapel Warden, University of Cambridge, Clare College Chapel
2019–2020 MCR (Graduate Student Government) Chapel Representative, University of Cambridge, Clare College
2018–2019 MCR (Graduate Student Government) First-Year Officer, University of Cambridge, Clare College

LANGUAGES

Koine Greek (advanced reading)
French (intermediate conversational)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
The North American Patristics Society (NAPS)
International Catacomb Society
Historical Society of The Episcopal Church
Feminist Theology Network