

MARGARET E. ELWELL
Bethany Seminary
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Bethany Seminary Assistant Professor of Peace Studies	2022-current
University of Maryland, College Park Assistant Clinical Professor University Honors	2019-2022

EDUCATION

Princeton Seminary Ph.D., Religion and Society Dissertation: <i>The Timing of Violence: A Critical-Literary Intervention</i>	2019
Princeton Seminary M.Div. Thesis: <i>The Tourist, and Hearing Cassandra: An Essay on Voice</i>	2014
Johns Hopkins University M.A., Teaching Certification in English and Humanities	2009
Swarthmore College B.A., Honors in English Literature and Religion	2007

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

Bethany Seminary	2022-current
Foundations of Peace and Violence; Narrative Theology and Theopoetics; Violence in Story and Theory; Literature of Nonviolence; Historical Fiction and Theory: Reading to Become a Writer (IS); Narrative Ethics and Theopoetics; Policing and Prison; Truth, Lies, and Trust in Storytelling; Race, Racism, and Religion: Bridging the Sunday Morning Divide	
University of Maryland, College Park University Honors	2020-2022
It Happened to Me: Truth, Lies, and Discovery in Memoir and Memory; Suffering and Its Resistance; Uprising, Riot, Revolt: Violence in Story and Theory	

In these courses, students won three Winston Awards for Excellence in Short Essay Writing.

Princeton Seminary	2019
Colloquium in Theology, Women, and Gender	
Baltimore City Public Schools: Baltimore City, MD	2007-2011
English and Humanities Teacher	

Teaching Assistant

Princeton Seminary	2014-2018
Systematic Theology with Professors Keri Day and Stacy Johnson; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Israel/Palestine with Professor Ellen Charry; World Christianity, World Literature with Professor Richard Young; Empire and Capital: Theological Considerations with Professor Mark Lewis Taylor; Women and the History of American Religion with Professor Yolanda Pierce; Jesus Beyond Christianity with Professor Richard Young; Old Testament Studies with Professors Jacqueline Lapsley and Dennis Olsen	

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion and Literature; Frameworks of Social Injustice and Violence; Narrative Ethics; Creative Writing and Theopoetics; Memoir and Traumatic Memory; Literary Theory; Feminisms and Gender; Post-Holocaust Jewish and Christian Theologies; Pedagogy and the Arts

GRANTS

Teaching Innovation Grant, University of Maryland Education System	2020
“Facilitating Hard Conversations and Building Student Community Online: Redesigning Three University Honors Seminars.” \$24,000 divided equally between the three PIs for the purpose of designing intellectual community-building techniques for online instruction.	

SELECT PRESENTATIONS, INVITED LECTURES, PANELS, & CONSULTATIONS

2023	“The Timing of Peace and Violence.” Convocation. Manchester University.
2023	“The Problem of Christian Nationalism for Peacemakers.” Presentation and workshop. North Manchester Church of the Brethren.

- 2023 “Why Peacemakers Have to Start with Violence.” Equipping Session. Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren.
- 2023 “How to Talk About the Next Violent Viral Video.” Equipping Session. Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren.
- 2023 “Claiming Power or Confessing Privilege: Framing Tough Topics.” Women’s Clergy Breakfast. Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren.
- 2023 “Introducing Bethany BOLD.” Board of Trustees, Spring Meeting. Bethany Seminary.
- 2022 Theopoetics panel. Bethany Seminary. Virtual.
- 2022 “New faculty presentation.” Board of Trustees, Fall Meeting. Bethany Seminary.
- 2022 “Responsibility at Sea.” Joint Convocation for Bethany and Earlham School of Religion. Bethany Seminary.
- 2021 “Perspective, Violence, and Empathy: Reading Naomi Alderman’s *The Power*.” The Center for Theology, Women, and Gender. Princeton Seminary. Virtual.
- 2018 “Reading into Separation: Women’s Novels and Other Theological Texts in the 19th Century.” Women and the History of American Religion. Princeton Seminary.
- 2018 “How Are We Reading? Author, Text, and Reader in Making Meaning from Novels.” World Christianity, World Literature. Princeton Seminary.
- 2017 “I, Feminist: Tracing American Feminist Theologies from the Mid-Twentieth Century.” Women & History of American Religion. Princeton Seminary.
- 2016 “Buried Violence and the Power of Memory: Reading Teju Cole’s *Open City*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Arts, Literature, and Religion Section Unit.
- 2016 “So Here’s a Story: U.S.-American Mythmaking and the Transmission of Knowledge About Place into Power.” *Empire & Capital: Theological Considerations*. Princeton Seminary.
- 2015-2016 Consultant for troubleshooting and improvement of the Writing Center. Princeton Seminary.

PUBLICATIONS

Maggie Elwell and Dan Poole, “A Profile in Resiliency: One Student’s Growth in a New Neighborhood Engagement Program.” *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*, Vol. 44 (February 2024), online.

Margaret Elwell, Commentary, “Mary, Did You Know? Luke 1:39-56.” *Political Theology Network* (December 2018). <<https://politicaltheology.com/mary-did-you-know-luke-139-56/>>

Margaret Elwell, Book Review, *The Age of the Spirit: How the Ghost of an Ancient Controversy is Shaping the Church*. By Phyllis Tickle with Jon M. Sweeney. *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, 37:2 (January 2015), 287-288.

UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

2024 “Turn to Him the Other Also.” *Under Review*.

2024 *Bethany BOLD* book project. *In Preparation*.

2024 *The Overhead: A Novel*. *In Preparation*.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Director of Bethany BOLD Bethany Seminary	2023-current
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Director of the Center for Theology, Women, and Gender Princeton Seminary	2018-2019
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Lilly Foundation Grant for the Iron Sharpens Iron Initiative—Research Princeton Seminary	2018
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Program Coordinator: First Annual Conference for Women in Ministry Princeton Seminary	2016-2017
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Experiential Learning Workgroup—Chair Bethany Seminary	2022-2023
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Hiring Committee for Coordinator for Community Engagement—Chair Bethany Seminary	2022-2023
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Pedagogical Innovation Committee—Lead Member University of Maryland, College Park University Honors	2021-2022
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Ph.D. Students’ Writing Workshop—Co-moderator Princeton Seminary	2018-2019
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Religion & Society Program Committee—Student Representative Princeton Seminary	2017-2018
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Ph.D. Student Group on Race and Racism—Co-moderator Princeton Seminary	2014-2016
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Kiwanis Club—Member Richmond, IN	2022-current
Writing Tutor and Judge, James Baldwin Annual Essay Contest Baltimore City College High School, Baltimore, MD	2019-current
Women in Ministry Committee—Member Princeton, NJ	2016-2019
Program Coordinator for Hurricane Sandy Response Princeton Community Action Network, Princeton, NJ	2012-2014
Back on My Feet—Non-residential member Helping Up Mission, Baltimore, MD	2008-2011

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Academy of Religion
Arts, Literature, and Religion unit
Women and Religion unit

LANGUAGES

French (Reading and Translation)
German (Reading and Translation)
Greek, Koine (Reading and Translation)
Hebrew, biblical (Reading and Translation)

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

2022	Outstanding Contributions to the University Honors Program, University of Maryland
2014-2019	Doctoral Merit Fellowship, Princeton Seminary
2014	Senior Fellowship for Best Thesis, Princeton Seminary

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024	Roundtable Seminar for Newly Appointed Faculty Association of Theological Schools
2021	Mental Health First Aid Certification National Council for Mental Well-Being
2019-2020	Launch Program for New Faculty Teaching & Learning Transformation Center University of Maryland, College Park