

Steve L. Porter

Senior Research Fellow and Executive Director
Martin Institute for Christianity and Culture
Westmont College
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Philosophy (Merit Fellow), University of Southern California, 2003
Dissertation title: Restoring the Foundations of Epistemic Justification: A Direct Realist and Non-Conceptualist Theory of Foundationalism
Supervisor: Dallas Willard
- M.Phil. Philosophical Theology, Oriel College, University of Oxford, 2001
Thesis title: The Logic of the Christian Doctrine of the Atonement

—present

Affiliate Professor of Spiritual Formation and Theology, Biola University, August 2022–present
Professor of Spiritual Formation, Theology and Philosophy, Biola University, August 2018–August 2022.
Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy, Biola University, August 2006–July 2018.
Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy, Biola University, August 2003–July 2006.
Scholar in Residence, Biola University Center for Christian Thought, August 2015–2018.
Associate Director, Biola University Center for Christian Thought, August 2011–May 2015.
Editor, _____, August 2017–present.
Managing Editor, _____, January 2008–August 2017.
Adjunct Lecturer in Theology and Philosophy, Biola University, 1996–2000 and 2001–2003.
Tutor in Philosophy of Religion and Ethics, d’Overbroeck’s School (Oxford, England), 2000–2001.

PUBLICATIONS

Single-Authored Books:

1. _____
(Lanham, MY: Lexington Books, 2006).

Edited Books:

1. _____ (Downer’s Grove, IL: IVP, 2019). Edited with Tom Crisp and Gregg Ten Elshof.
2. _____, by Dallas Willard (New York: Routledge, 2018). Edited with Aaron Preston and Gregg Ten Elshof.
3. _____ (Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 2018). Edited with Gary W. Moon and J.P. Moreland.
4. _____ (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016). Edited with Tom Crisp and Gregg TenEslhof.
5. _____ (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014). Edited with Tom Crisp and Gregg Ten Elshof.

Peer-Reviewed Journal articles:

1. Wang, D. C., Reed, A., Greggo, S., Bowersox, L., Drennan, A., Strawn, B., King, P., Porter, S. L., Hill, P. C. (in press). On the role of seminaries in student formation: An exploratory study with four selected institutions.
2. “Christian Spiritual Formation as Public Knowledge,” *_____* 15:2 (2022): 173–183.

3. "Does Christianity Work?," with David C. Wang, 14:2 (2021) 131–136.
4. "Ecumenical and Traditioned Measurement: Measuring Christian Maturation Across Distinct Traditions of Christian Spirituality," with David C. Wang, Alexis Abernethy, Shawn Strout, William Dillard, Amos Yong, and Willem van Vlastuin, 14:2 (2021) 137–161.
5. "Measuring the Spiritual, Character, and Moral Formation of Seminarians: In Search of a Meta-Theory of Spiritual Change," 12:1 (2019) 5-24.
6. "Will/Heart/Spirit: Discipleship that Forms the Christian Character," 16:1 (2019) 79–94.
7. "Teach Me What I Do Not See: Lessons for the Church from a Global Pandemic," with Kelly M. Kopic, Ruth Haley Barton, Diane J. Chandler, Siang-Yang Tan, James C. Wilhoit, and Richard Peace, 14:1 (2021).
8. "The Sanctifying Work of the Holy Spirit: Revisiting Alston's Interpersonal Model," with Brandon Rickabaugh, (2018).
9. "The Evidential Force of Spiritual Maturity and the Christian Doctrine of Sanctification," (2018).
- 10.

Ward Davis, Everett Worthington, and Sarah Schnitker, eds.,
(Springer, 2022).

4. "The Sanctifying Work of the Holy Spirit in Christian Virtue Formation," co-authored with Brandon Rickabaugh in Adam C. Pelser and W. Scott Cleveland, eds.,
(Oxford University Press, 2021).
5. "Becoming Honest: Why We Lie and What Can Be Done About It," co-authored with Jason Baehr in Christian Miller and Ryan West, eds.,
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020).
- 6.

11. "A Concise Summary of Reformed Theology," a review of Donald McKim,
(Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001) in 31:2
(2003) 159–160.
12. "Seeker-Sensitive Atheism," a review of Kai Nielsen, (Amherst, NY:
Prometheus, 2001) in 31:3 (2003) 287.
13. "Have You Ever Wanted to Read Calvin's Institutes?," a review of Donald McKim,
(Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2001) in
31:3 (2003) 287.
14. A review of Richard Swinburne, (Oxford: Clarendon, 1989) in
2:2 (2000).

- John Templeton Foundation Grant #59898
The Spiritual, Character, and Virtue Formation of Seminarians, Co-Project Leader (2016–2019)
- John Templeton Foundation Grant #59898
Biola University Center for Christian Thought, Assistant Project Leader (2015–2018)
- Templeton Religion Trust Grant #0062
Biola University Center for Christian Thought, Assistant Project Leader (2012–

Baylor University's Institute for Faith and Learning Conference, October 2019 (Baylor University)

- Accepted Paper: "The Effects of the Disappearance of Moral Knowledge on Virtue Acquisition"

The Emeritus Forum, May 2019 (Saddleback College)

- Inv

The Holy Spirit and Christian Formation Conference, March 2015 (Regent University)

- Accepted Paper: “The Activity of the Holy Spirit in Sanctification: Fiat, Interpersonal, or Life-Sharing?”

American Academy of Religion, November 2014 (San Diego, CA)

- Invited Paper: “Willard and the Disappearance of Moral Knowledge”

Evangelical Theological Society National Conference, November 2014 (San Diego, CA)

- Accepted Paper: “The Activity of the Holy Spirit in Sanctification: Fiat, Interpersonal, or Life-Sharing?”

6 Annual Logos Workshop in Philosophical Theology, May 2014 (University of Notre Dame)

- Invited Response: “Communal Substitutionary Atonement and the Justice Worry: A Response to Thurow”

Intellectual Virtues Pedagogy Seminar, July 2013 and March 2014 (Loyola Marymount University)

- Co-led seminar for elementary, middle school, and high school level teachers on “Educating for Intellectual Virtues”

Evangelical Theological Society National Conference, November 2013 (Baltimore, MD)

- Accepted Paper: “Why is Spiritual Growth so Slow? as Habituated, Relational Resistance to the Holy Spirit”

Educating for Intellectual Virtues Conference, June 2013 (Loyola Marymount University)

- Accepted Paper: “Intellectual Therapy: A Therapeutic Approach to Intellectual Virtue Formation”

New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology Group, May 2013 (University of Oxford)

- Invited Paper: “The Evidential Force of Spiritual Maturity”

Psychology and Religion Research Group, May 2013 (University of Cambridge)

- Invited Paper: “The Cure for Anxiety: Jesus, Freud, and Prozac”

Joseph Butler Society, May 2013 (Oriel College, University of Oxford)

- Invited Paper: “Christian Sanctification and the Evidential Force of Spiritual Maturity”

Arizona Christian University, March 2013 (Phoenix, AZ)

- Invited Paper: “Spiritual Formation in the Classroom: The Problem of Slow Change”

Arizona Christian University, March 2013 (Phoenix, AZ)

- Invited Paper: “Why Don’t We Grow?: The Flesh as Habituated, Relational Resistance to the Holy Spirit”

University of Notre Dame Philosophy of Religion Cluster Fellowship, March 2013 (Phoenix, AZ)

- Invited Paper: “Four considerations in Favor of Penal Substitution”

Regent University’s Center for Spiritual Renewal Conference, February 2013 (Virginia Beach, VA)

- Accepted Paper: “Why Don’t We Grow?: The Flesh as Habituated, Relational Resistance to the Holy Spirit”

Evangelical Theological Society National Conference, November 2012 (Milwaukee, WI)

- Accepted Paper: “Christian Sanctification and the Evidential Force of Spiritual Maturity”

Heart and Soul Conference, June 2012 (La Canada, CA).

- Invited Lecture: “Suffering as a Means of Spiritual Growth”

Council of Christian Colleges and Universities/International Justice Mission Academic Pre-Conference, April 2011 (Washington, D.C.)

- “Spiritual Formation and the Social Justice Turn”

Evangelical Theological Society National Conference, November 2011 (Atlanta, GA)

- “Why Should We Read Spiritual Classics?: Three Theological Rationales for the Practice of Spiritual Reading”

Center for Individual and Family Therapy, November 2011 (Orange, CA)

- “Psychopathology and Hermatology”

Biola University ISF Lecture Series, October 2011 (La Mirada, CA)

- “Taking Sin More Seriously”

Biola University Apologetics Lectures, July 2010 (La Mirada, CA)

- “The Evidential Value of Spiritual Maturity”

Center for Individual and Family Therapy, July 2010 (Orange, CA)

- “The Challenge of Spiritual Immaturity in the Life of the Therapist”

Center for Individual and Family Therapy, April 2010 (Orange, CA)

- “Taking Sin More Seriously”

Renovare International Conference, June 2009 (San Antonio, TX)

- “How We Lost the Way: Learning from the Historical Neglect of Spiritual Formation”

ISF Lecture Series, October 2008 (La Mirada, CA)

- “The Catastrophe of Following Jesus”

Center for Individual and Family Training, August 2008 (Orange, CA)

- “The Cure for Anxiety: Jesus, Freud, and Prozac”

American Philosophical Society Pacific Division Society of Christian Philosophers, March 2008 (Pasadena, CA)

- “Contentment as a Christian Virtue”

Rock Harbor University Theology Intensives, October 2007 (Costa Mesa, CA)

- The Doctrine of Scripture

Colorado Springs Christian Counselors, October 2007 (Colorado Springs, CO)

- “The Cure for Anxiety: Jesus, Freud, and Prozac”

Denver Seminary, October 2007 (Denver, CO)

- “The Cure for Anxiety: Jesus, Freud, and Prozac”

Apologetics/Worldview Conference, April 2007 (Bellevue, WA)

- “Is Jesus the Only Way?”

- “The Challenge of Religious Pluralism”

- “Why Doesn't God Intervene More Often?”

Evangelical Theological Society National Conference, November 2006 (Washington, D.C.)

- “The Sanctification Gap Revisited”
- “A Plea for an Evangelical Spiritual Theology”

Torrey Context Lectures, September 2006 (La Mirada, CA)

- “Jonathan Edwards on Why Christians Don’t Grow”

Evangelical Theological Society Far-West Division Meeting, April 2006 (La Mirada, CA)

- “The Sanctification Gap Revisited”

G. Campbell Morgan Theology Seminar, March 2006 (La Mirada, CA)

- “The Doctrine of Sanctification”

Taylor University, September 2005 (Fort Wayne, IN)

- “The Value of Spiritual Formation”
- “Spiritual Formation in the Christian University”

Evangelical Theological Society National Conference, November 2004 (San Antonio, TX)

- “Sanctification in a New Key: Relieving Evangelical Anxieties over Spiritual Formation”

Gifford International Conference, May 2000 (University of Aberdeen, Scotland)

- “God and the Moral Order: A Response to C. Stephen Layman,” May 2000.

Evangelical Theological Society Far-West Regional Meeting, June 1998 (San Diego, CA)

- “The Evangelical Embrace of Postmodernity: How Far Is Too Far?”

MEMBERSHIPS

Evangelical Theological Society

Christian Association for Psychological Studies

Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

American Academy of Religion