

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Brian D. Ingraffia  
2240 Bentbrook Ct. SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508  
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Associate Professor  
Calvin College  
Department of English  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-526-8595

### EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine  
Ph.D. in American Literature. Critical Theory Emphasis. 1993.  
M.A. in English. 1986.

University of Texas at Austin  
B.A. in Plan II Liberal Arts Honors Program. *Summa Cum Laude*. 1984.

### DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

“Vanquishing God’s Shadow: Postmodern Theory, Ontotheology, and Biblical Theology”  
Dissertation Committee: John Carlos Rowe (Chair), J. Hillis Miller, and Stephen Barney

### MASTER’S THESIS

“Abreactions of Abaddon: Pynchon’s *Gravity’s Rainbow* as Demonic Parody”

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Twentieth-Century American Literature  
Postmodern American Fiction  
Postmodern Theory  
African American Literature

Religion and Literature  
Hermeneutics  
Literary and Critical Theory  
Postcolonial African Literature

### PROFESSIONAL WORK

Book manuscript review for University of Virginia Press	2010-2011
Peer review for <i>Religion and Literature</i>	2008 & 2013
Peer Review for <i>MFS Modern Fiction Studies</i>	2009
Conference on Christianity and Literature Nominations Committee	2009-2010
Book series review for Baker Academic Press	2008
Chair, Christianity and Literature Publication Committee	2006
Conference on Christianity and Literature Publication Committee	1996 & 2005
Book manuscript review for Cambridge University Press.	1998-2001
Book manuscript review for Duke University Press	1997 and 2001
Peer review for <i>Christianity and Literature</i>	1997-2000
Referee for Pew Charitable Trusts Fellowship	1997-1998

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Irvine  
Teaching Associate

1985-1992

W139 (A)Theism in Modern Philosophy and Contemporary U.S. Culture  
W139 Postmodern Theory and Culture  
E28B Drama: Tragedy and Comedy  
E28C Novel: Realism and Romance  
W39A Composition  
W39B Expository Writing  
W39C Rhetoric

University of California, Davis  
Lecturer, Comparative Literature Program

1993

CL3 The Crisis of Modernism (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century World Literature)  
CL1 From Myth to Faith (Ancient, Classical, Biblical and Early Christian Literature)  
CL161 Comedy (Drama and Novel)

Biola University, La Mirada, CA  
Assistant Professor  
Associate Professor

1993-1996

1996-2002

E470 Postmodern as Post-Secular?: Religion and Postmodern World Literature  
E470 Chicano/a Literature: 1949-1999  
E470 Ministers in A-Maze: Representations of Ministers in Western Literature  
E470 Totalitarianism and Religion  
E470 Innocence and Naivet  : The Holy Fool in World Literature  
E470 Narratives of Conversion in the Anglo-American Novel  
E452 Contemporary Literary Theory  
E451 History of Critical Theory: Plato to Eliot  
E451 Reason, Faith, and Imagination in the History of Critical Theory  
E450 Introduction to Critical Theory  
E430 The Christ-Haunted South: Religion, Race, and Violence in Southern Literature  
E360 Postmodern American Fiction and Theory  
E360 Modern American Literature: Realism, Naturalism, Modernism  
E360 Nineteenth-Century American Literature: Romanticism and Its Discontents  
E360 Early American Literature  
E250 Narratives of American Selves: Religion, Race, and Gender (survey)  
E240 American Literature and Religion  
110A Composition and Rhetoric  
110B Introduction to Literature

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI  
Associate Professor

2002-present

E395 Senior seminar  
E370 Literary Theory  
E312 Postmodern American Literature  
E311 Modern American Literature  
E318 Postcolonial African Literature  
E283 African American Literature  
E218 Survey of American Literature (Civil War to Present)  
DCM "Better to Discern than Burn": Reading Banned Books  
E 12 The Meaning of the Blues  
E101 Written Rhetoric

Calvin Entrada Program. Gateway courses for ethnic minority high school students.  
Course in African American Literature. 2011-2014.

Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning (C.A.L.L.). Course on "The Spirituals and the Blues." Spring 2012.

## **DEPARTMENTAL AND COLLEGE-WIDE COMMITTEES**

Honors and Scholarships Committee (English Department)  
Library Liaison for English Department  
Multicultural Affairs Committee  
Dean Search Committee  
Student Development Committee (English Department)  
Gender Equity Committee (Secretary)  
Gender Equity Committee (Chair)  
Secretary for English Department meetings  
Faculty Development Committee (Secretary)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association  
Northeast Modern Language Association  
Conference on Christianity and Literature  
International Society for Religion, Literature, and Culture  
Flannery O'Connor Society

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- “Deadly Conversions”: Louise Erdrich’s Indictment of Catholicism in *Tracks*, *Love Medicine*, and *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*. Forthcoming in Christianity and Literature. 2015. (29 pages).
- “Self-Torture in Flannery O’Connor’s *Wise Blood*.” Flannery O’Connor Review. Vol. 7. 2009. 78-86.
- “Oscar Hijuelos: *Mr. Ives’ Christmas*.” The Emmaus Readers: Listening for God in Contemporary Fiction. Ed. Susan Felch and Gary Schmidt. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2008. 170-183.
- Brian D. Ingraffia and Todd E. Pickett. “Reviving the Power of Biblical Language: The Bible, Literature, and Literary Language.” After Pentecost: Language and Biblical Interpretation. Ed. Craig Bartholomew, Colin Greene, and Karl Möller. Paternoster 2001. 241-262.
- Review essay on Thomas A. Carlson’s *Indiscretion: Finitude and the Naming of God* (University of Chicago Press, 1999) and *Religion*, ed. Jacques Derrida and Gianni Vattimo (Stanford University Press, 1998). Religion and Literature. Spring 2000. 117-122.
- “Deconstructing the Tower of Babel: Ontotheology and the Postmodern Bible.” Renewing Biblical Interpretation. Ed. Craig Bartholomew, Colin Greene, and Karl Möller. Paternoster 2000. 284-306.
- “Is the Postmodern Post-Secular?: The Parody of Religious Quests in Pynchon’s *The Crying of Lot 49* and DeLillo’s *White Noise*.” Postmodern Philosophy and Christian Thought. Ed. Merold Westphal. Indiana University Press. 1999. 44-68.
- “Neither Jew Nor Greek’: Judaism, Christianity, and Ontotheology.” Christianity and Literature. Volume 48. Number 4. Summer 1999. 497-510.
- Ingraffia, Brian D., Kevin Mills, and Daniel E. Ritchie. “Responses to Lloyd Davies’ ‘Covenantal Hermeneutics and the Redemption of Theory.’” Christianity and Literature. Volume 47. Number 3. Spring 1998. 353-67.
- “Martin Heidegger.” Cyclopedia of World Authors. Revised Third Edition. Ed. Frank N. Magill. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem Press. 1997.
- Postmodern Theory and Biblical Theology: Vanquishing God’s Shadow. Cambridge University Press. 1995(UK)/1996(US).

## REVIEWS

Review of Mark C. Taylor. *Rewiring the Real: In Conversation with William Gaddis*,

- Richard Powers, Mark Danielewski, and Don DeLillo.* (U of Columbia Press, 2013). Studies in the Novel. Volume 47. Number 1
- Review of Qiana J. Whitted. "*A God of Justice?*": *The Problem of Evil in Twentieth-Century Black Literature*. (U of Virginia Press, 2009). Literature and Theology. Volume 24. Number 2. 2010. 194-196.
- Review of Roger Lundin, ed. *There Before Us: Religion, Literature, and Culture from Emerson to Wendell Berry* (William B. Eerdmans 2007). Religion and Literature. Volume 40. Number 2. Summer 2008. 99-102.
- Review of Myron B. Penner, ed. *Christianity and the Postmodern Turn: Six Views*. (Brazos Press, 2005). Christian Scholar's Review. Volume 35. Number 3. Spring 2006. 426-429.
- Review of Wesley A. Kort's "*Take, Read?*: *Scripture, Textuality, and Cultural Practice* (Pennsylvania State University Press 1996). Christian Scholar's Review. Volume 27. Number 4. Summer 1998. 530-532.
- Review of David Lyle Jeffrey's *People of the Book: Christian Identity and Literary Culture* (William B. Eerdmans 1996). Libraries & Culture. Volume 33. Number 3. Summer 1998. 324-25.
- Review of Mark Ledbetter's *Victims and the Postmodern Narrative, or Doing Violence to the Body: An Ethic of Reading and Writing* (St. Martin's Press 1996). Christianity and Literature. Volume 46. Number 1. Autumn 1996. 99-101.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

"Mrs. Freeman in Cahoots with Manley Pointer?: A New Interpretation of 'Good Country People.'" Submitted for review to the journal *Connotations*.

Theorizing Religion and Literature: An Anthology of Modern, Postmodern, and Postsecular Essays.

Profaning the Sacred Truth: Parodies of Religious Narratives in Postmodern American Fiction.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Theorizing Religion and Literature: Modern, Postmodern, and Postsecular." Conference on "Religion { } Literature." University of California, Irvine. May 2012.

- “Postmodernism, Postsecularism, and Religious Realism in Recent American Fiction.” Western Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature. “Postmodern Belief and Unbelief.” Seattle Pacific University. May 2012.
- “Mrs. Freeman in Cahoots with Manley Pointer?: A New Hypothesis for Interpreting Flannery O’Connor’s ‘Good Country People.’” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900. University of Louisville. February 2011.
- “The Turn to Religion in Recent American Fiction: Thomas Pynchon’s *The Crying of Lot 49* and Oscar Hijuelos’s *Mr. Ives’ Christmas*.” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. Boston. February 2009.
- “Syncretism, Inculturation, or Transculturation: The Arrival of Missionaries in Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* and Ngugi’s *The River Between*.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference. “Arrivals and Departures.” Long Beach, CA. April 2008.
- “Writing Across Borders.” Interview with Sefi Atta and Diane Glancy. Festival of Faith and Writing. Calvin College. April 2008.
- “Teaching What We Don’t Know: A Euro-American Teaching African Literature.” Christian Educator’s Association. University of Notre Dame. October 2007.
- “Self-Torture in Flannery O’Connor’s *Wise Blood*. Invited speaker for “Flannery O’Connor in the Age of Terrorism: An Academic Conference on Violence and Grace.” Grand Valley State University. October 2006.
- “Madness and Mysticism in Louise Erdrich’s *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* and Ron Hansen’s *Mariette in Ecstasy*.” American Comparative Literature Association national conference. “The Human and Its Others.” Princeton University. March 2006.
- “The Semi-Permeable Boundary Between Native American and Christian Spirituality in Louise Erdrich’s *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*. Western Regional Christianity and Literature Conference. “The Word in the World: Christianity’s Encounter with Other Cultures.” Pepperdine University. March 2006.
- Chair. Session on Religion and African-American Literature (Mark Noll, Katherine Bassard, and Albert Raboteau). American Literature and Religion Project Symposium. American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA. May 2005.
- Chair. Session on “Faith in Postmodern Writing.” Festival of Faith and Writing. Organized academic/scholarly portion of conference. Calvin College. April 2004.
- Chair. “When Is Postmodernism?” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. February, 2004.

- “The God Who May Be and the God of the Bible: A Response to Richard Kearney.”  
American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting on  
“Philosophy at the Boundary of Reason.” Cincinnati. November 2002.
- ““Killing Them with Belief”: Postmodernism, Postcolonialism, and Religion in Louise  
Erdrich.” American Literature and Religion Project. The National Humanities  
Center. October 2002.
- “The Parody and Simulation of Religion in Postmodern Theory and Fiction.”  
International Conference in Literature, Visual Arts, and Cinema on  
“Parody and Imitation.” Atlanta. November 2001.
- “Evidence of Things Unseen: Spiritual Realism in Ron Hansen’s *Mariette in Ecstasy*.”  
International Symposium on Religious Faith and Literary Art. Baylor University.  
February 2001.
- “The Bible and Literary Language.” Organized and served as respondent for  
special session at Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar. Redeemer College.  
Ancaster, Canada. August 2000.
- “(De)Constructing ‘a tower that reaches to the heavens’: Ontotheology and the  
Postmodern Bible.” Plenary address for Consultation, “Opening the Book for a  
New Millennium: The Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar,”  
Cambridge University. September 1999.
- “Locations of Religion in Postmodern Culture: Mass Media as Site of Spirituality in Don  
DeLillo’s *White Noise* and *Underworld*.” International Association for Philosophy  
and Literature Conference on “Postmodern Sites.” Trinity College. May 1999.
- “Secular and Religious Criticism in Contemporary Cultural Studies.” South Central  
Modern Language Association. New Orleans. November 1998.
- Chair and organizer of special session on “The Role of Religion in Cultural Studies” for  
South Central Modern Language Association Conference on “Cultural Criticism:  
Challenges for Language and Literary Study.” New Orleans. October 1998.
- “Reason, Faith and Imagination in the History of Critical Theory: Toward a Christian  
Critical Theory.” Plenary address at Hermeneutics Conference entitled  
“Crossing the Boundaries: Interpretive Theory and the Christian Faith,”  
sponsored by Center for Christian Studies at Gordon College. April 1998.
- “The Parody of Religious Narrative in the Postmodern Novel.” Modern Language  
Association National Convention. Special session on “Religion and the Theory of  
the Novel.” Toronto. January 1998.
- ““No place to lay his head’: Does Christianity Have a Home in Culture?” Modern

- Literature Conference, "Locations in Culture." Michigan State University. October 1997.
- "Profaning the Sacred Truth: Parody in Postmodern American Fiction." Pew Evangelical Scholars Program Annual Summer Meeting. University of Notre Dame. June 1997.
- "Is the Postmodern Post-Secular?: The Parody of Religious Quests in Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49*." Calvin College Conference on "Appropriating Postmodernism." March 1997.
- "'Killing them with belief': Religion, Race, and Identity in Louise Erdrich's *Tracks* and *Love Medicine*." Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. February 1997.
- "Crossing the Boundary between Literature and Theology: Religion, Race, and Gender in Cultural Studies of Literature." Author and chair of special session for South Central Modern Language Association Conference on "Crossing Borders." San Antonio. October/ November 1996.
- "Estrella as Feminine Jesus in Helena Maria Viramontes' *Under the Feet of Jesus*." South Central Modern Language Association Conference. San Antonio. October/November 1996.
- "'Either a transcendent meaning or only the earth': The Parody of Religious Hermeneutics in Postmodern American Fiction." Center for Christian Studies at Gordon College Conference, "Towards a Contemporary Evangelical Hermeneutic." August 1996.
- "Death as the Final Boundary in Recent American Fiction." Author and chair of special session for Western Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature. Westmont College. June 1996.
- "'Isn't death the final boundary we need?': Death as the Final Border in Don DeLillo's *White Noise*." Western Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature. Westmont College. June 1996.
- "Profaning the Sacred Truths in Postmodern American Fiction." International Conference on the Sacred and the Profane. Association for the Interdisciplinary Study of the Arts. Atlanta. October 1995.
- "Science, Religion, and Literature in the Postmodern Paradigm." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. University of Georgia. March 1995.
- "Converting from the Modern to the Postmodern Self: Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Conversion Experiences in African-American Narratives." South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature. New Orleans. February 1995.



“Demythologizing Truth in Postmodern Theory and Fiction.” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. February 1995.

“The Limitations of Derrida’s Deconstruction of Ontotheology.” American Academy of Religion Western Chapter Annual Meeting. California State University, Fullerton. March 1993.

“Abreactions of Abaddon: The Parody of the Biblical Narrative of Redemption in Pynchon’s *Gravity’s Rainbow*.” Conference on Christianity and Literature Mideast Regional Meeting. Messiah College. October 1992.

“Flesh vs. Spirit in the Epistles of St. Paul and Inauthenticity vs. Authenticity in Heidegger’s *Being and Time*.” North Carolina Religious Studies Association Annual Meeting. October 1992.

## COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

“The Problem of Evil in *Mr. Ives’ Christmas*.” Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. March 2012.

## HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

“From Every Nation” Award for Excellence in Teaching (“for innovative and effective efforts of Calvin College faculty to promote a multicultural, anti-racist curriculum”)	2012
Calvin Center for Christian Studies. Grant for "Theorizing Religion and Literature: An Anthology of Modern, Postmodern, and Postsecular Essays."	2008-2009
Pew Charitable Trusts. American Literature and Religion Project.	2000-2005
Calvin College Summer Seminar. “American Literature and the Question of Belief.”	2002
Erasmus Institute working group in American Literature and Religion. University of Notre Dame	1999-2000

Erasmus Institute Summer Faculty Workshop on Theology and Fiction. Led by Sara Maitland, St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas	1999
Pew Charitable Trusts Research Fellowship. \$36,000 award	1996-1997
Faculty Summer Seminar: Postmodern Philosophy & Christian Thought. Directed by Merold Westphal (Fordham), Calvin College	1996
NEH Seminar on Critical Theory, American Literature & Cultures Critical Theory Institute at University of California, Irvine	1995
Faculty Research Grant/Research Seminar on the Puritans. Fieldstead Foundation Research Grant	1994
Graduate Award for Distinguished Student Scholar of the Humanities, University of California, Irvine	1989
Research Assistant Fellowship, John Carlos Rowe University of California, Irvine	1985
University of California Regents' Irvine Intern Fellowship	1984-1985
Distinguished College Scholar, College of Liberal Arts University of Texas, Austin	1983
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society	1983
Phi Beta Kappa (University of Texas)	1982
National Merit Scholar	1980

## References

- Linda Naranjo-Huebl. Associate Professor of English. Calvin College. Covenant Fine Arts Center 271. 1795 Knollcrest Circle, SE. Calvin College. Grand Rapids, MI 49508. 616-526-9932. ln22@calvin.edu.
- Paul L. Maltby, Professor of English, West Chester University. Main Hall 517. West Chester, PA 19383. 610-436-2425. PMaltby@wcupa.edu.
- David Urban. Associate Professor of English. Calvin College. Covenant Fine Arts Center 277. 1795 Knollcrest Circle, SE. Grand Rapids, MI 49508. 616-526-8646. dvu2@calvin.edu.
- Dean Ward, Professor of English. Calvin College. Covenant Fine Arts Center 269. 1795 Knollcrest Circle, SE. Grand Rapids, MI 49508. 616-526-6139. ward@calvin.edu.