

Max Thornton  
Curriculum Vitae

[max.thornton@drake.edu](mailto:max.thornton@drake.edu)

## EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D. Theological and Philosophical Studies in Religion. Drew University, NJ.  
Dissertation: *Cyborg Trans/Criptions: Gender, Disability, and the Image of God*
- 2013 M.A. Systematic and Philosophical Theology. Graduate Theological Union, CA.  
Thesis: *(Re-)Writing the Word of God: The Johannine Logos and Digital Textuality*
- 2010 B.A. (Hons) Classics. University College London, U.K.

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2021 Drake University, IA  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Article

- 2019 “Trans/Criptions: Gender, Disability, and Liturgical Experience.” *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 6.3: 358-67.

### Book Chapters

- 2023 “Crippling Image: Disability, Queer Negativity, and God the *Sinthomosexual*.” In forthcoming collection on Lee Edelman and the study of religion, theology, and the Bible, edited by Kent Brintnall, Rhiannon Graybill, and Linn Tonstad. New York: Routledge.
- 2019 “Gender: A Public Feeling?” In *Religion, Emotion, Sensation: Affect Theories and Theologies*, edited by Stephen Moore and Karen Bray, 174-186. New York: Fordham UP.
- 2014 “Take, Eat, These Are My Brains: Queer Zombie Jesus.” In *Zombies and Sexuality: Essays on Desire and the Living Dead*, edited by Shaka McGlotten and Steve Jones, 19-35. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

### Web-Based Publication

- 2021 “Gender Pandemic?” Queer Disability Studies Network.  
<https://queerdisabilitystudies.wordpress.com/gender-pandemic/>
- 2018 “The Porcelain Throne.” Political Theology Network. <https://politicaltheology.com/the-porcelain-throne/>
- 2015 “Op-Ed: Violence Against Trans Men Will Lessen If We Address Trans Women’s Oppression.” *The Advocate*. <https://www.advocate.com/commentary/2015/07/17/op-ed-violence-against-trans-men-will-lessen-if-we-address-trans-womens-oppres>

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2021 *Religion Dispatches* Media Partnership (Sacred Writes)
- 2021 Rev. Robert W. Edgar Prize for Social Justice (Drew University)

- 2018 Holstein Dissertation Fellowship (University of California, Riverside)  
 2018 Maxine Clarke Beach Leadership Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement (Drew University)

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### Panels Organized

- 2018 “Gender Feelings.” Capacious: Affect Inquiry/Making Space, August 8-11.  
 2017 “Reproducing Justice: Exposing Whiteness, Sovereign Rape, Phallogocentrism, and Sexuality Education as Tools of Racist Reproductive Control.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 18-21.

### Papers Presented

- 2022 “Becoming Mycohuman: A Queer Fungal Ritual.” UCR Conference on Queer and Transgender Studies in Religion, February 18-20.  
 2022 “Blessings for Cyborgs: Everyday Religion as Queer/Crip Technoscience.” Colloquium on Resistance, Survival, Remaking: The Everyday in Practical, Liberative, and Constructive Theologies, Lincoln Theological Institute, University of Manchester, January 28-29.  
 2021 “Blood Libel: Antisemitism, Transphobia, and the Possibility of the Transsexual Jew.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 20-23.  
 2020 “Brides of Frankenstein: Transmasculinity, T-Theology, and the New TERFism.” Thinking Trans // Trans Thinking, October 22-24.  
 2019 “What God Needs with a Starship: The Necessity of Queer Speculative Theological Imagination.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 23-26.  
 2019 “Transgender, Disability, and Biomedicine in the Image of God.” Summer Institute on Theology and Disability, May 20-23.  
 2018 “Ugly Laws, Black Codes, Cross-Dressing Arrests.” Thinking Trans // Trans Thinking, October 5-6.  
 2018 “Other People’s Bodies: Race, Gender, and the Feeling of Threat.” Capacious: Affect Inquiry / Making Space, August 8-11.  
 2018 “Sacramental Transition: Borders, Bodies, and the Parasitology of the Christ.” Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium on Trans: Human/Divine Bodies beyond Boundaries, March 23-24.  
 2017 “Repetition and Procreation: Theology and the Reproduction of Whiteness.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 18-21.  
 2017 “Muslim Bans and Bathroom Bills: Race, Gender, and Administrative Violence in the Trump Era.” Dean Hopper New Scholars Conference on #QueerAF: (Re)presenting Gender and Sexuality in History and Cultural Studies, May 5-6.  
 2016 “Crip Assemblages: Theological Anthropology and Disability Transhumanism.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19-22.  
 2016 “TransCriptions: Gender, Disability and Temporality.” Trans\* Studies: An International Transdisciplinary Conference on Gender, Embodiment, and Sexuality, September 7-10.  
 2016 “Gender: A Public Feeling?” Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium on Affectivity and Divinity: Affect Theories and Theologies, March 18-20.  
 2015 “TransCriptions: Gender, Disability, and Liturgical Experience.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21-24.

- 2015 “Rest, Room, Resistance: Transgender and Disabled Bodies in the Public Toilet.” Annual Meeting of the National Women’s Studies Association, November 12-15.
- 2015 “Cyborg Selves in Transgender Communities Online.” *Theorizing the Web*, April 17-18.
- 2014 “TransCription: Gender, Disability and Temporality.” Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium on Sexual Disorientations: Queer Temporalities, Affects, Theologies, September 26-28.
- 2013 “Jesus H+ Christ: Resurrection and Transhumanism.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 23-26.

#### **Invited Discussant**

- 2022 “Devoted to Lauren Berlant.” UCR Conference on Queer and Transgender Studies in Religion, February 18-20.
- 2021 “Gone Digital: How Digitality Disrupts Theology.” Global Network for Digital Theology, July 14-16.
- 2018 “The New Materialisms and Unitarian Universalist Counter-Oppressive Work.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 17-20.
- 2017 “Toilet Justice: Peeing and the Politics of Marginalized Bodies.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 18-21.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Drake University, IA**

Queer Religion (Spring 2022)

Introduction to World Religions (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

Contemporary Ethical Problems: Philosophy of Body Modification (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

Introduction to Religious Study (Fall 2021)

#### **Kean University, NJ**

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2018)

Western Religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam (Spring 2018, Fall 2019)

Introduction to Religions of the World (Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

#### **Union Theological Seminary, NY**

Disability and Theology (Fall 2020)

#### **Seton Hall University, NJ**

Christianity and Culture in Dialogue (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

Journey of Transformation (Fall 2017)

### **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

- 2022 Steering Committee member, Sacred Texts, Theory and Theological Construction unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2020 Manuscript review, *Transgender Studies Quarterly*
- 2019 Manuscript review, *Capacious: Journal for Emerging Affect Inquiry*