

# CESAR “CJ” BALDELOMAR, PH.D., LL.M., J.D.

Assistant Professor, Theology and Religious Studies  
Affiliate, Women’s and Gender Studies



Saint Mary’s College of California  
1928 St. Mary’s Road  
Dante Hall 327  
Moraga, CA 94575

Telephone: 925.631.4006  
E-Mail: [cjb30@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:cjb30@stmarys-ca.edu)

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Academia [Page](#)

## EDUCATION

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Boston College		Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), with distinction	2024
Concentration:	Theology and Education		
Dissertation:	Not Out of the Dark Night: Theological Imagination and Religious Education at the Edge of (Eco)Precarity		
Honors/Fellowships:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellow</li> <li>- Comprehensive Examinations: <b>Passed with Distinction</b></li> <li>- Full-tuition scholarship and University Fellowship</li> </ul>		
Research:	Higher education pedagogy, Christian theology, western continental philosophy, religion in the public sphere, theological imagination, writing pedagogy, human rights and ethics, ecology, migration and refugee law, Latinx theologies and identities, international law, and theological anthropology		
Teaching:	God, Self, and Society (undergraduate level); Engaging Catholicism (undergraduate level); Ethics, Religion, and International Politics (undergraduate level); Spirituality, Religion, and the College Experience (undergraduate level); Fundamental Theology (graduate level); Thesis Advisor (undergraduate and graduate levels); CRAFT Program at Duke University		
Service:	Served on two faculty search committees as student liaison and currently on a student committee for faculty promotion		
Course Designer:	Content co-designer of two courses for the newly established Executive Doctoral Program in Catholic Higher Education at the Lynch School of Education. The courses are Religion and Higher Education and Catholic Higher Education		
St. Thomas University School of Law		Master of Laws (LL.M.) – Summa Cum Laude	2019
Concentration:	Intercultural Human Rights and Jurisprudence (International Law)		
Honors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CALI Excellence for the Future Book Awards (<i>highest grade in a class</i>): Human Trafficking Law and Policy ~ The Protection of Refugees ~ International Criminal Law</li> </ul>		

- Top of Class; Dean's List
- Executive Editor, *Intercultural Human Rights Law Review*

Thesis: Toward a Fresh Animal Rights Jurisprudence: A Thought Experiment (Honors)

**St. Thomas University School of Law** ***Juris Doctor (J.D.) – Cum Laude*** **2018**

Honors: 

- Full-tuition merit scholarship
- Eleven (11) CALI Excellence for the Future Book Awards (*highest grade in a class*): Legal Research and Writing ~ Race and the Law Seminar ~ Juvenile Law ~ Human Trafficking Law and Policy ~ Healthcare Compliance and Law ~ Environmental Law Practice ~ Moral Dilemmas Seminar ~ The Protection of Refugees ~ Immigration Law Seminar ~ International Criminal Law ~ Law Office Management
- Top 20% of Class; Dean's List
- Public Service Award (over 100 legal pro bono hours)

Certificates: Intercultural Human Rights Certificate and Immigration Law and Practice Certificate

Activities: Criminal Law Society; American Bar Association; Public Interest Law Society

Research: Research assistant to Dean Lawson and Professor Gonzalez

**Harvard Graduate School of Education** ***Master of Education (Ed.M.)*** **2012**

Honors: 

- Impact Award Scholarship
- Harvard Community Leadership Award

Research: Higher education leadership; pedagogical theory and practice; poverty, race, and gender and education; teaching of writing; religion and public education

**Harvard Divinity School** ***Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.)*** **2011**

Honors: Full-tuition merit scholarship and stipend

Concentration: Religion, ethics, and politics (with focus on Christian theology in dialogue with western philosophical traditions)

Activities: Elected representative to Harvard Graduate Council; Treasurer, Latino/a Harvard Student Club

**St. Thomas University** ***Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) – Summa Cum Laude*** **2008**

Honors: 

- Class valedictorian (4.0 G.P.A.)
- Class commencement speaker
- Leadership in Philosophy Award
- Student Government Association Award
- Outstanding Scholarship Medal in Philosophy

Concentration: 

- Bachelor degrees in Philosophy/Global Leadership and Religious Studies
- Minors in Spanish and History

Activities: Delta Epsilon Sigma; Global Leadership Student Society; Flavors of Nature Cooperative; Theta Alpha Kappa

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Assistant Professor, Tenure-Track, Saint Mary's College of California; Moraga, CA**

**2024-Present**

Appointed Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in Theology and Religious Studies. Affiliate of the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Currently teach or have taught Christian Foundations; God, Self, and Society; Race, Religion, and Colonialism; and Latinx Religious Experience and Theologies. In 2025, I was appointed Faculty Senate Parliamentarian and Faculty Handbook Coordinator. In addition to faculty service, I have served the student body by delivering presentations on Latinx identities, transness, religion, and social media, Thomas Merton, and the limits of presidential constitutional powers.

### **Visiting Lecturer in Religion, Mount Holyoke College; South Hadley, MA**

**2023-2024**

Appointed Visiting Lecturer in Religion January 2023 through May 2024. Designed and taught introductory courses for the College's Religion Department on religion and the environment: 1) *Apocalypse Now?: Spiritual Responses to Ecological Catastrophes* and 2) *Religion and Ecological Movements*. Also designed and taught two upper-level courses: 1) *Religion, Law, and Conquest* and 2) *Liberation Theologies and Sexuality*. Responsible for crafting course titles, descriptions, and syllabi and for curating reading selections for all courses. In addition, I served as thesis and research advisor to three students whose projects focused on postcolonial and decolonial thought, poststructuralist theory, and queer theology.

### **Adjunct Professor, Boston College Theology Department; Chestnut Hill, MA**

**2022-2024**

Taught several sections of *God, Self, and Society*, a core theology course that introduces students to the dynamics of theological reflection in an academic setting. Also taught *Engaging Catholicism* four times (including during the summer for the Woods Institute). The course is a core theology course that presents a survey of Catholicism from the birth of Jesus to contemporary times, with some focus on the Jewish and philosophical sources of Christianity. I

### **Learning Design Assistant, Center for Innovation and Design, Boston College**

**2022-2023**

Planned and designed courses for both synchronous and asynchronous long-distance education for disciplines across Boston College. Assisted learning designers with Canvas building and maintenance. Ensured that all courses and Canvas pages met learner accessibility standards and needs.

### **Co-Founder, Learning for Life Solutions, LLC; Wilmington, DE**

**2018-2022**

Co-Founded comprehensive consulting company that provided dynamic consulting to a range of clients seeking to inspire and uplift its students and the community to achieve transformative results in the sciences and humanities. Specifically, Learning for Life Solutions partnered with high schools, universities, and civic and professional organizations in its efforts to solve issues that prevent others from learning across the sciences and humanities, and from achieving their potential to become leaders in addressing the significant global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

### **Language Arts Chair/Teacher, Yeshiva Tiferes Torah of Boca Raton; Boca Raton, FL**

**2018-2019**

Developed and implemented all language arts curricula and examinations for grades 9-12. Taught all grade levels and students of all abilities. Responsible for tracking student levels (skills, honors, AP) and for providing the school ongoing support for its then-nascent humanities curricula.

### **Legal Extern, Southern Poverty Law Center; Miami, FL**

**2018**

Researched for case building. Drafted legal memos on issues of criminal justice reform and race. Analyzed data for court-watching project. Provided support to the Miami Office's lead attorney.

### **Founder, Top College Advisors; Miami, FL**

**2014-2016**

Co-founded college advising and tutoring limited liability partnership. Designed and developed all tutoring and consulting packages and services. Mentored over 8 tutors in best pedagogical practices. Managed partnership's website and daily operations.

### **Faculty, Malden Catholic High School; Malden, MA**

**2012-2013**

Taught junior and senior honors and accelerated philosophy and ethics courses. Developed and implemented curricula for all courses taught. Created new honors senior philosophy course taught using the Harkness Method. Supported guidance department with senior college applications. Moderated the Hip-Hop Production Club and the Philosophy Club.

**Teaching Fellow, Harvard University; Cambridge, MA**

**2012-2013**

Under the supervision of Professor Katherine Boles, taught graduate course titled *Teaching and Learning: Links Between Practice and Research*. Lectured on topics dealing with identity, socioeconomic injustice, philosophy of education and pedagogy, and the schooling of minorities and poor students.

**Admissions Representative, Harvard; Cambridge, MA**

**2011-2012**

Created and managed several metric databases. Facilitated communication among current and prospective students. Actively advocated for a more diverse student body. Assisted with the creation of application and marketing materials. Edited office documents and student publications (including the Wick and Cult/ure publications). Planned and assisted with several admissions events, including recruitment events.

**Faculty, Curley Notre Dame High School; Miami, FL**

**2007-2009**

Taught social justice, modern ethics, history, and economics to freshmen, sophomores, and seniors. Developed and implemented curricula, instructional, and assessment materials for courses. Organized reflection sessions and events for students as assistant director of student activities. Collected and organized student academic progress data in role as sophomore class academic advisor.

## **UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT**

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**Instructor of Record**

- Latinx Religious Experience and Theologies (Spring 2025) – Saint Mary's College of CA
- Christian Foundations: God, Self, and Society (Spring 2025) – Saint Mary's College of CA
- Christian Foundations: God, Self, and Society (Spring 2025) – Saint Mary's College of CA
- Colonialism, Race, and Religion (Fall 2024) – Saint Mary's College of CA
- Christian Foundations: God, Self, and Society (Fall 2024) – Saint Mary's College of CA
- Engaging Catholicism (Summer 2024) – Boston College (Woods Online)
- Colonialism Then and Now: Religion, Law, and Conquest (Spring 2024) – Mount Holyoke College
- God, Self, and Society (Spring 2024) – Boston College
- God, Self, and Society (Spring 2024) – Boston College
- Apocalypse Now? Spiritual Responses to Ecological Catastrophe (Fall 2023) – Mount Holyoke College
- Religion and Ecological Movements (Fall 2023) – Mount Holyoke College
- God, Self, and Society (Fall 2023) – Boston College
- God, Self, and Society (Fall 2023) – Boston College
- God, Self, and Society (Fall 2023) – Boston College
- Engaging Catholicism (Summer 2023) – Boston College (Woods Online)
- Ethics, Religion, and International Politics (Spring 2023) – Boston College
- Liberation Theologies and Sexuality (Spring 2023) – Mount Holyoke College
- Worlds of Difference: Religion and Conquest (Spring 2023) – Mount Holyoke College
- Engaging Catholicism (Spring 2023) – Boston College
- Engaging Catholicism (Fall 2022) – Boston College

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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### Books

*Fragmented Theological Imaginings*. Miami: Convivium Press (under contract, forthcoming 2025).

### Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"The Scandal of the Prison-Immigration Industrial Complex," in *Hispanic Ministry as a Practice of Justice*, edited by Luis Fraga and Hosffman Ospino. Miami: Convivium Press (forthcoming 2025).

"Heeding Latinx Dissonant and Dislocated Voices," in *Feet on the Ground: Hispanic Catholic Theology in the Ministerial Trenches*, edited by Hosffman Ospino. Miami: Convivium Press (forthcoming 2025).

"Ecotheology, Colonialism, and Decolonialization," in *The Routledge Handbook of Ecotheology*, edited by Matthew Eaton and Timothy Harvie. London: Routledge (forthcoming 2025).

With Peter Blaze Corcoran, "Dreaming Together: Reflections on the Principle of Intergenerational Equity," in *Earth Charter Conference Proceedings*, edited by Mirian Vilela (forthcoming 2025).

"Religious Literacy and Ecopedagogy: An Unusual Rhizomatic Alliance Within Atmospheres of Violence," in *Religious Literacy in the Public Sphere*, edited by Sabrina MisirHiralall and Kate Soules. London: Routledge, 2025.

"Potential Responses to the Colonial Matrix of Power in Light of the Animal (Rights) Turn: To Imagine What Never Was," *Liberatio Journal* 1, no. 1 (2024): 71-83.

"Notes on Ecological Imagination: Ecopedagogy Amid (Eco)Precarity," *Zeal: A Journal for the Liberal Arts* 3, no. 1 (2024): 41-49.

"The Possibilities of Rhizomatic Imagination and Ecopedagogy Amid the End of an Era," *Earth Charter Magazine* 1, no.1 (June 2023): 5-12.

With Ospino, Hosffman, "Are Our Ministerial Organizations Looking at the Whole Picture?," in *Ministry with Young Hispanic Catholics: Towards a Recipe for Growth and Success*, edited by Hosffman Ospino, 73-75. Chestnut Hill, MA: Boston College, 2023.

"Haunted by (Ontological) Ancestors and Bodies in Precarity: Religious Education Confronts Ontological Terror, Biopower, and Necropolitics," *Religious Education* 117, no. 5 (2022): 439-451.

"The (Non)Existence of Uprooted Bodies: The Limits of Authorized Imaginations and Languages in Assisting Bodies on the Move Due to Environmental Causes," in *Shifting Climates, Shifting People*, edited by Miguel A. De La Torre, 47-60. Cleveland, Ohio: The Pilgrim Press, 2022.

"A Reimagined Ethical Imagination: Considering Epistemological Nihilism and Afro-Pessimism as a Corrective to an Ethics of Hope," *Perspectivas* 18 (2021): 23-42.

"Toward a Reimagined Theological Anthropology: Freeing the Excluded and Re-envisioning Scenes of Instruction," *Journal of Hispanic/Latino Theology* 22, no. 1 (2020): 1-24.

## Book Reviews

Review of *Faith, Nationalism, and the Future of Liberal Democracy*, *Theological Studies*, 84, no. 1 (2023): 180-182.

Review of *Transforming Fire: Imagining Christian Teaching*, *Religious Education* 116, no. 4 (2021): 399-400

Review of *Inclusive Religious Education: International Perspectives*, *Religious Education* 115, no. 4 (2020): 452-453.

## Presentations, Lectures, Panels (Selected from 2022 to present)

Invited Co-Speaker, "Intersection of Transness, Religion, and Social Media," Saint Mary's College of California, CA. March 24, 2025.

Invited Speaker, "Latinx Theology and Grassroots Realities." The Mission, San Francisco, CA. March 15, 2025.

Invited Panelist, "Presidential Power and the Constitution: Can the President Really Do That?," Saint Mary's College of California, CA. March 6, 2025.

Invited Participant, Hispanic Theological Initiative, Early Career Orientation, Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ. January 8-12, 2025.

Invited Panelist, "Imagining Possible Futures with Mark Jordan's Queer Callings," American Academy of Religion Annual Convention, San Diego, CA. November 23, 2024.

Invited Speaker, "Thomas Merton: Contemplation as a Crucible for Action," Saint Mary's College of California Seminar Enrichment Series. October 28, 2024.

Invited Speaker, "Civic Talks: On Voting with a Catholic Lens," online with Mount Saint Mary's University. October 9, 2024.

Invited Panel Presider, "Synodality en Conjunto: The People of God, the Bible, and Theology." Boston College, MA. June 10, 2024.

Invited Keynote Speaker, "Imagination and Wonder in Education," Earth Charter Conference, Rollins College, FL. April 12-14, 2024.

Invited Lecture, "Neglected Voices and the Remaking of Identities in US Latinx Theology," Saint Mary's College of California, CA. February 19, 2024.

Invited Speaker, "Imagination at the Brink: Spiritual Responses to the Ecological Crisis," Spirituality and Sustainability Global Network Gathering, Thomas Berry Place, Queens, NY. October 7, 2023.

Invited Lecture, "Not Out of the Dark Night: Notes on Dissertation and Research," Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and Theology Department Joint Event, Boston College, MA. October 5, 2023.

Invited Facilitator, "Wise Lives and Stories: Learning about Publishing from Senior Scholars in Our Field," Religion Education Association Annual Meeting, Online. July 12, 2023.

Invited Keynote Speaker, "End of an Era?: Rhizomatic Imagination and Endless Constellations Amid Hopelessness," Spirituality and Sustainability Conference, Rome and Assisi, Italy. June 10, 2023.

Invited Keynote Speaker, "Climate Displaced People: A Challenge and Opportunity to Pastoral Ministry," Continuous Formation Series, Archdiocese of Washington. February 14-15, 2023.

Invited Lecture, "Who Teaches? The Question of the Teacher," Duke Divinity School CRAFT Program, Duke University, NC. December 9, 2022.

Paper, "Education, Worldviews, and Our Contributions to Planetary Well-Being," 2022 Earth Charter Conference, University for Peace, Can Jose, Costa Rica. December 1-2, 2022.

Paper, "Beyond Imago Dei: The Prospects of Afropessimism and Epistemologies of the South for Theological Anthropology," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. November 21, 2022.

Invited Lecture, "What is Taught?," Duke Divinity School CRAFT Program, Duke University, NC. October 21, 2022.

Invited Roundtable Facilitator, "Vocational Calling and the Theological Grounding for Hispanic Educator Discernment," National Summit on Hispanic Teachers and Leaders in Catholic Schools, Boston College, MA. October 3, 2022.

Paper, "Haunted by (Ontological) Ancestors: Prospects for Religious Education in Light of Necropolitics and Ontological Terror," Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, Online. July 7, 2022.

Paper, "To Imagine What Never Was: Potential Responses to the Colonial Matrix of Power in Light of the Animal (Rights) Turn," World Forum on Theology and Liberation Conference, Online. June 9, 2022.

Paper (Portman Research Award), "The Promises of a Fugitive Theology: Transgressing and Fragmenting Borders as Acts of Resistance," Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States Colloquium, San Diego, CA. June 6, 2022.

Paper, "Seeds Recast: Ecojustice Talk Reimagined," Yale Conference for Religion and Ecology, Online. February 25, 2022.

### **Other Publications, Presentations, and Multimedia**

2023 Synod Fellow, *Commonweal* Magazine. To access my *Commonweal* pieces, please click [here](#).

Founding Contributor, Hispanic Theological Initiative's *Open Plaza*. Access to articles [here](#).

For samples of some of my work, please click [here](#).

**Note:** Course evaluations available upon request