

Thomas F. Tracy

Department of Philosophy  
Department of Religious Studies  
Bates College  
Lewiston, Maine 04240  
[ttracy@bates.edu](mailto:ttracy@bates.edu)  
207-786-6310

PO Box 545  
Poland, Maine 04274

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Yale University, Department of Religious Studies, 1980  
M.Phil. Yale University, Department of Religious Studies, 1975  
B.A. St. Olaf College, 1971  
Majors: Philosophy, Religion

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Phillips Fellowship for sabbatical research, Bates College, 2006-2007

National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship for College Teachers, 1989-1990

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute in Philosophy of Religion, 1986

Danforth Graduate Fellowship, 1971-1975

Woodrow Wilson Graduate Fellowship, 1971

## **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Phillips Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy, Department of Religious Studies and Department of Philosophy, Bates College, 1999-present

Visiting Professor of Religious Thought, Department of Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles, 1989-1990

Professor of Religion, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Bates College, 1989-present

Instructor (1976), Assistant Professor (1980), Associate Professor (1983), Department of Philosophy and Religion, Bates College

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Chair, Division of the Humanities, Fall 2011 (one-semester replacement); full 4-year term beginning Fall 2012.

J. K. Russell Fellow for 2010, Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA (October 2010). This fellowship involved two lectures, a conference focused on my work, and a brief period of residency at CTNS during which I visited several graduate seminars.

Consultant to the Advisory Group for the *Tough Choices in Health Care* community dialogues, Governor's Office of Health Care Policy and Finance, 2004-2005.

Professional Advisory Committee, Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice, Lewiston, ME, 1996-present. Steering Committee for the Hospice House Capital Campaign, 2003-2005

Board of Editorial Consultants, *Faith and Philosophy*, 1988-present

Ethics Committee, Maine General Hospital, Augusta and Waterville, ME 1985-2008.

Elected to the International Society for Science and Religion, 2000

Elected to the Society for Philosophy of Religion, 1995

Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Bates College, 1991-1999

Faculty Coordinator for the Freshman Symposium program, funded by a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Bates College, 1986-1988

Chair, Division of the Humanities, Bates College, 1985-1989

Board of Directors, Maine Humanities Council, 1985-1997, Executive Committee of the Board, 1987-1997, Chair of the Board, 1991-1992

Consultant for the Ethics Seminar for second year residents, Maine-Dartmouth Family Practice Residency, Maine General Hospital, Augusta, ME, 1981-1999

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

*The God Who Acts: Philosophical and Theological Explorations* (Penn State University Press, 1994). Editor and contributor.

*God, Action, and Embodiment* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984)

### Articles:

"Divine Purpose and Evolutionary Processes," *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 48 (2), June 2013.

"God and the Causal Structures of Nature: Some Puzzles," *The Causal Universe* (Copernicus Center Foundation, Krakow, Poland, forthcoming).

"Scientific Vetoes and the Hand-Off God: Can We Say that God Acts in History?" *Theology and Science*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 2012. This is a condensed version of my 2010 J.K. Russell Fellowship Lectures, and was published along with a series of responses from other authors.

"Special Divine Action and the Problem of Evil in *Cosmology—from Alpha to Omega*," *Theology and Science*, Volume 9 Number 2 /May 2011.

"God and Creatures Acting: The Idea of Double Agency," in David Burrell, Carlo Cogliati, Janet Soskice, and William Stoeger, eds., *Creation and the God of Abraham*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

"Creation, Providence, and Quantum Chance," reprinted in *Philosophy, Science, and Divine Action*, edited by F. Leron Shults, Nancey Murphy, and Robert John Russell (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2009).

"Divine Action," revised version in *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Charles Taliaferro and Paul Draper (Basil Blackwell, forthcoming).

"Evolutionary Theologies," in *Theology and Science*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2008.

"Special Divine Action and the Laws of Nature," in Robert John Russell, Nancey Murphy, and William Stoeger, S.J., eds., *Scientific Perspectives on Divine Action: 15 Years and Problems and Progress*. Berkeley: Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences and Vatican City: Vatican Observatory, 2008.

"The Lawfulness of Nature and the Problem of Evil," in Nancey Murphy, Robert John Russell, and William Stoeger, S. J., eds. *Physics and Cosmology: Scientific Perspectives on the Problem of Natural Evil*. Berkeley: Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences and Vatican City: Vatican Observatory, 2007.

"Theologies of Divine Action," in *Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science*, ed. Philip Clayton. Oxford University Press, 2007.

"Scientific Perspectives on Divine Action? Mapping the Options," *Theology and Science*, vol. 2, no. 2, (October) 2004.

"Divine Action," "Double Agency," "Providence," "Special Divine Action," in *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion*, ed. J. Wentzel Vrede van Huyssteen (New York: Macmillan/Thomson Gale, 2002).

"Creation, Providence, and Quantum Chance," in *Quantum Mechanics: Scientific Perspectives On Divine Action*, ed. John Polkinghorne, Robert John Russell, Philip Clayton, and Kirk Wegter-McNelly (Vatican City State: Vatican Observatory; Berkeley: Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, 2001).

"Divine Action and Quantum Theory," in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 35, 5 (December 2000).

"Why Do the Innocent Suffer?," in *Why Are We Here?*, ed. Ronald Thiemann and William Placher (Trinity Press International, 1998).

"Evolution, Divine Action, and the Problem of Evil," in *Biological Evolution: Scientific Perspectives on Divine Action*, ed. Fransico Ayala, Nancey Murphy, and Robert John Russell (Vatican Observatory, 1998).

"Divine Action," in *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, ed. Charles Taliaferro and Philip Quinn (Basil Blackwell, 1997).

"Particular Providence and the God of the Gaps," in *Chaos and Complexity: Scientific Perspectives on Divine Action*, ed. Robert John Russell, Nancey Murphy, and Arthur Peacocke (Vatican Observatory, 1995).

"Divine Action, Created Causes, and Human Freedom," and "Introduction," in *The God Who Acts*, ed. Tracy.

"Evil, Human Freedom, and Divine Grace," in *Human and Divine Agency*, ed. Michael McLain and Mark Richardson (University Press of America, 1999). Also published in *CTNS Bulletin*, vol. 12, no. 1, Winter 1992.

"Victimization and the Problem of Evil: A Response to Ivan Karamazov," *Faith and Philosophy*, 9, 3, July 1992.

"Narrative Theology and the Acts of God," in *Divine Action: Studies Inspired by The Philosophical Theology of Austin Farrer*, edited by Brian Hebblethwaite and Edward Henderson (T&T Clark, 1990).

"Enacting History: Ogden and Kaufman on God's Mighty Acts," *The Journal of Religion*, vol. 64, no. 1, January 1984.

"Action Theory," *The Dictionary of Christian Theology*, Second Edition, edited by Alan Richardson (Westminster Press, 1983).

"The Moral Attributes of God," *The Thomist*, vol. 47, no. 4, October 1983.

### **Reviews:**

Nancey Murphy and William R. Stoeger, SJ, *Evolution and Emergence: Systems, Organisms, Persons* (Oxford University Press, 2007). Book discussion published by the Science and Religion Library Project, International Society for Science and Religion.

John Polkinghorne, *Science and Providence* (SPCK, 1989; Templeton Foundation Press, 2005). Book discussion published by the Science and Religion Library Project, International Society for Science and Religion.

Christopher Southgate, *The Groaning of Creation*, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) in *Reviews in Science and Religion*.

Ted Peters and Martinez Hewlett, *Evolution from Creation to New Creation* (Abingdon Press, 2003) in *Theology and Science*.

Nicholas Saunders, *Divine Action and Modern Science* (Cambridge University Press, 2002) in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, October 2003.

Thomas Morris, *God and the Philosophers* (Notre Dame University Press, 1994), in *Modern Theology*, vol. 12, no. 1, January 1996.

Alfred R. Mele, *Springs of Action: Understanding Intentional Behavior* (Oxford University Press, 1992) in *The Thomist*, vol. 59, no. 2, April 1995.

Hans W. Frei, *Types of Christian Theology* (Yale University Press, 1992) in *America*

Keith Ward, *Divine Action* (Collins, 1990), in *The Journal of Theological Studies*, vol. 42, pt. 2, October 1991.

Kathryn Tanner, *God and Creation in Christian Theology* (Basil Blackwell, 1988), in *Faith and Philosophy*, vol.

R. Kane, *Free Will And Values* (SUNY Press, 1985), in *Religion Reviews*, 1990.

Burton Cooper, *Why, God?* (John Knox Press, 1988), in *Theology Today*, October 1989.

Joseph Runzo, *Reason, Relativism, and God* (St. Martin's Press, 1986), in *Faith and Philosophy*, vol. 5, no. 4, pp. 459-463.

William J. Abraham, *Divine Revelation and the Limits of Historical Criticism* (Oxford University Press, 1982), in *The Thomist*, vol. 49, no. 2, pp. 299-306.

## **SELECTED PAPERS READ AND RELATED PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

"Evolution and the Problem of Evil," Le Moyne College, McDevitt Center for Creativity and Innovation, Science and Religion Lecture Series, December 6, 2012.

"God and the Causal Structure of Nature: Some Puzzles." Invited paper for the Methodological Conference, *The Causal Universe*, Copernicus Center, Krakow Poland, May 16-19, 2012.

"Divine Action and Theistic Evolution." Invited paper for the conference, *Becoming Human in Theistic Perspective*, Amelia Island, Florida, February 25-29, 2012.

"When We Say that God Acts, What Do We Think God Does?" Lecture #1 for the J. K. Russell Fellowship, Center For Theology and the Natural Sciences, Graduate Theological Union, October 15, 2010.

"Scientific Vetoes and the Hands-Off God: Can We Say that God Acts in History?" Lecture #2 for the J. K. Russell Fellowship, CTNS, October 16, 2010.

"Special Divine Action, Determinism, and Chance," Invited paper, 2010 Logos Workshop on the topic *Divine Action: God, Chance, and Causation*, sponsored by the University of Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion, held at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, May 13-15, 2010.

My recent published work on science, theology, and the problem of evil was the focus of a day-long presentation and discussion at the Yale-Princeton Theology Group, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, June 7, 2008.

"Challenges Presented by Evolution: Death and Divine Purpose," invited talk at the Evolution and the Theology of Cooperation Project, Harvard Divinity School, May 18, 2007.

"Divine Action, Natural Science, and the Problem of Evil," Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, April 25, 2007.

"Evolutionary Theologies." Invited paper, the J. K. Russell Research Conference, Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, September 14-17, 2006.

"God and Creatures Acting: The Concept of Double Agency." Invited paper, conference on *Creatio Ex Nihilo Today*, sponsored by the Vatican Observatory, Castel Gandolfo, Italy, July 9-15, 2006.

"Ethical Quandries: Four Cases." Invited panel presentation at Maine Medical Center, May 3, 2006.

"The Lawfulness of Nature and the Problem of Evil." Invited paper, conference on *Cosmology and the Problem of Evil*, Sponsored by the Vatican Observatory and the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Castel Gandolfo, Italy, September 2005.

"Response to 'Honor and God'" by Lad Sessions, at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy of Religion, Hilton Head, South Carolina, February 23-27, 2005.

"The Problem of Natural Suffering." Invited panel presentation at a conference on *Reduction and Emergence: Implications for the Science/Theology Debate*, at the University of San Francisco, October 7-12, 2003.

"Special Divine Action and the Laws of Nature," Capstone Conference, Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences and the Vatican Observatory, Castel Gandolfo, Italy, September 6-14, 2003.

"The Debate Over Divine Action," and "Divine Action and Natural Science," both papers delivered at a conference on *Science and Religion: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, organized by the International School of History of Physics and the Ettore Majorana Centre for Scientific Culture, Erice, Sicily, September 25-30, 2002.

"Creation, Providence, and Quantum Chance," Conference on *Quantum Mechanics and Quantum Field Theory*, sponsored by the Vatican Observatory and the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Castel Gandolfo, Italy, June 25-July 1, 2000.

"The Dilemma of Job's Friends," Phillips Professor inaugural lecture, Bates College, February 2000.

"Philosophical Issues Raised by the Idea of Divine Action," Vatican Observatory/CTNS Preparatory Conference on Quantum Theory and Theology, Wye College, Wye England, September 1999.

Response to "Neuroscience, the Person, and God: An Emergentist Account," by Philip Clayton, and to "Resurrection of the Embodied Soul?," by Ted Peters at the Vatican Observatory/CTNS Conference on Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, and Theology, Krakow, Poland, June 1998.

"Physician Assisted Suicide?," Grand Rounds, Kennebec Valley Medical Center, October 1996.

"Evolution, Divine Action, and the Problem of Evil," Vatican Observatory/CTNS conference on Evolution and Divine Action, Rome, June 1996.

"Ethical Decision Making in Clinical Practice," for the Board of Directors and Medical Staff, Franklin Memorial Hospital, Farmington, ME. April 1995.

"Particular Providence and the God of the Gaps," International Conference on Science and Theology, Topic: Chaos and Complexity, Berkeley, August 1-7, 1993.

"Evil, Human Freedom, and Divine Grace," Conference on Freedom of the Will and Its Significance for Theology, Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley, Jan. 4-7, 1992.

"Action: Created and Divine," Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, Boston, Dec. 26, 1991.

"Divine Action, Created Causes, and Human Freedom," Philosophy of Religion Institute, Hendrix College, Feb. 2, 1991.

"Evil and Human Freedom," Hendrix College, Jan. 31, 1991.

"What Does it Mean to Say that God Acts?," and "The Problem of Evil," St. Andrew's Priory, Valyermo, CA, March 9-10, 1990.

"Victimization and the Problem of Evil," Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Washington and Lee University, April 21-23, 1989. Also read at Loyola Marymount University and at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Bioethics in Clinical Practice," presented to the Board of Directors of Northcare (Kennebec Valley Medical Center, Yankee Healthcare, and Kennebec Long Term Care), March 11, 1989.

"Job and the Problem of Evil: Why Do the Innocent Suffer?," Conference titled, In the Beginning: Word, Text, and Context, sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council and the Maine Humanities Council, March 3-4, 1989.

"Designing an Interdisciplinary Program for Freshmen," presented as a consultant on interdisciplinary course design and team teaching, Emerson College, March 1988.

"Ethical Issues Raised by Withdrawing or Withholding Life Sustaining Measures," Conference on Treatment Decisions for Public Wards, Maine Department of Human Services, June 1987.

"Narrative Theology and the Acts of God," Fourth International Conference on the thought of Austin Farrer, The Idea of God's Action in the World, Louisiana State University, April 1986.

"Ethical Issues Raised by the Arms Race," The Nuclear Weapons Policy Discussion Group, March 1986. Part of a program funded by the Topsfield Foundation.

"Action, Character, and Christian Anthropology," response to Prof. Tiina Allik, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Anaheim, CA, November 1985.

"The Bishops Pastoral Letter and the Ethics of Nuclear Deterrence," Maine Political Science Association, Bates College, November 1985.

"Just War Theory and the Dilemmas of Nuclear Weapons," Colby College, January 17, 1985.

"Luther's Theology and the Indulgence Controversy," Conference on Print and Protest in the Age of Luther, Sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council, October 1984.

"Crucial Issues in Contemporary Medical Ethics," presented to the Board of Directors, Kennebec Valley Medical Center, May 1983.

"Ethics and Psychological Judgment," Maine Psychological Association, November 1982.

"The Holocaust and the Problem of Evil," Conference on The Holocaust Remembered. Sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council, October 1982.

"Enacting History: Ogden and Kaufman on God's Mighty Acts," Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, May 1981.

"God and Other Unobservable Entities," Society for Values in Higher Education, Annual Meeting, August 1980.

## **SELECTED COURSES TAUGHT**

Philosophy of Religion  
Medieval and Reformation Religious Thought  
Theology and Culture in the 18th and 19th Centuries  
Contemporary Theology  
The Problem of Evil  
Religious Autobiography  
Field Studies in Religion: Cult and Community  
Introduction to Religion  
Contemporary Moral Disputes  
Matters of Life and Death  
Bioethics in the German Social Context  
Religion and Science  
Darwin, Evolution, and Religion  
Caring for Creation: Physics, Religion, and the Environment  
(Co-taught with Prof. John Smedley, Dept. of Physics)  
Ethics and Environmental Issues  
The Nature of Consciousness  
(Co-taught with Prof. David Robb, Dept. of Philosophy)  
Senior Research Seminar