



# MARY G. NICKEL

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

### **Instructor of Philosophy**

University of South Carolina

Affiliate Faculty, Women and Gender Studies Department

SPRING 2024 — PRESENT

*Courses taught: Communicating Moral Issues*

### **Postdoctoral Fellow**

University of Virginia

FALL 2023

*Courses taught: Ethics and the Body*

## EDUCATION

### **Doctor of Philosophy, Religion, Ethics, and Politics**

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Dissertation: *Matrices: Pregnancy, piety, and the social constitution of human agency*, supervised by Eric Gregory, Leora Batnitzky, Lara Buchak, and Andrew Chignell

*General exams* read by Jeffrey Stout, Eddie Glaude, Elizabeth Harman, and Eric Gregory

MAY 2023

### **Master of Arts, Religion**

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

JUNE 2020

### **Master of Divinity**

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ

MAY 2016

### **Master of Arts, Politics and Government**

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

MAY 2012

### **Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy & Human Rights Studies**

Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA and Masarykova Univerzita, Brno, Czech Republic

DECEMBER 2006

## HONORS

*Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship*, Princeton University, 2022-2023

*Teaching Transcript*, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University, 2021

*William G. Bowen Merit Fellowship*, Princeton University, 2020

*Department of Religion Teaching Award*, Princeton University, 2020

*Selected participant*, Wabash Center Doctoral Teaching Seminar, Wabash Center, 2018

*Fellow*, Fellowship at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE), 2017

*Silver Research Talk Award*, Princeton Research Day, Princeton University, 2017

*Political Philosophy Graduate Travel and Research Grant*, Princeton University, 2017

*Princeton University Fellowship*, Princeton University, 2016-2021

*University Center for Human Values Merit Grant*, Princeton University, 2016

*Frederick Buechner Prize (best writing in graduating class)*, Princeton Seminary, 2016

*Fellowship in Religion and Society (best senior thesis in the subfield)*, Princeton Seminary, 2016

*Silas G. Kessler Scholarship*, Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation, 2015

HONORS  
(CONTINUED)

*Presbyterian Study Grant*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 2015  
*Presbyterian Leadership Award*, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2013-2016  
*Full Teaching Assistantship*, Illinois State University, 2007, 2011-2012  
*Alice Ebel Award and Alice Ebel Scholarship*, Illinois State University, 2012

PUBLISHED  
RESEARCH

**Publications in a peer reviewed journal**

“The theological conception of voluntary motherhood.” Forthcoming in *Body and Religion*.  
“Choris Andros: St. Paul on Worlds without Men.” Forthcoming in *Political Theology*.  
“Critical Piety: Our urgent need to recover an ancient virtue.” Forthcoming in the *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*.  
“Seeing Visions, Dreaming Dreams, Prophesying: The Pentecost as a Resource for Democratic Politics.” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 43, no. 2 (2024).  
“Incorporating Intimacy: The Evocative Story of Francis J. Grimké.” *Black Religious Thought* 1, no. 2 (2022): 196–227.  
“Conceiving selves: What pregnancy can teach us about the ethics and piety.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 49, no. 2 (2021): 337-357.

**Scholarship under review (drafts available upon request)**

“Authority Usurped: Theological Republicanism from Paul to Milton.” Submitted for review to *Studies in Christian Ethics*.  
“Frozen: How the concept of embryonic personhood immobilizes deliberation on reproductive ethics.” Submitted for review by *Commentary Magazine*.

SELECTED  
PRESENTATIONS

“‘La Labor de Nuestras Matrices’: On the unpaid and underappreciated labor of pregnant persons.” Presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 21, 2022.  
“A Roundtable on Birthing the Maternal Turn in Religious Studies.” Presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 19, 2022.  
“Out of bounds: on the disciplining of unruly pregnant bodies.” Presented at the 2023 Political Theology Network Conference. Philadelphia, September 7-9, 2023.  
“Who is ‘She’?: Inclusivity, language, and pregnancy.” Presented at the 2023 Annual Museum of Motherhood Conference. St. Petersburg, Florida, March 25-27, 2023.  
“Seeing Visions, Dreaming Dreams, Prophesying: The Pentecost as a Resource for Democratic Politics.” Presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago, January 8, 2023.  
“That they may all be one: Religious resources for collective action.” Presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November 21, 2022.  
“The theological conception of voluntary motherhood.” Presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November 19, 2022.  
“Mothers and Rawls’ principle of fair play.” Presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Montréal, September 16, 2022.  
“Hysterics: Gender and the diachronicity of life.” Presented at the 2022 Symposium of the Fellowship for Protestant Ethics. Nashville, July 9, 2022.  
“Choris Andros: St. Paul on Worlds without Men.” Presented at the 2022 Political Theology Network Conference. Tempe, April 7-9, 2022.  
“Critical Piety: Our need to recover an ancient virtue.” Presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 21, 2021.

SELECTED  
PRESENTATIONS  
(CONTINUED)

- “Expecting: Cooperation, Social Norms, and Collective Action.” Presented at the 2021 Yale Ethics Colloquium. Virtual, November 6, 2021.
- “Regarding the Body: Reflecting on Vaccine Mandates with Saint Paul.” Presented at the 2021 Inaugural Meeting of the Society for Christian Bioethicists. Virtual, November 5, 2021.
- “Blessed Assurance: A Theological Ethics of Collective Action Problems.” Presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. Virtual, January 8, 2021.
- “Blessed Assurance: A Theology of Collective Action Problems.” Presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Virtual, December 10, 2020.
- “Expecting: Hysterics and the Diachronicity of Human Life.” Presented before Princeton’s Gender, Sexuality, and Religion Working Group. Virtual, November 18, 2020.
- “Conceiving anew: What pregnancy can teach us about the relationship between ethics and politics.” Presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. Washington, DC, January 11, 2020.
- “Redeeming Power: What John’s portrayal of Christ’s kingship means for politics today.” Presented at the inaugural Notre Dame Political Philosophy and Religion Workshop. South Bend, November 8-9, 2019.
- “The Confessing Prophet: Recuperating Jeremiadic Confession in American Political Discourse.” Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November 18, 2018.
- “The Confessing Prophet: Righting Wrongs and Facilitating Moral Repair in Prophetic Confession.” Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Denver, November 17, 2018.
- “Authority Usurped.” Presented at the inaugural Political Theology Network Conference. Atlanta, February 15-17, 2018.
- “Body Language: The Virtues and Troubles of the Society-As-Body Analogy.” Presented at the Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Student Conference. Princeton, February 10, 2018.
- “Discerning the Body: Paul’s Portrayal of Corporate Identity in 1 Corinthians.” Presented at the 2017 Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Conference, themed “Justice & Reconciliation.” Princeton, February 17-18, 2017.
- “A Revolutionary Political Theology.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, November 18-22, 2016.
- “Against Rulers and Authorities? Political Theology in Castro’s Cuba.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Meeting. Dallas, Texas, March 11-13, 2016.
- “On the Road Again: The Resurgence of the Pilgrimage and Embodied Devotion.” Presented at the 2015 Annual Eastern International Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Montreal, May 1-2, 2015.
- “Virtually Present?” Presented at the 2015 Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Columbia, Maryland, March 5-6, 2015.
- “The Structural Transformation of the Cybersphere.” Presented at the First Annual Comparative Literature Association of Ireland Conference. Cork, Ireland, June 28-30, 2012.
- “Democratic Networks (and Networks of Networks).” Presented at the International Studies Association, Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies Section Conference. Prague, Czech Republic, June 24-26, 2012.

INVITED  
LECTURES

“Women and Christian Ethics.” Christian Ethics and Modern Society, Princeton University, November 10, 2022.  
“The Bible and Sexuality.” Invited to lecture and facilitate two sessions of the Bible and Comparative Ethics, Rhodes College, March 1-3, 2021.  
“Pedagogical Knots: Teaching Gender, Sexuality, and Religion.” Invited Panelist, Gender, Sexuality, and Religion working group, Princeton University, April 12, 2021.  
“Lincoln’s Confession.” Invited lecture at All Saints Episcopal Church, Fall 2018.  
“Autonomy and Harm.” Ethics and Public Policy, Princeton University, Fall 2017.  
“Politics and the Media.” Citizens and Governance, Illinois State University, Spring 2012.  
“Citizenship.” Citizens and Governance, Illinois State University, Spring 2012.  
“W.E.B. DuBois.” American Political Thought, Illinois State University, Fall 2007.  
“Empirical and Normative Statements.” Quantitative Reasoning, Illinois State University, Spring 2007.  
“Development and Globalization.” Introduction to the Politics of Africa, Asia and Latin America, Illinois State University, Spring 2007.

TEACHING

**Instructor**

University of South Carolina  
SPRING 2024  
*Communicating Moral Issues*

**Instructor**

University of Virginia  
FALL 2023  
*Ethics and the Body*

**Co-instructor**

Princeton University  
FALL 2023  
*Reparative Ethics (Wintersession course, taught with Candace Jordan)*

**Teaching Assistant**

Princeton University  
FALL 2017 & FALL 2019  
*Christian Ethics & Modern Society*  
*Ethics & Public Policy*

**Teaching Assistant**

Princeton Theological Seminary  
SPRING 2016  
*Koine Greek*

**Teaching Assistant**

Illinois State University  
SPRING & FALL 2007, FALL 2011 & SPRING 2012  
*Citizenship & Governance*  
*American Political Thought*  
*Introduction to the Politics of Africa, Asia, and Latin America*  
*Quantitative Reasoning in Political Science*  
*Introduction to International Relations*

SERVICE	<p>Member, <i>Social Ethics Network of the PC(USA)</i>, 2016-Present          Member, <i>Fellowship for Protestant Ethics</i>, 2023-Present          President, <i>Fellowship for Protestant Ethics</i>, 2022-2023          Vice President, <i>Fellowship for Protestant Ethics</i>, 2021-2022          Co-convener, <i>Political Theology Network Workshop Series</i>, 2020-2022          Co-convener, <i>Student Caucus of the Society of Christian Ethics</i>, 2021-2022          Board Member, <i>Fellowship for Protestant Ethics</i>, 2020-2021          Student Member, <i>Nominating Committee of the Society of Christian Ethics</i>, 2019          Panelist, <i>Women in the Academy, Princeton Seminary Center for Theology, Women, and Gender</i>, 2018          Production Editor, <i>Princeton Theological Review</i>, 2015 and 2016          Production Editor, <i>Lenten Devotional</i>, 2015 and 2016          Coordinator, <i>Anam Cara Mentorship Initiative</i>, 2014          Editor, <i>Critique</i>, 2007, 2011          Treasurer, <i>ISU Politics &amp; Government Graduate Student Association</i>, 2007          President, <i>Juniata Model UN</i>, 2006          President, <i>Juniata Philosophy Club</i>, 2003-2005</p>	
LANGUAGES	<p>Spanish, intermediate          German, competent in reading          French, competent in reading</p>	<p>Koine Greek, competent in reading          Biblical Hebrew, competent in reading</p>
RESEARCH INTERESTS	<p>Political theology; motherhood and pregnancy; the development of moral agency; collective responsibility and structural injustice; religious and political resistance and social change; critical gender theory; sexuality and gender identity; democracy and deliberative theory</p>	
REFERENCES	<p><b>Dr. Eric Gregory</b>          Professor of Religion          Princeton University          gregory@princeton.edu</p> <p><b>Dr. Leora Batnitzky</b>          Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies          Princeton University          batnitzk@princeton.edu</p> <p><b>Dr. Stephen Macedo</b>          Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics          Princeton University          macedo@princeton.edu</p>	<p><b>Dr. Lara Buchak</b>          Professor of Philosophy          Princeton University          lbuchak@princeton.edu</p> <p><b>Dr. John Bowlin</b>          Robert L. Stuart Professor of Philosophy and Christian Ethics          Princeton Theological Seminary          john.bowlin@ptsem.edu</p>