

Theologian, author, and researcher working at the intersection of systematic theology, aesthetics, and the arts. My research brings modern Protestant theology into conversation with architecture, visual art, music, and material culture, with particular interests in Eberhard Jüngel, theological aesthetics, hermeneutics, and theological anthropology. I am the author of *Beauty in the Absence of God: The Theological Aesthetics of Eberhard Jüngel* (Mohr Siebeck, 2026) and *Too Sick to Pray: A Theology of Outlaw Country* (Fortress Press, 2026). Across my research and teaching, I am interested in how theology encounters the forms human beings make and inhabit—and how those encounters can generate new possibilities for theological thought.

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

- 2026–Present** **Lecturer in Theology and the Arts**
King's College London, London, UK
- 2025–Present** **Architectural Collections Cataloguer**
Brompton Oratory, London, UK
Catalogue and organize architectural drawings, renderings, and related documents for future researchers.
- 2024** **Research Assistant**
University of St Andrews, St Andrews, UK
Widening Horizons of Philosophical Theology. Research toward a monograph on philosophical theology and theological aesthetics, with special reference to Eberhard Jüngel.

EDUCATION

- 2024** **PhD in Systematic Theology**
University of St Andrews, St Andrews, UK
Thesis: "God's Presence within His Absence: The Theological Aesthetics of Eberhard Jüngel." Supervisor: Judith Wolfe.
- 2019** **MPhil in Modern Theology**
University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
Thesis: "Gestalt Ecclesiology: The Place of Theology in a Pluralistic Society." Supervisor: Michael Oliver.
- 2017** **BA in Philosophy, summa cum laude**
Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL
Senior Philosophy Award: selection based on academic and research accomplishment.
- 2007** **AAS in Architectural Engineering, magna cum laude**
John Tyler Community College, Chester, VA

MONOGRAPHS

- 2026** *Beauty in the Absence of God: The Theological Aesthetics of Eberhard Jüngel*
Dogmatik in der Moderne. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
Forthcoming
- 2026** *Too Sick to Pray: A Theology of Outlaw Country*
Fortress Press, Minneapolis

EDITED VOLUMES & SPECIAL ISSUES

- 2028** **Eberhard Jüngel and the Renewal of Systematic Theology**
International Journal of Systematic Theology
Edited and introduced by Charles Howell.
In progress

- 2027 **Art as Transformation: Integrative Perspectives on Aesthetics, Creativity, and Spirituality**
 Edited by Charles Howell, Matthew Pelowski, and Taylor Worley.
In progress
- God as the Mystery of the World? Conceptions of the World in Hermeneutical Theology**
 Mohr Siebeck
 Edited by Phillip David, Charles Howell, Robert Martin Jockel, and Jan Phillip Turck.
In progress
- 2026 **“Monsignore Otto Mauer’s *Art and Christianity*”**
Religion and Literature, 57.3
 Edited, translated, and introduced by C. M. Howell; contributions by Trevor Hart, Taylor Worley, Thomas Breedlove, and Annie Konzelman.

ARTICLES, CHAPTERS & REFERENCE WORKS

- 2027 **“Appearing from Absence: A Survey of New Literature on Eberhard Jüngel.”**
International Journal of Systematic Theology
In progress
- “Festive Foreshadows: Cult, Worship, and the Kingdom of God in Wolfhart Pannenberg.”**
Pannenberg and the World. International Pannenberg Series, Karl Alber Publishing, Baader, Germany.
In progress
- “‘Gottgeheimnis der Welt’ and ‘Gott als Geheimnis der Welt’: The Comparative Ontologies of Eric Przywara and Eberhard Jüngel.”**
 God as the Mystery of the World? Conceptions of the World in Hermeneutical Theology. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
In progress
- “Lema Sabachthani: The Foresakeness of God: Suffering, Memorial, and Existential Strife in Post-War Stations of the Cross.”**
Stations of the Cross (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana)
In progress
- 2026 **“A ‘More’ Visual Ghost: The Rupture of Sketch in Gordon Matta-Clark.”**
Drawing Matter
- “Liturgy, Play, and Form: Dom Hans van der Laan on Culture and Sacrament in Architecture.”**
Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture, 29:4
 with Taylor Worley. **“Testing the Spirit(s) in Modern Art: A Visual Pneumatology from Kandinsky to Newman.”**
The Spirit and the Sketch: Pneumatological Reflection on Visual Art, ed. Chris E. W. Green and Steven Felix-Jager. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- “Eschatological Flow: Theology, Temporality, and Flow in OutKast’s ‘Rosa Parks’.”**
Hip Hop Theology: Speaking God in Public, ed. Alex Sosler and Claude Atcho. Eugene, OR: Cascade Publishers.
- 2025 **“Music, Transcendence, and Divine Identity: The Contribution of Christoph Schwöbel for Theology and the Arts.”**
Christoph Schwöbel: Theology in Conversation. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- “Architecture From Liturgy: Dom Hans van der Laan.”**
Art + Christianity, 123
- 2024 **“Architecture’s Crisis of Freedom.”**
Plough, 41
- “Hermeneutical Theology.”**
 St Andrews Encyclopedia of Theology.
- “C.S. Peach & the Cruciform Design of the Cathedral.”**
Drawing Matter
 Selected for publication in the Storytellers/Observed competition.
- “Sacred Ground: Reflections on Ultimate Concern in Paul Tillich & Kendrick Lamar.”**

“The (Hi)story of God: The Function of Narrative in Eberhard Jüngel’s Divine Ontology.”

The Freedom of Christianity: New Studies in Dialogue with Eberhard Jüngel, ed. Piotr J. Matysz and R. David Nelson. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

“Music as Meaning: Comments on the Hermeneutical Role & Spiritual Dimension of Music.”

Music and Spiritual Realities: New Methodologies and Perspectives on ‘the Most Spiritual of the Arts,’ ed. George Corbett and Sarah Moerman. Cambridge: Open Gate Publishers.

2023

“C.M. Howell celebrates Egon Altdorf.”

Art + Christianity, 116

“Theological Aesthetics in Twentieth Century German Protestantism.”

Lutheran Forum

“Space & Earth: The Aporia of Dan Drage’s ‘Gathering Surface’.”

Transpositions

“Hans Hollein & Spiritual Expression in Architecture.”

Drawing Matter

“Rhythms of Silence & Space: Contemplation and Proportion in Dom Hans van der Laan.”

Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality, 23.2

2022

“The Image of Hope: Time, History, and Hope in the Theological Aesthetics of Eberhard Jüngel.”

Journal of the Oxford Graduate Theological Society, 3.1

“Eberhard Jüngel.”

Biographisch-Bibliographisches Kirchenlexikon

“The Edge of Perception: Gordon Matta-Clark’s Hermeneutic of Place and the Possibilities of Absence for the Theological Imagination.”

Religions 13.10

2021

“Virtue in a Secular Age.”

Worthwhile Theology Magazine, 4

BOOK REVIEWS

2025

Hans Burger, *Jesus Christ, Hermeneutics, and Scripture: From Epistemology to Soteriology* (Cascade Books, 2024).

Theologische Literaturzeitung, 11

Tiziana Proietti & Kees den Beisen, *Hans van der Laan’s Instruments of Thought: Proportion, Architecture, Analogy* (Routledge, 2025).

Drawing Matter.

2024

Samuel Shearn, *Paul Tillich: The Justification of the Doubter* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

Reading Religion.

Sofia Singler, *The Religious Architecture of Alvar, Aino and Elissa Aalto* (Lund Humphries, 2023).

Drawing Matter.

2020

Nancy Usselman, *A Sacred Look: Becoming Cultural Mystics: Theology of Popular Culture* (Cascade Books, 2018).

Reading Religion.

2019

Paul M. Gould, *Cultural Apologetics: Renewing the Christian Voice, Conscience, and Imagination in a Disenchanted World* (Zondervan Academic, 2019).

Reading Religion.

Jennifer Allen Craft, *Placemaking and the Arts: Cultivating the Christian Life* (InterVarsity Press, 2018).

Reading Religion.

- 2018 **W. David O. Taylor and Taylor Worley, eds., Contemporary Art and the Church: A Conversation Between Two Worlds (InterVarsity Press, 2017).**
Reading Religion.
- Peik Ingman, Terhi Utriainen, Tuija Hovi, and Måns Broo, eds., The Relational Dynamics of Enchantment and Sacralization: Changing the Terms of the Religion Versus Secularity Debate (Equinox, 2016).**
Reading Religion.

AUDIO & MEDIA

- 2026 **“The rebel religion of outlaw country singers”**
U.S. Catholic 91.8
- 2025 **“CM Howell: An Outlaw Country Musician, Architect, and Theologian...”**
The Artistic Vision Podcast
- 2023 **“Theology and Architecture.”**
Discerning the Forms Podcast
- 2022 **“Post-Metaphysical Theology & The Trinitarian Turn.”**
Discerning the Forms Podcast
- “Dialectical Theology.”**
Discerning the Forms Podcast
- “Eberhard Jüngel with C.M. Howell.”**
Discerning the Forms Podcast
- 2021 **“Aesthetics with C.M. Howell.”**
Discerning the Forms Podcast

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2026 with Brandon Watson, **“Narratives Beyond Metaphysics: Possibilities of Order in Hermeneutical Theology.”**
European Academy of Religion, Rome, Italy.
- with Ben Holsteen, **“Mothers of Dead Men, Capricorns, and Crown of Thorns: The Unexpected Presence and Power of Jesus in Pop Music.”**
International Network for Music Theology, St Andrews, UK.
- 2025 **“A Prophet of the Times: Otto Mauer’s Legacy & Influence in Austrian Theology, Aesthetics, and Culture.”**
European Academy of Religion, Vienna, Austria.
- 2024 with Ben Holsteen, **“Discographic Possibilities: Theological Complexity in Pop Music’s Conceptual Albums.”**
International Network for Music Theology, Durham, UK.
- 2023 **“The Meaning of Temporality: The Hermeneutical Contours of Word & History in Eberhard Jüngel.”**
European Academy of Religion, St Andrews, UK.
- with Christian Kalmbach, **“God’s Conceptual Form: Divine Ontology & Topologies in the Trinitarian Turn.”**
European Academy of Religion, St Andrews, UK.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & INVITED LECTURES

- 2026 **“The Word Within God: Bonaventure and the Ontological Foundations of Hermeneutical Theology.”**
European Academy of Religion, Rome, Italy.
- “Beauty in the Absence of God.”**
European Academy of Religion, Rome, Italy.
- “Jesus Was a Capricorn: Incarnations in Kris Kristofferson.”**
International Network for Music and Theology, St Andrews, UK.

“Lema Sabachthani: The Foresakeness of God: Suffering, Memorial, and Existential Strife in Barnett Newman’s Stations of the Cross.”

Religion from the Outside, St Andrews, UK.

“The Immanency of Divine Speech: Bonaventure’s Contribution to Hermeneutical Theology.”

Scottish Dogmatics Conference, St Andrews, UK.

“Festive Foreshadows: Cult, Worship, and the Kingdom of God in Wolfhart Pannenberg.”

3rd International Wolfhart Pannenberg Symposium, Chicago, IL.

“A Prodigal Return to Modern Metaphysics: Love, Freedom, and the Aesthetics of Glory in Eberhard Jüngel”

Systematic Theology Seminar, St. Andrew, UK.

“Catch Tomorrow Now: Pop Music, Time, and Eschatological Ends.”

International Network for Music and Theology, Oxford, UK.

2025

“Pre-Vatican II Ecclesial Architecture.”

University of Westminster, London.

“Theology and Architecture: Stability, Utility, and Beauty.”

Institute for Theology, Imagination, and the Arts, University of St Andrews.

“‘Gottgeheimnis der Welt’ and ‘Gott als Geheimnis der Welt’: The Comparative Ontologies of Eric Przywara and Eberhard Jüngel.”

European Academy of Religion, Vienna, Austria.

“Otto Mauer’s Vision of Theology and the Arts.”

European Academy of Religion, Vienna, Austria.

“Mediated Space & Architectural Completion: The Benedictine ‘Rule of Moderation’ in the Architecture of Dom Hans Van der Laan.”

European Academy of Religion, Vienna, Austria.

with Taylor Worley. **“Testing the Spirit(s) in Modern Art: A Visual Pneumatology from Kandinsky to Newman.”**

European Academy of Religion, Vienna, Austria.

“Too Sick to Pray: ‘Spirit’ in Willie Nelson.”

AAR Online June Annual Meeting.

2024

“‘So They Call You an Outlaw’: Theology, Play, and Outlaw Country in Cecil Allen Moore.”

Institute for Theology, Imagination, and the Arts, University of St Andrews.

“Spiritual Complexity: Theological Reflections on Willie Nelson’s Spirit Album.”

International Network for Music Theology Conference, Durham, UK.

“Indicative of Love—Aesthetics of Freedom: Worship as Festival from Schleiermacher to Jüngel.”

Scottish Dogmatics Conference, Aberdeen, UK.

“Echoes of Eros: The Aesthetic Dimensions of Eberhard Jüngel’s Ontology of Love.”

European Academy of Religion, Palermo, Italy.

“Return to the Regular: The Idiomatic Dynamics of Improvisation in Django Reinhardt’s ‘I’ll See You in My Dreams’.”

Demos, Master Tapes, and Flip Sides Symposium, Edinburgh, UK.

2023

“The Weak Power of Love: The Reception of Hegel and Schelling in Post-Metaphysical Theology.”

British Society for Philosophy of Religion, Oxford, UK.

“Art as Destruction: Christoph Schwöbel’s Challenge to Theology and the Arts.”

Christoph Schwöbel: Theology in Conversation, St Andrews, UK.

“Being as Ideal, Absolute, & Divine: The Influence of Schelling & Hegel on Trinitarian Theology.”

European Academy of Religion, St Andrews, UK.

“Music as Meaning: Comments on the Hermeneutical Role & Spiritual Dimension of Music.”

Music and Spiritual Realities Workshop, St Andrews, UK.

“The Power of the Spirit & The Weakness of the Cross: Eberhard Jüngel’s Theology of Love.”

Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference, Edinburgh, UK.

- 2022 **“Contemplation & Proportion in Modern Architecture.”**
Art Seeking Understanding; Baylor Symposium for Faith and Culture; Institute for Faith and Learning, Waco, TX.
- “Beauty as an Interruption to Understanding: The Post-Metaphysical Aesthetics of Eberhard Jüngel.”**
Art Seeking Understanding; Baylor Symposium for Faith and Culture; Institute for Faith and Learning, Waco, TX.
- “Spatial Absence in Gordon Matta-Clark: The Dialectic of Presence and Absence and the Aesthetics of Revelation.”**
Catholicism, Literature, and the Arts III: The Poetics of Liturgy and Place, London, UK.
- 2020 **“Divine Action after the Death of God—The concept of divine action in the work of Eberhard Jüngel.”**
American Academy of Religion Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Region Regional Conference, Colorado Springs, CO. Cancelled due to Covid-19.
- 2019 **“Normative Transgression: The Implicit Map of the Modern Social Imaginary and Its Implications for the Christian Life.”**
Thinking As/Through Practice: Scripture, Liturgy, Spirituality, Birmingham, UK.
- 2018 **“Enchantment in Thought and Culture: Historical Methods and the Consequences of Time.”**
Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference, Chicago, IL.
- “Hospitality as an Architectural Trope: The Material and Sociology of Glass in Modern Architecture.”**
Theological Tropes in Contemporary Culture, Oxford, UK.
- 2017 **“The Individual and the Shifting Social Imaginary: How Hylomorphism Offers a Better Understanding of Cultural Identity.”**
Clement S. Stacy Undergraduate Research Conference, Purdue University Northwest.
- “The Mind as a Geometric Ghost: Revising the Modern Instrumental Epistemology.”**
Illinois State University: 4th Annual Philosophical Conversations—Thinking about Science & the Mind, Normal, IL.
- “Religion Without Remainder: Authentic Faith in a Post-Metaphysical Landscape.”**
American Academy of Religion Midwest Regional Conference, Muncie, IN.
- 2016 **“Taylor Made Religion: Charles Taylor’s Social Imaginary and a Post-Modern Culture.”**
American Academy of Religion Midwest Regional Conference, Muncie, IN.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2026–Present **Lecturer in Theology and the Arts**
King’s College London, London, UK
- 2022–24 **Teaching Assistant**
University of St Andrews, St Andrews, UK
DI1001—God and the World: Introducing Theology. Organized, planned, and facilitated tutorials; marked essays and supported course delivery.
- 2020 **Teaching Assistant**
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY
85450—Christianity and the Visual Arts. Supported research, syllabus development, presentation materials, and lecture discussion.
- 2016–17 **Teaching Assistant**
Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL
PH180—Ethics; PH432—Contemporary Philosophy; PH180H—Honors Introduction to Philosophy; PH353—The Philosophy of Immanuel Kant. Prepared course materials, facilitated discussion, and offered tutoring and exam preparation.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2024 **Research Assistant**
University of St Andrews, St Andrews, UK
Widening Horizons of Philosophical Theology. Research toward a monograph on philosophical theology and theological aesthetics, with special reference to Eberhard Jüngel.

- 2016-17 Research Assistant**
 Trinity International University
 Museum of the Bible Scholars Initiative Project. Director: Silvie Rachel. Analyzed manuscripts of New Testament Epistles from the Medieval Period.
- 2016 Research Assistant**
 Chris Firestone, *Kant and the Question of Theology* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Assisted with editorial responsibilities, including bibliography and index.
- Research Assistant**
 “The New Age Movement,” in *The Worldview Study Bible* (Holman Bible Publishers, 2017). Co-authored and edited article with Taylor Worley.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2004–19 Professional Musician**
 Writing/composition, live performance, touring in the USA and Europe, studio work, and performance across multiple instruments and genres.
- 2014–15; 2020 Architectural Draftsman**
 Schutz Foss Architects, P.C., Gillette, WY
 Schematic design, site documentation, design drawings, development meetings, graphics/renderings, construction documents, and construction management for residential and commercial projects.
- 2007–11 Architectural Designer / Draftsman**
 StudioAmmons, Petersburg, VA
 Schematic design, site documentation, design drawings, development meetings, graphics/renderings, construction documents, construction management, graphic design, museum design, web design, and physical models.