

Seth Villegas

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EDUCATION

- 2017 – 2022 Boston University PhD in Theological Studies
Dissertation: “The Desire to Upload: A Theological Analysis of Transhumanist Advocacy for Life-extension and Immortality”
- 2014 – 2016 Fuller Theological Seminary M.A. in Theology
- 2009 – 2013 Stanford University B.A. in English Literature
Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “The Desire to Upload: Digital Immortality and the Transhumanist Push for Radical Life-Extension.” Presented at Drake University on September 29, 2022. Keynote lecture for comparative class on transhumanism and religion that I helped to design with Professor Tim Knepper.
- 2022 “A typology for understanding the usage and intentions of Spirit Tech consumers” in *Religion, Brain, & Behavior*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/2153599X.2022.2091009>
- 2022 “The Transhumanist Technoreligion: Toward a Digital Future.” Presented at Boston College for the *Lumen et Vita* Spring Conference on March 26, 2022.
- 2021 “When does Technology Become Religion? Digital Immortality, Machine Gods, and the Resurrection of the Dead.” Presented at Synai and Synapses, February 1, 2021.
- 2019 “Immortality without Eschatology.” Presented at Christian Transhumanist Association Conference, October 19, 2019.
- 2018 “The Morality of Autonomous Cars in the Context of Algorithmic Uncertainty: A Multidisciplinary Discussion of Ethics.” Presented at New England Maritime Region Meeting for the Academy of Religion, April 7, 2018.
- 2016 “Establishing Identity in the Christian Resurrection: A Dialogue with the Science-Fiction Imagination of Charles Stross.” In *The Wonder and Fear of Technology*, ed. David H. Kim of *Center for Faith & Work*. San Bernardino: Center for Faith & Work, 2016.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2019 Review of Michael E. Hobart, *The Great Rift: Literacy, Numeracy, and the Religion-Science Divide*, in *Reading Religion*. Posted online April 5, 2019.
- 2019 Review of Julián Andrés González Holguín, *Cain, Abel, and the Politics of God: An Agambenian Reading of Genesis 4:1-16*, in *Perspectivas*, No. 16, 2019.
- 2018 Review of Shannon Vallor, *Technology and the Virtues: A Philosophical Guide to a Future Worth Wanting*, in *Teaching Ethics*, Vol. 18, No. 2, Fall 2018.

BOOKS EDITED

2017 Hegertun, Terje. *The Spirit Driven Church: Signs of God's Graceful Presence*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2017. Co-editor.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – 2023 *Boston University: Computational Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Research Assistant*
Responsible for coordinating Spring Speaker series on computational methods in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Helped to design and maintain BU CHASS website, directory, and resources.
- 2021 – 2023 *Boston University: Computing and Data Sciences (CDS)*
Taught ethics component of Spark! Labs practicum courses in Machine Learning and Software Engineering. Designed ethics audit procedure for students to work through on their project. Students did initial assessment and final audit upon project completion. Worked with Professors Ziba Cranmer, Langdon White, Thomas Gardo, Oindrilla Chatterjee, and Kristen Handricken.
- 2020 – 2023 *Boston University & Center for Mind and Culture, Doctoral Fellow*
Public communications project on the ethics of technology with Dr. Wesley Wildman, called, “DigEthix.” In charge of podcast production, direction of content, social media accounts, and management of research-material databases.
- 2020 *Boston University: Computing and Data Sciences (CDS) Ethics and Responsible Computing Working Group, Research Fellow*
Worked to produce a database of case studies related to ethical lapses in technology for Provost Azer Bestavros. Performed research on peer institutions and made curricular recommendations for development of PhD, masters, and undergraduate degrees.
- 2019 - 2020 *Boston University, Research Fellow*
“East Boston Church Project” with Dr. Jonathan Calvillo. Qualitative research project investigating the effects of gentrification on Latinx people and churches.
- 2018 - 2019 *Boston University, Teaching Fellow*
“Introduction to Christian Traditions.” Required introductory course on theology and Christian religious history pre-Reformation.
“Engaging Modernity.” Required introductory course on theology and Christian religious history post-Reformation.
- 2017 *Fuller Theological Seminary, Teaching Assistant*
“Worship, Theology, and the Arts Touchstone Course.” Introductory course for the theology and culture concentration.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING SEMINARS

- 2019 – 2021 *Sinai and Synapses Fellowship*
Fellowship aimed at bringing together scientists, religious leaders, and academics to talk about broader issues in the community related to science and religion. The fellows meet three times a year to hear from a guest speaker.
- 2019 *Magi Seminar, “Space, Time and Eternity”*

- Graduate student seminar hosted at the University of Pennsylvania from June 17 - 21, 2019. Discussion of issues of cosmology led by scholars in theology, philosophy, and astronomy.
- 2018 *Center for Teaching and Learning, "Preparing Future Faculty"*
A semester-long series of workshops at Boston University: "Backwards Design," "Online Teaching," and "Philosophy of Teaching." Professional development aimed at beginning teaching fellows.
- 2017 – *Religion and Science Colloquium*
Hosted at Boston University. Weekly colloquium of graduate students on academic papers relevant to religion and science. Past colloquia have included: "Religion and Sex/Gender" (2017-2018), "Religion and Nature" (2018 – 2019), "Religion and Emotion" (2019 – 2020), and "Religion and Psychology" (2020 – 2021).

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2019 – *Transhumanism and Human Enhancement AAR Steering Committee*
Five-year appointment to give input on calls for papers, feedback on submissions, recommendations for panels.
- 2018 – 2019 *Faculty Search Committee*
Service done at Boston University. Year-long appointment to search team for two faculty openings, Assistant Professor of Theology and Assistant Professor of New Testament. Duties included review of materials from candidates, organization of student meetings with candidates, and facilitation and collection of student feedback.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2021 - 2023 *HTI/Lilly Fellowship*
Dissertation scholarship given out by the Hispanic Theological Initiative and sponsored by the Lilly Foundation. The scholarship pairs the recipient with editor, provides a summer conference devoted to dissertation writing, and grants stipend funds.
- 2020 *Computing and Data Sciences Research Fellowship*
Research stipend given for summer research done on behalf of the Computing and Data Sciences division. Awarded by Boston University.
- 2017 *Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) Scholar*
Awarded by the HTI Consortium and Boston University. Training and mentorship program directed at Hispanic graduate students working in the fields of theology and religion. Provides annual funding and a professional development conference each summer.
- 2017 *Paul and Auburn Carr Scholarship in Science and Religion*
Awarded by Boston University. Directed at doctoral students doing active research relevant to the science and religion dialogue.
- 2017 *Doctoral Students of Color Scholarship*
Awarded by Boston University. Recruitment scholarship for incoming doctoral students.

RESEARCH LANGUAGES AND COMPETENCIES

Ancient Languages: *koine* Greek, ancient Hebrew

Research Languages: German

Computer Languages: Java, Python

REFERENCES

Wesley Wildman, Professor of Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics
Boston University - wwildman@bu.edu

Jonathan Calvillo, Assistant Professor of Latinx Communities
Emory University - jcalvillo@emory.edu