

Curriculum Vitae
VICTOR ANDERSON

PERMANENT ADDRESS:

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Employment:

Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Vanderbilt Divinity School,
Associate Professor of African American Studies,
Associate Professor of Religious Studies, College of Arts and Sciences,
Vanderbilt University,
The Divinity School, 240
Nashville, TN. 37240
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EDUCATION:

1. Higher Education:

Princeton University, M.A. (1991) and Ph.D. in Religion (1992), Program of study:
Religion, Ethics and Politics. Dissertation: "The Legacy of Pragmatism in the Theologies
of D.C. Macintosh, H. Richard Niebuhr, and James M. Gustafson," pp. 218.
Calvin Theological Seminary, M.Div. (1986).
Calvin Theological Seminary, M.Th. (1990).
Trinity Christian College, B.A. (1982).

2. Fellowships:

Exchange Scholar in Religious Studies, American Philosophy and Religious Thought,
Yale University Graduate School, 1990-1991.
Andrew Mellon Scholarship, Princeton University, 1990. Seminar on Law among the
Disciplines: Literature, Philosophy, Social Science, and Ethics.
Calvin College Minority Faculty Recruitment Fellowship for Graduate Studies, (1988-
1990).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

1. Editor:

Co-editor with Anthony B. Pinn of the Trinity International Press Series on African
American Religious Thought and Life (1998-).
Editorial Board of the Journal of the American Academy of Religion (1999-).
Editorial Board of the American Journal of Theology and Philosophy (2002-).

2. Teaching:

Instructor: Department of Religion and Theology at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.,
1986-1988.

Teaching Assistant at Princeton University: "Ethics and the Life Sciences," Dr. Philip Quinn, Notre Dame University, instructor; "Religion and its Modern Critics," Dr. Cornel West, instructor; "The Self and the World's Religions," Dr. Malcolm Diamond, instructor; and "Christian Ethics and Modern Society," Dr. Victor Preller, instructor. Visiting Instructor at Iliff School of Theology, Summer Program, 1997
Mentor of the United Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry Program in the Black Church and Economic and Spiritual Empowerment Group (2000-).

3. Church:

Canaan Baptist Church, Chicago, IL. Associate Pastor, 1976-1982.
Pastor of Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids MI., 1986-1988.
Resigned ordination for full-time teaching in 1989.

4. Academic Interests:

I. Theology and Ethics: 19th century American, 20th century North Atlantic, contemporary African American theology and ethics. Research and writing in American Empirical, Pragmatic, and Process theologies and philosophy.

II. Religion, Ethics and Culture Studies: religion and social sciences, cultural studies , and 20th century political theologies. Theology and social theory, religion and critical theory, ethics and cultural criticism. African-American theology and cultural studies.

III. Philosophical Theology and Philosophical Ethics: philosophical problems (evil, knowledge, language, etc), African American philosophy and African American religious thought, Philosophical Ethics in Western Tradition.

COURSES AND TUTORIALS CURRENTLY TEACHING (Syllabi available upon request):

African American Political Theology. (F/92, F/93. F/96, S/00)

Theology and Ethics in America. (F/92, F/95, S/99).

Twentieth-Century North Atlantic Theology and Ethics [Graduate Seminar](Sp/94, F/95,F/01)

Ethics in Theological Perspective. (Sp/93, Sp/94, Sp/95, Sp/97, S/99, Sp00, Sp01).

Religion and Morality from Hobbes to Hume. [Graduate Seminar] (Sp/93, Sp/95).

Methods in Ethics: Socratic to Discourse Ethics. [Graduate Seminar] (F/93, F/94, F/96, F/98, F/00, F/02).

Theology and Social Theory. (F/94, F/97,)

Religion and Black Popular Culture (May 00)

Religion and Natural Science (May 01, 02)

African American Religious Thought, [Undergraduate Seminar] (F/97, F/00, F/02).

African Religion and Philosophy [tutorial]. (Sp/94, Sp/00)

Catholic Moral Theology, (Sp/95, Sp/98, Sp/02)

Ethical Monotheism in Western Philosophy [Graduate Seminar]. (F/94, F/98).

Philosophy for the Study of Theology [tutorial]. (Sum/94, F/97, F/01).

Theology and the Medical Encounter [tutorial]. (F/94, F/96; Tennessee State University, undergraduate, F/99)

Philosophical Theology of Josiah Royce [tutorial]. (sum/95).

Theology and Ethics in America: American Public Theology (Sp/97, Iliff School of Theology, Sum, 97; Sp/00).

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES:

University Appellate Review. (1992-1994; 1998-2000).

Academic Affairs Divinity School. (1995-1997).

Personal and Policy Committee Divinity School. (1994-1995, 1996-1998).

Graduate Admission and Policy Committee. (1994-1996, 1997-).

University Faculty in Resident Program (1993-1998).
Faculty Senate: Professional ethics and grievance committee, Students Affairs (1998-00)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

American Academy of Religion, 1993-(Steering committee for Philosophy of Religion group, [1995-98]); Affiliate, Theological Reflection Group and Pragmatism and Empiricism Group).

Society of Christian Ethics, 1993-.

Highlands Institute for the Study of American Religious Thought, 1995-.

Society for the Study of Black Religion, 1997-.

PUBLICATIONS, PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, AND WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Books:

Pragmatic Theology: Negotiating the Intersections of an American Philosophy of Religion and Public Theology. (Albany: State University of New York, 1998)

Beyond Ontological Blackness: An Essay on African American Religious and Cultural Criticism. (New York: Continuum, 1995, 1998).

Chapters in Books:

"Secularization and the Worldliness of Theology," *Converging on Culture: Theologians in Dialogue with Cultural Analysis and Criticism*, edited by Delwin Brown, Sheila Greeve Davaney, and Kathryn Tanner (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), pp. 71-85.

"Is Cornel West also Among the Theologians: The Shadow of the Divine in the Religious Thought of Cornel West" in *Cornel West: A Critical Reader*, edited by George Yancy (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2001), pp. 139-153.

"We See Through a Glass Darkly: Black Narrative Theology and the Opacity of African American Religious Thought" in *The Ties that Bind: African American and Hispanic American /Latino/a theologies in Dialogue*, edited by Anthony B. Pinn and Benjamin Valentin (New York: Continuum, 2001), pp. 78-93.

"Critical Reflection on the Problems of History and narrative in a Recent African American Research Program" in *A Dream Unfinished: theological Reflections on America from the Margins*, edited by Eleazer S. Fernandez and Fernando F. Segovia (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2001), pp. 37-51.

"Ontological Blackness in Theology" in *Reflections: An Anthology of African American Philosophy*, edited by James A. Montmarquet and William H. Hardy, (Belmont, CA.: Wadsworth /Thomson Learning, 2000), pp. 414-423.

“Deadly Silence: Reflections on Homosexuality and Human Rights in the African American Community,” in *Homosexual Orientation and Human Rights*, Martha Nussbaum and Saul Olyan, editors (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998).

“Abominations of a Million Men” in *Black Religion After the Million Man March*, edited by Garth Baker Fletcher (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998), pp. 19-26.

“Dialogical Interrogations”, Garth Baker-Fletcher, Theodore Walker, and Victor Anderson, in *Black Religion After the Million Man March*, edited by Garth Baker Fletcher (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1998), pp. 36-46.

“The Pragmatic Secularization of Theology,” in *Pragmatism and Religion: Conversations with Richard Rorty*. A publication of the Highlands Institute for American Religious Thought, Inc. (New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 1997).

“The Search for Public Theology in the United States,” in *Preaching as a Theological Task*, Festschrift for David Buttrick, edited by Thomas Long and Edward Farley (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1996).

ARTICLES AND REVIEWS:

“Pragmatic Theology and the Natural Sciences at the Intersection of Human Interest” *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, Forthcoming, March 2002.

“Contour of an African American Public Theology,” *Journal of Theology*, Summer/2000 (2000):49-68.

“Liberation Theologies, Postmodernity, and the Americas,” by David Batstone, et al., reviewed by Victor Anderson, *Journal of Religion* (Fall 1999).

“The Wrestle of Christ and Culture in Pragmatic Public Theology,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, 19/2 May (1998): 135-150, a special issue on Pragmatism in Recent African American Religious Thought, edited by Victor Anderson.

“The Narrative Turn in Christian Ethics: A Critical Assessment,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 19/3 Sept(1998): 293-312.

“Changing Conversation,” by Dwight N. Hopkins and Sheila Davaney, reviewed by Victor Anderson. *Journal of Religion* 78/4 Oct(1998): 638-40.

“Why Lord?: Suffering and Evil in Black Theology”, by Anthony B. Pinn, reviewed by Victor Anderson. *Cross Currents*, Fall(1997): 410-413.

“African Religions and African American Religious Experience.” Ninth in Audio Documentary Series on Religion, Scriptures & Spirituality by Knowledge Products, series in the History of Religions, (1994).

“Frustrated Fellowship: The Black Baptists Quest for Social Power,” by James M. Washington, reviewed by Victor Anderson. Calvin Theological Journal, Vol.22.2 (Nov.88):355-57.

“Soul Theology: The Heart of American Black Culture”, by Henry Mitchell and Lewter, review by Victor Anderson. Calvin Theological Journal, vol.23.1 (Ap. 1988):85-87.

INTERVIEWS:

“Religion and Politics in America” interview by M. VanGelden (Fall 2000), Dutch T.V. 1, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

“African American Culture and the Church,” interview by Richard Nesmith (1995), Perspectives on Faith. A United Methodist Communications Production airing on the Faith and Values Channel.

“Books in Review: Beyond Ontological Blackness: An Essay on African American Religious and Cultural Criticism, by Victor Anderson,” Radio interview with Michael Svoboda, WPSU/NPR, Pennsylvania State University, February 14, 1996.

PUBLIC LECTURES:

“The Banality of Racism in Natural Science”, regional session of the Center for Theology and Natural Science Workshop, Atlanta, GA, June 13, 2002.

“Race, The Black Church, and Homosexuality”, Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies, Pacific School of Theology, Berkeley, CA, April 24, 2002.

“Relax its Just Sex: Homosexuality and African American Sexual Ethics,” presented at the 5th Brothers United Retreat, Fall Creek, TN December 7-9, 2001.

“Pragmatic theology and Natural Science: Converging Streams” at the Naturalism and Transcendence in Religious Thinking seminar, held at the Lutheran School of Theology, April 2, 2001.

“Religion, Science and the Organization of Human Interest: or How can Science and Religion Benefit Humanity?” at the Science and Religion: the New Imperative workshop held at the Center for Theology and Natural Sciences Workshop, Berkeley, CA., January 4-9, 2001.

“The Black Church and Homosexuality” a debate with Kelly Brown Douglas at Vanderbilt University, Spring 2000.

“The Black Church and Sexuality”, Society of Christian Ethics, Washington, D.C. January 8, 2000.

“Beyond Ontological Blackness” book discussion at Yale Graduate School, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 10, 1999.

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place: History and Narrative in African American Theology”, Institute for the Advance Study of Religion at Yale, Yale University, New Haven, CT., November 11, 1999.

“American Public Theology: Three Lecture” United Theological Seminary, Dayton, April 5-8, 1999, John Arthur Heck Lecture Series.

“Pragmatic Theology and Natural Science at the Intersection of Human Interests”, Kentucky State University, Templeton Lecture, April 9, 1999.

“The Contour of an American Public Theology” presented at Harvard Divinity School, October 27, 1998.

“A Conception of Race in African American Philosophy and Religion”, presented to African American Studies Program, Washington University. St. Louis, October 22, 1998.

“Toward a Theory of Minority Discourse in Religion”, presented to the Theology and Culture Group at Illiff School of Theology, October 13-18, 1998.

“The Public Burden of African American Theology: Theology and Cultural Criticism,” conference on Theology and Cultural Criticism at the University of Chicago, October 9-12, 1997.

“Religious Realism in American Theology: D. C. Macintosh and H. Richard Niebuhr,” AAR, Pragmatism and Empiricism Group, San Francisco, November, 1997.

“Pragmatic Historicism and the Theological Imagination: A Response to Sheila Davaney”, at the Highlands Institute, June 21, 1997.

“Is Graduate Education in Religion in Crisis?: Some Remarks”, Auburn Institute of Theological Education, Auburn Theological Seminary, March 1997.

“Critical Thinking in African American Philosophy,” First Philosophical Forum at Tennessee State University, February 1997.

“The Problems of History and Narrative in Contemporary African American Theology”, paper delivered in the Theology Department, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, England, May 14, 1996.

“Culture Wars, Do They Exist and What do We Make of Them,” and “The Fragility of Democratic Ethics,” papers presented to the Continuing Education Series of Vanderbilt

Divinity School (Fall, 1996) and The Ministerial Fellowship of Huntsville, AL., (Spring, 1997).

“The Roots of Prejudice,” presentation at Vine Street Christian Church, Sunday, April 28, 1996.

“The Ethics of Conversation,” paper given at the Interdenominational Clergy Conference, at Jefferson Street Baptist Church, Nashville, TN. Hosted by The National Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, March 4, 1996, the First Response Center, Nashville, TN.

“Public Theology, Paradox, and Postmodern Life,” paper presented at AAR, Theological Interpretations of America Panel. Theological Reflection Group, 1995.

“A Critical Response to Homosexual Issues in the African American Community: Cheryl Sanders and Michael Eric Dyson.” An International Conference on Sexual Orientation and Human Rights at Brown University, April 1995.

“Playing on the Grotesque in the Face of Mystery: A Response to Gordon Kaufman’s In Face of Mystery.” AAR, Theological Reflection Group. Chicago, November, 1994.

“Race and Sexuality,” presentation at “From Affirmation to Advocacy: Recognizing the Needs of Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Youth,” Sept, 1994. The Tennessee Coalition for Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Youth Services.

“Reconceptualizing the Midwifery Role of the Physician to Include Death: A Theocentric Response to Margaret Battin.” Paper presented to the Philosophy Department and Clinical Ethics Program at Vanderbilt University (1994).

“On Speaking American: Culture, Diversity, and Conflicts of Faith. A Response to James Davison Hunter’s Culture Wars.” Paper presented to Project Dialogue, Vanderbilt University (1993).

“Theology and the Human Genome Research.” Paper presented at Vanderbilt Medical School Continuing Education Summer Course, May 17, 1993.

“Christ and Culture and Recent African American Religious Criticism.” Paper presented to “The Enduring Problem: H. Richard Niebuhr’s Christ and Culture After Forty Years,” Conference at Vanderbilt Divinity School, May 14-16, 1993.

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Book:

Divine Grotesqueries: Five Essays in African American Philosophical Theology (forthcoming, Trinity International Press, Anticipated completion S/2002).

Chapters in Books:

“Secularization and the Public Burden of Academic Theology”, in *Theology and Cultural Analysis* edited by Delwin Brown and Sheila Davaney (Oxford University Press, 2002).

“Responsibility, Vengeance, and the Death Penalty”, in *Religion and the Death Penalty*, edited by Jean Bethe Elstain, et al. Pew Forum (Spring 2003).

REFERENCES:

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