

# ERIC MICHAEL DALE, PhD

Emerson College ~ Dept of Communication Studies  
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**Education:** **Doctor of Philosophy** (PhD), Philosophy of Religion. Boston University. January 2009.  
Alan Olson (principal advisor). Dissertation: *Hegel, History, and Evil: Towards Finite Theodicies*. Defended  
11 Dec 2008. The committee consisted of Alan M. Olson, Michael Zank, Robert Cummings Neville,  
and Krzysztof Michalski of Boston University, and Gordon D. Kaufman of Harvard University.

**Master of Theological Studies** (MTS), Harvard University, The Divinity School, 2002.  
Francis Schüssler Fiorenza (advisor). Hermeneutics, theology.

**Bachelor of Music** (MusB), Voice, University of Central Arkansas, 1995.  
Tenor performance major, minor in German language and literature.  
Appearances with Opera Memphis, the Shreveport Opera, Dallas Lyric Opera, the Arkansas  
Symphony, and others.

**Academic** **Adjunct Professor** (since 2008), Fisher College, Boston, MA.

**Employment:** Introduction to Philosophy  
Ethics  
Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Religion  
Introduction to World Religions  
Honors Colloquium: Plato, Aristotle, and the Roots of Western Thought

**Adjunct Professor** (since 2007), Emerson College, Boston, MA.

Introduction to Ethics  
Ethics and Justice  
Religion in Eastern Cultures  
Contemporary Ethics  
Environmental Ethics  
Narrative Ethics  
Directed Study: The Ethics of Place: Environment and Urbanity

**Visiting Instructor** (since 2007), Boston University, Boston, MA.

Religion and Culture  
Judaism  
Religions of the World: Western  
Religions of the World: Eastern

**Adjunct Professor** (2005-2008), Newbury College, Boston, MA.

World Religions  
Introduction to Western Philosophy  
Ethics

**Teaching Fellow** (2003-2005), Boston University, Boston, MA.

Religions of the World: Eastern  
Zen Buddhism  
Chinese Medicine  
(Continued...)

Theology II: Christian Theology  
Theology I: History of Christian Doctrine

**Areas of  
Teaching &  
Research**

Philosophy of religion  
Idealism and phenomenology (esp. Schelling, Hegel, Heidegger, Ricoeur, Lévinas, Marion)  
History of philosophy  
Ethics  
Systematic and philosophical theology  
World religions (historical and comparative)  
Religion and literature (esp. theology and Romantic German and English poetry)

**Awards &  
Fellowships**

Visiting Junior Fellow, Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna, Austria, 2006.  
Boston University Institute for Human Sciences Fellowship and Stipend, Spring 2006.

**Publications:**

“Bonaventure and Phenomenology: Transcendence and the Gift.” Under editorial consideration (2011).

“Humanism and Despotism: Hegel and Jaspers on Chinese History and Religion.” *Existenz: An International Journal of Philosophy, Religion, Politics, and the Arts*. 5:1 (Spring 2010)

“Hegel, Jesus, and Judaism.” *Animus: The Canadian Journal of Philosophy and Humanities* 11 (2006)

“Europe, Religion, and Self-Identity.” *IWM Post* 94:16-17, Vienna, Austria, (Fall 2006)

“Hegel, Evil, and the End of History.” In *History and Judgement*. Eds. I. Torsen and A. MacLachlan. IWM Junior Visiting Fellows Conferences, Vol. 21. Vienna: IWM, 2006.

**Selected  
Lectures:**

“God and the Philosophers: A Reply to Nichols and Jones” American Philosophical Assoc. Pacific Division Meeting, 5 April 2012 (scheduled lecture).

“The Interplay of *Ren* and *Li* in Kongzi’s *Lun Yu*.” Shawnee State University Dept of English and Humanities. 22 April 2011.

“Humanism and Despotism: Hegel and Jaspers on Chinese History and Religion.” American Philosophical Assoc. Eastern Division Meeting, 28 December 2009.

“*Quinque viae*: Aquinas and the Western Medieval Reception of Aristotelian Thought.” John Brown University Dept of Biblical Studies, 14 February 2008.

“Loss and the Religious Quest in the Poetry of Friedrich Hölderlin and Charles Williams.” Boston University College of Fine Arts, Tuesday Evening Lecture Series, 23 January 2007.

“The State/Individual and God/World Dynamics in Hegel’s Philosophy of World History.” Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna, Austria, 15 February 2006.

“The Possibility of Facing Death: Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Death, and Faith.” Florida State University, 2005 Dept. of Religion Graduate Symposium, 2 April 2005.

“Distance and the Divine: Wordsworth, Hölderlin, and the Absence of God.” University of Texas at Brownsville, 2005 Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, 29 September 2005. Paper accepted, declined the invitation to present.

“Yogācāra Buddhism, Kant, and Husserl: Comparative Phenomenology or Misplaced Idealism?” Boston University College of Arts and Sciences, 4 October 2004.

“Christ and the Religions, the Religions and Christ: A Comparative Theology of Religion.” Boston University School of Theology, 30 March 2004.

“Towards a Poetics of Place: Heidegger, Hölderlin, World, and Earth.” Harvard University, The Worldly Earth: An Ecological Conference, 20 March 2004.

“Comparing Kant and Aristotle: A Contemporary Ethical Example.” Boston University, Graduate Symposium in Philosophy of Religion, 4 November 2002.

**Current  
Projects:**

My dissertation, *Hegel, History, and Evil: Towards Finite Theodicies*, deals with Hegel and the issue of theodicy or the problem of evil. As a work of religious scholarship, it contributes to the conversation surrounding the nature of the divine and the question of human evil. As a work of philosophy, it is a reappraisal both of Hegel’s philosophy of history and his philosophy of religion. I problematize the prevalent critical reading of Hegel’s philosophy of history by considering Hegel’s historical theodicy in light of his so-called “end of history” thesis, and the challenges that have arisen against theodicy in the wake of Heidegger’s critique of metaphysics. In this study I take seriously the criticisms brought against Hegel’s philosophy of history and his historicist theodicy, while proposing a new way to view the relationship between the two in a more positive light.

I have revised and expanded this dissertation into two book-length manuscripts (300-350pp each). The first, a work of philosophy and history, situates Hegel’s philosophy of history between its two most important predecessors, Herder and Fichte, and its two most important early critics, Engels and Nietzsche. By tracing the development of philosophy of history from Herder to Nietzsche, I am able to show the strengths and weaknesses of Hegel’s work on history. At the same time, I provide a much-needed reappraisal of Hegel’s philosophy of history. The second manuscript, a work of religion and philosophical theology, is a reading of Hegel’s historical theodicy in dialogue with Heidegger and Hölderlin. Arguing that neither Hegel’s *absolute* God nor Heidegger’s *last* God offers a satisfying account of evil, I offer an interpretation of Hölderlin’s poetic theme of an *absent* God, in order to suggest a new way to think about the issue of evil and the divine.

In addition, I am structuring a manuscript for a book on justice, based on my successful course at Emerson College “Ethics and Justice,” which I have taught since 2007. The book is arranged chronologically, and right now has chapters on Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Hobbes, Kant, Mill, Hegel, Rawls, and Lévinas. I envision the book as both an introduction to the issues of ethics and justice, as well as an original argument about the concept of the self and the self’s relationship with notions of individual and societal justice. This manuscript is in the planning and research stage.

Finally, I am in the process of revising my theopoetical essays on Hölderlin, Hopkins, Wordsworth, and Williams, and researching work on Whitman, Auden, and Rilke, in order to present a book-length study on the theological, biblical, and philosophical theme of divine presence and absence in their poems.

**Languages:** German: reading and research competence, basic speaking skills  
French: reading and research competence, basic speaking skills  
Biblical & Classical Greek: basic reading and research competence  
Biblical Hebrew: basic reading and research competence

**Professional Affiliations:** American Academy of Religion  
American Philosophical Association  
Society of Biblical Literature  
The Hegel Society of America  
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy  
Society of Christian Philosophers  
The Medieval Academy of America

**References:** Prof. Alan M. Olson  
Paideia Project at Boston University  
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118 Beacon Street  
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