

Dr Sarah Lane Ritchie

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Current Position (August 2018-)

LECTURER IN THEOLOGY AND SCIENCE

NEW COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Previous Position (January 2017-August 2018)

RESEARCH FELLOW IN THEOLOGY & SCIENCE

ST MARY'S COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

Education

PHD | 2014- 2017 | UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Thesis advisor: Dr Mark Harris

Thesis Title: "With God in Mind: Divine Action and the Naturalisation of Consciousness"

MSC IN SCIENCE AND RELIGION | 2013 - 2014 | UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

With Distinction

Dissertation Title: "Neuroplasticity and Religious Belief: To what extent and by what means might an individual be said to "choose" belief in God?"

MDIV | 2008-2012 | PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Award: Robert L. Maitland Award in New Testament Exegesis

Award: Seward Hiltner Award in Theology and Personality

BA | 2004-2008 | SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY (MICHIGAN, USA)

Major: Philosophy and Religion

Minors: Biology, Psychology

Magna cum laude

Departmental Honors in Philosophy & Religion

Publications

BOOKS

Divine Action and the Human Mind. 2019. (Current Issues in Theology) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Mind and Matter: Panpsychism and its Alternatives (Editorial)." *Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences*. (Forthcoming, 2020).

"Integrated Physicality and the Absence of God: Spiritual Technologies in Theological Context." *Modern Theology*. (Forthcoming, 2020).

"'Wait, but why?' Challenging the Intuitive Force of Substance Dualism." *Scientie et Fides*. (Forthcoming, 2020).

"Magnets, Magic, and Other Anomalies: In Defense of Methodological Naturalism." Co-authored with John Perry. *Zygon* (2019).

"Transcendence and Neuroscience." *The Philosophers' Magazine* 83:4 (2018).

"The Physicalized Mind and the Gut-Brain Axis: Taking Mental Health Out of Our Heads." Co-authored with Lindsay Bruce. *Zygon* 53:2 (2018).

"Dancing Around the Causal Joint: Challenging the Theological Turn in Divine Action Theories," *Zygon* 52, no. 2 (2017).

BOOK CHAPTERS

"20th and 21st Century Protestant Voices on Nature and Science." In *T&T Clark Companion to Christian Theology and Modern Science*, ed. John Slattery. (Forthcoming, 2020)

"Divine Hiddenness, Spiritual Technologies, and Belief Formation." In *Emerging Voices in Science and Religion*, eds. Alister McGrath and Bethany Sollereeder. Oxford University Press. (Forthcoming, 2020).

"The Divine Action 'Problem'? An Eastern Orthodox Challenge to Science and Theology." In *Schools of Faith: Essay on Theology, Ethics and Education*, eds. D. Fergusson and B. McCormack. (2018, T&T Clark).

"Does Contemporary Neuroscience Debunk Religious Belief?" In *Philosophy, Science & Religion for Everyone*, eds. D. Pritchard and M. Harris (2018, Routledge).

"Flower Petals and Female Bodies." In *Women Experiencing Faith*, eds. J. Apps Ramsey and T. J. Oord. (2018, SacraSage).

"An Elephant in the Room: Why the Causal Joint is Still Worth Talking About." In *Are There Limits to Science?*, ed. G. Straine (2017, Cambridge Scholars Publishing).

"Science and Religion." In *Theologians and Philosophers Using Social Media: Advice, Tips, and Testimonials*, ed. Thomas Jay Oord (2017, SacraSage Press), 363-366.

"Emergent Consciousness and the (In?)sufficiency of Classical Theism for Science and Religion". In *Forty Years of Science and Religion: Looking Back, Looking Forward*, eds. N. Spurway and L. Hickman (2016, Cambridge Scholars Publishing). pp. 168-178.

EDITORIAL WORK

Guest Editor, Special Issue: "Mind and Matter: Panpsychism and its Alternatives." *Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences*. (Forthcoming, 2020).

REVIEWS

"Rethinking Order: After the Laws of Nature." *Modern Believing* 61:1, 55-58 (2020).

"Human Consciousness and the Science-and-Religion Dialogue: Russell Stannard, The Divine Imprint: Finding God in the Human Mind." *The Expository Times* 129:10 (2018).

"Minds Make Societies: How Cognition Explains the World Humans Create." *Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences*. (2019).

"Thinking Theologically About Neuroethics: Neil Messer, Theological Neuroethics: Christian Ethics Meets the Science of the Human Brain." *The Expository Times*, 129:8 (2018).

"Perspectives on Science and Religion: Elaine Howard Ecklund and Christopher P. Scheitle, Religion vs. Science: What Religion People Really Think." *The Expository Times* 129:11 (2018).

"Creation." *Scottish Journal of Theology* 69:4 (2016).

"Pneumatology: A Guide for the Perplexed." *The Expository Times* 127:6 (March 2016).

Conference Chronicle for "The European Conference on Science and Theology, 2016, at Łódź" *ESSSAT News and Reviews*, 26:2, (June 2016).

"Belief is Not Dead: Science, Theology, and Culture in Graham Ward's 'Unbelievable.'" *The Marginalia Review of Books*. (April 2015).

INVITED ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

“Divine Action and the Human Mind: A Response to My Interlocutors”

For *Sapientia*, Henry Center for Theological Understanding

Symposium: Divine Action and The Human Mind

June 2020

“Sociocultural Analysis and the Puzzles of Discerning the Divine”

A Response To Michael Welker’s 2019 Gifford Lectures: In God’s Image: Anthropology

<https://giffordsedinburgh.com/2019/11/07/mid-series-reflections-2-2/#more-1619>

“Theology, Science, and the Pursuit of Integration.” (Logia Post for June 2018). *Blogos*. URL:

<http://blogos.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/2018/06/18/logia-for-june-2018-theology-science-and-the-pursuit-of-integration-by-sarah-lane-ritchie/>

BioLogos Blog Series: Divine Action. (Co-Editor and Contributor). Co-editor, Jim Stump.

<http://biologos.org/blogs/jim-stump-faith-and-science-seeking-understanding/series/divine-action>

MOOC Lecture: “Brain and Belief: Neuroscience and Religion in Conversation”

(Published by the University of Edinburgh in 2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKuMaHOvHA4olaPyBZ4KhYdwkf0J7QK9a>

Grants and Fellowships

“God and the Book of Nature: Building a Science-Engaged Theology of Nature”

£2.44 Million, John Templeton Foundation

Project Leaders: Mark Harris and Sarah Lane Ritchie

September 2019-May 2022

“New Visions in Theological Anthropology: Engaging with the Behavioral Sciences”

£2.3 Million, John Templeton Foundation

Role: Communications Coordinator

November 2019-July 2022

“TheoCon: Theology in a Time of Crisis”

£5000, Rapid Response Impact Grant, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Project Leaders: Sarah Lane Ritchie and Tripp Fuller

June-July, 2020

TheoPsych: Bringing Theology to Mind

Residential Summer Program Awardee

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena CA

8-20 July, 2019

Invited Academic Talks and Lectures

Invited Plenary Talk: "Christianity and Naturalism"
Naturalism – as Religion, within Religions, without Religion
Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS), Annual Conference
Star Island, New Hampshire
June 2020 (Rescheduled for June 2021)

"With God in Mind: Spiritual Technologies and the Experience of Belief"
Christian Theology Senior Seminar, Cambridge University
Cambridge, UK
4 March, 2020

"Smells, Bells, and Spiritual Technologies: A Science-Engaged Theology of Belief Formation"
Theology, Philosophy, and Religion Research Seminar, University of Winchester
Winchester, UK
18 February, 2020

"Smells, Bells, and Spiritual Technologies: A Science-Engaged Theology of Belief Formation"
Theology and Ethics Research Seminar, Durham University
Durham, UK
4 December, 2020

"With God in Mind? Integrated Physicality, (Un)belief, and Spiritual Technologies"
The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion
Cambridge, UK
12 November, 2019

"Neuroscience and Atheism: Why we Believe and Why we Don't"
Atheisms: History, Science, and Religion
Albertus Conference 2019
9 November, 2019

Gifford Lecture Seminar: Michael Welker, In God's Image: Anthropology
Respondent
6 November, 2019 New College, University of Edinburgh

"Contemporary Neuroscience and Religious Belief"
I European Congress of Christian Anthropology and Mental Health Sciences
13-14 September, 2019. Universitat Abat Oliba. Barcelona, Spain.

"Neuroscience, Religion, and the Soul: Challenging Assumptions, Questioning Binaries."
Religion Meets Science: Introducing Science-And-Religion Research for Secondary Religious Education
7-8 June, 2019, University of Edinburgh

"With God in Mind: Divine Action and the Naturalisation of Consciousness"

Witherspoon Seminar, Center for Theological Inquiry
Princeton, New Jersey
22 March, 2019

“God and the ‘Hard Problem’: Does Religion Need Consciousness to Remain a Mystery?”
Religion & Science Conference: Artificial Intelligence and Consciousness
Cambridge Muslim College, 15-16 September 2018

“An Elephant in the Room: Divine Action, Naturalism(s), and Why the Causal Joint is Still Worth Talking About.”
Science and Religion Forum Annual Conference 2016: Are There Limits to Science?
University of Birmingham

Invited Public Lectures and Knowledge Exchange

“Digital Church Workshop: Time to Fish”
Sanctuary First, New College at University of Edinburgh, and the Centre for Digital Theology at Durham University
8 June, 2020

“Dancing Around the Causal Joint”
Academic Access Live Series: Fatima Elizabeth Institute of Islam, Science and Philosophy
29 May, 2020

“Science, Religion, and LGBT+: A Cautionary Tale”
Christianity and LGBT+
New College, University of Edinburgh
8 February, 2020

“The Evolution of Mind and the Sense of God”
Borderlands of Philosophy
Scottish Church Theology Society Annual Conference
7 January, 2020

“Confirmation and Profession of Faith in the Church of Scotland”
National Youth Assembly 2019
19 August, 2019. Gartmore House, Stirlingshire

“Miracles”
Discovery Day for RMPS Higher Pupils
19-20 June, 2019. New College, University of Edinburgh

“Mind over Matter? Religious Practice and the Pursuit of Health.”
Faith and Health Autumn Lecture Series 2018, Morningside Parish Church, Edinburgh

“God, Mind, and Neurobiology: Matters of the Soul.”

Grasping the Nettle Annual Conference 2017

Invited Academic Workshops

Conjunctive Explanations in Science and Religion
2-4 September, 2020, Queen's University, Belfast

Science for Youth Ministry Symposium

Co-sponsored by Princeton Theological Seminary's Institute for Youth Ministry and Luther's Seminary's "Science for Youth Ministry" (funded by the John Templeton Foundation)
December 2016, Luther Seminary, Minnesota.
<http://iym.ptsem.edu/losing-recovering-faith/>

Conference Papers

Co-Organizer and Panelist: "GEN XYZ: Futures of Science and Religion"
International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR)
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 23-26 November 2019

Panelist: "What is Nature? Toward a Science-Engaged Theology of Nature"
Science, Technology, and Religion Unit
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 23-26 November 2019

"The New Science of Psychedelics and the Embodied Experience of Religious Belief"
Emotion Science, Religion and Cognition
Co-Sponsored Session: Religion, Affect, and Emotion Unit and Science, Technology, and Religion Unit
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 23-26 November 2019

"'Wait, but why?' Challenging the Intuitive Force of Substance Dualism."
Evangelical Philosophical Society Panel: The Soul of Theological Anthropology by Joshua Farris
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Denver CO, 17-20 November 2018

"For My Gut Bacteria Tell Me So: The Effects of Diet and the Gut Microbiome on Religious Belief."
Co-authored with Lindsay Bruce.
'The Gut-Brain Axis': Cultural and Historical Perspectives
University of Glasgow, 4-5 May 2018

"The Physicalized Mind and the Gut-Brain Axis: Taking Mental Health Out of Our Heads." Co-authored with Lindsay Bruce.
Science and Religion Forum Annual Conference 2017: Mental Wellbeing, Neuroscience and Religion
Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln, UK

"Biology, Belief, and Spiritual Technologies: A Theological Embrace of Soul-Less Embodiment."
Ian Ramsey Centre 2017 Summer Conference: Religion, Society, and the Science of Life
St Anne's College, University of Oxford

“Losing Our Minds? The Naturalization of Consciousness and its Implications for Divine Action”
ESSSAT Annual Conference, 2016
Łódź, Poland

“Emergent Consciousness and the (In?)sufficiency of Classical Theism for Science and Religion”
Science and Religion Forum Annual Conference 2015: Celebrating the Dialogue, Exploring the Future
St. John’s College, Durham University

“Neuroplasticity and Religious Belief: To what extent and by what means might an individual be said to “choose” belief in God?”
Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion Conference: “Science and Personal Action: Human and Divine”
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA, July 2015

“Philosophical Zombies: Fact or Fiction? (And why this is a question worth asking)”
Society for the Study of Theology (SST) Annual Conference, 2015: Thinking the Church Today
University of Nottingham

“Addiction as Counterfeit Religious Experience”
Ar.tic.u.late, Postgraduate Conference at New College, University of Edinburgh, 2014

Memberships

<i>Fellow of the International Society for Science & Religion ISSR</i>	2019-
<i>Member of the American Academy of Religion</i>	2017-
<i>European Society for the Study of Science and Theology (ESSSAT)</i>	2014-

Awards and Achievements

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY (ESSSAT) RESEARCH PRIZE
2018

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY (ESSSAT) STUDENT PRIZE
2016

PRINCIPAL’S CAREER DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP
2014-2017

University of Edinburgh

SCHOOL OF DIVINITY SCHOLARSHIP
2013

University of Edinburgh

ROBERT L. MAITLAND AWARD IN NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS
2012

Princeton Theological Seminary

**SEWARD HILTNER AWARD IN THEOLOGY AND PERSONALITY
2012**

Princeton Theological Seminary

**DEPARTMENTAL HONORS IN PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION
2008**

Spring Arbor University

Administrative Experience and Service

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER, *SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND RELIGION UNIT (AAR)*
2020-**

**CONVENER, SCIENCE & RELIGION RESEARCH SEMINAR, NEW COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
2018-**

**CO-CONVENER, THEOLOGY & SCIENCE SEMINAR, SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THEOLOGY
2018-**

**BOOK REVIEWS EDITOR, *THEOLOGY IN SCOTLAND*
2018 - 2020**

**VICE-CONVENER, THEOLOGICAL FORUM, CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
2017 -2020**

**MEMBER, THEOLOGICAL FORUM, CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
2016 -2020**

**POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE SECRETARY
2014-2016**

New College, University of Edinburgh

**ATHENA SWAN/EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
2015 - 2016**

**INTERIM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR, UNION CHURCH, HONG KONG
2012**

**CO-MODERATOR OF THE THEOLOGICAL STUDENT FELLOWSHIP
2011-2012**

Princeton Theological Seminary

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE INTERFAITH NETWORK
2011-2012**

**INTERN: STREETLIGHT MISSION, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY
2011-2012**

**INTERN: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PLAINSBORO, NEW JERSEY
2009**