

**J. SAGE ELWELL**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

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**Education and Teaching**

1. Current Position:

Associate Professor of Religion and Art at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas. 2009-Present

2. Previous Positions:

Assistant Professor of Religion and Culture, West Virginia Wesleyan College. Buckhannon, West Virginia. 2008-2009

Instructor of Religion and Philosophy, Kirkwood Community College. Iowa City, Iowa. 2003-2007

Instructor of Religion, The University of Iowa. Iowa City, Iowa. 2007

3. Educational Background:

Ph.D. Modern Religious Thought: Religion, Culture, and the Arts. The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. 2008

M.Litt. Theology, the Imagination, and the Arts. The University of St. Andrews. St. Andrews, Scotland. 2002

M.A. Philosophy of Religion. The University of Kansas. Lawrence, KS. 2000

B.A. Religious Studies, William Jewell College. Liberty, MO. 1998

4. Courses Taught:

World Religions Through the Arts

Digital Religion: God, The Soul, and Morality After the Digital Revolution

Religion, Art, and Visual Culture

Religion and African American Identity in the Arts from 1945 to the Present

The Death of God and the End of Art

Religion and Culture

Understanding the Christian Tradition

Introduction to Religion

Religion and the Arts

Culture and Technology

Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction to Ethics

Western Religious Traditions

## Scholarship

### 5. Scholarly and Creative Activities:

#### a. Monographs:

*Crisis of Transcendence: A Theology of Digital Art and Culture*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2011.

#### b. Selected Articles and Chapters:

“Where Embodiment Meets Environment: A Meditation on the Work of Hans Breder and Ana Mendieta with Accompanying Interview with Hans Breder.” In *Art, Religion, and the Environment*, edited by Forrest Clingerman. Boston: Brill Publishers, forthcoming 2016.

“Luis Buñel.” In *Biblical Reception in Film*. Edited by Rhonda Burnette-Bletch. Berlin, Germany: De Gruyter, 2015, 599-608.

“TechnoTopia: The Convergence of Art and Technology in the Twentieth Century and Beyond.” In *Hope and the Longing For Utopia*. Edited by Daniel Boscaljon. Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2014, 180-193.

“Atheism and the Visual Arts.” *Oxford Handbook of Atheism*. Edited by Stephen Bullivant and Michael Ruse. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013, 698-709.

“The Transmediated Self.” *Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*. (September 12, 2013): 1-17.

“The Devil in Fred Stonehouse: The Aesthetics of Evil After Evil.” *The Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies* 11.12 (May 2013): 3-28.

“Reflections From the Bottom of a Brillo Box: An Inquiry into the End(s) of Art.” *Religion and the Arts* 16.5 (December 2012): 539-559.

“Embracing Failure and Extending Grace in a Digital Age: Viewing *The Social Network* and *Catfish* Theologically.” In *Light Shining in a Dark Place: Discovering Theology Through Film*. Edited by Jeff Sellars. Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2012, 63-77.

“There’s No Place Like Home: From *Oz* to *Antichrist*.” *Journal of Religion and Film*, 16.1 (April 2012): Article 3. Available at: <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol16/iss1/3>.

“Intermedia: Forty Years On and Beyond.” *Afterimage*, 33.5 (March/April 2006): 25-30.

c. Selected Reviews:

Rev. *Theology, Aesthetics, and Culture: Responses to the Work of David Brown*, edited by Robert MacSwain and Taylor Worley. *Faith and Philosophy* 32.4 (October, 2015): 484-488.

Rev. *Digital Jesus: The Making of a New Christian Fundamentalist Community on the Internet*. Robert Glenn Howard. *Journal of Religion and Media*, 12.2 (June 2013): 57-59. (1,500 words)

Rev. *Halos and Avatars: Playing Video Games with God*. Edited by Craig Detweiler. *Religious Studies Review*, 36.4 (December 2010): 288-289. (250 words)

Rev. "Sylvia." *The Journal of Religion and Film*, 7.2 (October 2003). (1,000 words)

d. Selected Presentations:

"The Passionate Failure of Jim Harvey," presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Theopoetics Conference on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Boston University.

"Out of the Box: The Art and Death of James Harvey (A Kierkegaardian Analysis)," presented at the annual meeting of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Dallas, Texas.

"Augmented Reality in Sacred Space," presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Digitorium Conference on the Digital Humanities, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at the University of Alabama.

"The Seven Deadly Sins of the Digicene." The Biannual Conference of the International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture. September 19, 2014. Leuven, Belgium

"The Sacrifice of James Harvey." The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Religion, Literature, and the Arts Conference. The University of Iowa, Iowa City. September 2013.

"Ecstasy, Terror, and Delirium: Atheism and the Failure of Religious Experience." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Baltimore, Maryland. November, 2013.

"Making the Mask of Inhumanity: Oliver de Sagazan's *Transfiguration* and the Technological Inhuman." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Baltimore, Maryland. November, 2013.

"The Metaphor of Art and Religion: The Presence of Meaning After Atheism." Biannual Conference of the International Society of Religion, Literature, and Culture. Copenhagen, Denmark. October, 2012.

“Industry, Information, and Interface: The Utopian Aesthetics of Technological Atheism,” The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Religion, Literature, and the Arts Conference. The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. August, 2012.

“Artistic Visions of the Technological Ideal,” American Academy of Religion Southwest Regional Meeting. Irving, Texas. March, 2012.

“Economies of Self.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California. November, 2011.

“There’s No Place Like Home: The Uncanny Aesthetics of Repression and Expression from *Oz* to *Antichrist*.” The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Religion, Literature and the Arts Conference. The University of Iowa, Iowa City. August, 2011.

“Recent Trends in Research Methodology and Publishing,” panel member. American Academy of Religion Southwest Regional Meeting. Irving, Texas. March, 2011.

“Art and Islam: A Complicated Story.” American Academy of Religion Southwest Regional Meeting. Irving, Texas. March, 2011.

“Art, Alterity, and the Othering of the Body in Pain.” Biannual Conference of the International Society of Religion, Literature, and Culture. Oxford, England. September, 2010.

“Mythic Evil: Photographing Tragedy.” 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Religion, Literature and the Arts Conference. The University of Iowa, Iowa City. April, 2010.

“Is the Future of Religious Instruction Interdisciplinary? Teaching Religion Across Today’s Troubled Humanities,” panel member. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Religion, Literature and the Arts Conference. The University of Iowa, Iowa City. April, 2010.

“Suffering in Silence: Three Faces of Christ in Shusaku Endo’s Novel Silence.” American Academy of Religion Southwest Regional Meeting. Irving, Texas. March, 2010.

“On Being Your Own Prosthesis.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada. November, 2009.

“The Visual Arts in Digital Culture: The Case of Alba the Glow-In-The-Dark Rabbit.” Theology and Critique Conference. The University of Iowa, Iowa City. September, 2008.

“Digitization and Sacred Space: Ethics and Techno-Culture.” The 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Society of Religion, Literature and Culture. Stirling, Scotland. 2006.

“Reflections from the Bottom of a Brillo Box.” Invited presentation for the Centre for the Study of Literature, Theology and the Arts. The University of Glasgow, Scotland. 2005.

“Affective Aesthetics: Towards a Theology of Emotion.” The Upper Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion Meeting. St. Paul, Minnesota. 2005.

“Creative Consciousness and the Extension of Subjectivity in Art and Religion.” Religion and the Arts Conference. The University of Iowa, Iowa City. 2004.

“Eliade and the Possibility of Resacralization.” The Upper Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion Meeting. St. Paul, Minnesota. 2004.

“Iconoclasm Then and Now.” The Upper Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion Meeting. St. Paul, Minnesota. 2003.

“Liminality and Experiencing Art.” Religion and the Arts Conference. The University of Iowa, 2003.

“Destroying Images: A Comparison of Two Primary Texts and Their Interpretative Models.” Jakobsen Forum. The University of Iowa, Iowa City. 2003.

“Personal Identity and Creative Consciousness.” St. Mary’s Summer Seminar. The University of St. Andrews, Scotland. 2001.

## Service

### 6. Editorships, Consultantships, Professional and Creative Activities:

Blind-reviewer for *The Journal of Religion and Film* for the article “*Inception* and Ibn ‘Arabi.” August, 2013.

Blind-reviewer for *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* for the article “The Finished Fountain.” April, 2013.

Blind-reviewer for *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* for the article “Identity, Faith, and Tattoos: The Ku Klux Klan and Evangelical Christianity”. December, 2012.

“Dark Matters.” Printed as part of the gallery guide for the exhibition, *Dark Matters: Max Klinger’s Print Cycle on Death and Other Ruminations* for the University of Iowa Museum of Art, 2007.

7. Selected Community/Public Activities:

Founder and co-host of “thesacredprofane” podcast: “a podcast that asks big questions in small places”. thesacredprofane is a bi-weekly philosophy of culture podcast exploring pop-culture, theology, art, and politics, 2016-present.

Founder and co-creator of “thesacredprofane.com” website that accompanies and compliments thesacredprofane podcast, 2016-present.

Interview with the Associated Press on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for their article “Churches Offer Ash Wednesday Rite for the On-The-Go Set”

Presenter at the 9<sup>th</sup> Pecha Kucha Fort Worth event on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas.

Session leader for Brite Divinity School’s “Minister’s Week” on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Guest Speaker at “The Big Question” event on the topic of “How is Technology Changing the (Inter)Face of Spirituality?” February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Interview with Fort Worth Channel 8 ABC News concerning online identity theft. Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Live radio interview with WBAP concerning the Manti Te’o situation, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Interview with MSN Money for the article “Manti Te’o, ‘Catfishing’ and Online Cons,” January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Interview with Fort Worth Channel 8 ABC News concerning the role of social media in the “Te’o girlfriend hoax”. Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Participated in the “Where is the Power” panel discussion at The Fort Worth Contemporary Art gallery on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Guest speaker at Arborlawn United Methodist Church “Saints and Sinners” Sunday school class on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Interview with Iowa Public Radio concerning the film *Thief in the Night* on Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Guest speaker at Islamic Celebration Month, speaking on “Islam and the Art” on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Interview with the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* concerning the marketing of religion around Easter on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Session leader for Brite Divinity School's "Minister's Week" on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Committee Member for "Reel Religion 10, 2012" with University Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Panel discussion member over the Common Reading text *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Participated in Family Weekend bocce ball activity on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Committee Member for "Reel Religion 9, 2011" with University Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Host for a screening of *The Adjustment Bureau* with Professor Kylo Hart from the Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media. February 11, Rave Theater, Fort Worth, Texas.

Committee member for "Reel Religion 8, 2010" with University Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Presentation on "John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt*," University Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Presentation on "Digital Art and Religion," South Hills Christian Church, Fort Worth, Texas, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

8. Memberships:

The American Academy of Religion  
Religion and Humanism Group, Co-Chair  
Arts, Literature, and Religion Section, committee member