# RYAN DARR

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Yale Divinity School
New Haven, CT 06511

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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| 2024- | **Assistant Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Environment**<br>Yale Divinity School |
| 2022-24 | **Postdoctoral Associate in Religion, Ecology, and Expressive Culture**<br>Yale Institute of Sacred Music<br>Lecturer, Yale Divinity School |
| 2019-22 | **Postdoctoral Research Associate in Philosophy and Religion**<br>University Center for Human Values<br>Lecturer, Department of Religion<br>Princeton University |

## EDUCATION

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|---|---|
| 2019 | **Yale University**, *New Haven, CT*<br>Ph.D. in Religious Studies (Ethics) |
| 2012 | **University of Notre Dame**, *Notre Dame, IN*<br>Master of Theological Studies (Moral Theology) |
| 2006 | **Huntington University**, *Huntington, IN*<br>Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Minor in Physics |

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

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| 2023 | *The Best Effect: Theology and the Origins of Consequentialism*, University of Chicago Press (321 pgs.) |
| In Process | *Multispecies Justice in an Era of Extinctions* (working title) |

**Peer-Reviewed Articles**

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| Forthcoming | "Ecological Natural Law: Tink Tinker and the Natural Law Tradition," *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* |
| 2024 | "The Great Web of Being: Environmental Ethics without Value Hierarchy," *Religions* 15, no. 5: 520. |
| 2023 | "Teleology and Consequentialism in Christian Ethics: Goods, Ends, Outcomes," *Studies in Christian Ethics* 36, no. 4: 906-925. |
| 2020 | "For the Sake of the Final End: Eudaimonism, Self-Orientation, and the Nature of Human Agency," *Journal of Religious Ethics* 48, no. 2: 182-200. |
| 2020 | "The Virtue of Justice and the Justice of Institutions: Aquinas on Money and Just Exchange," *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 40, no. 1: 3-20. |
| 2020 | "Virtues as Qualities of Character: Alasdair MacIntyre and the Situationist Critique of Virtue Ethics," *Journal of Religious Ethics* 48, no. 1: 7-25. |
| 2019 | "Climate Change, Individual Obligations and the Virtue of Justice," *Studies in Christian Ethics* 32, no. 2: 326-340. |
| 2017 | "Social Sin and Social Wrongs: Moral Responsibility in a Structurally Disordered World," *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 37, no. 2: 21-37. |
| 2017 | "Climate Change and Common-Sense Moral Responsibility," *Environmental Ethics* 39, no. 1: 21-38. |

**Book Reviews**

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| 2026 | Review of *Grace and Social Ethics: Gift as the Foundation of Our Life Together* by Angela Carpenter, *Theology Today*, OnlineFirst |
| 2023 | Review of *Analytic Theology and the Academic Study of Religion* by William Wood, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 91, no. 2: 500-502. |
| 2023 | Review of *Modern Virtue: Mary Wollstonecraft and a Tradition of Dissent* by Emily Dumler-Winkler, *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 42, no. 2: 457-58. |
| 2020 | Review of *The Theology of Liberalism: Political Philosophy and the Justice of God* by Eric Nelson, *Political Theology* 21, no. 8: 743-44. |
| 2020 | Review of *Just Water: Theology, Ethics, and the Water Crisis* by Christiana Zenner, *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 40, no. 1: 199-200. |

**Other Writings**

2023 "Justice and Costs in the Green Transition" (A paper commissioned by and prepared for the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.))

**TEACHING**

**Yale Divinity School (2022-)**
Eco-Futures: Theology, Ethics, and Imagination
Introduction to Christian Ethics
Christian Ethics Seminar
Environmental and Multispecies Justice
Religion and Ecology
Value: Ethics, Economics, Ecology
Environmental Ethics, Eco-Theology, and Fiction

**Princeton University (2019-22)**
Environmental Ethics and Modern Religious Thought
Ethical and Scientific Issues in Environmental Policy (with Peter Singer and David Wilcove)
Religion and Ethics in the Anthropocene

**Other Teaching Experience**

Full-Time High School Teacher, *Chicago Hope Academy High School, Chicago, IL (2007-2010)*
Subjects: Physics, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Pre-Algebra, Health
Coaching: Soccer, Robotics

GMAT Instructor, *Kaplan Test Prep, Chicago, IL (2010-2012)*
Classroom teacher and individual tutor

**INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES (SELECTED)**

2026 "Nature Preservation and the Universal Good: A Response to Wyatt Radzin," *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division*, Baltimore, MD

2025 "Rights and Why Animals Have Them," *Northrop Distinguished Lecture Series*, Yale Undergraduate Society of Ethics, New Haven, CT

2025 "Food for Thought," *Yale Environmental Humanities*, New Haven, CT

2025 "Creation Care and Creation Justice," *St. Luke's Episcopal Church*, Darien, CT

2025 "Teleology Transformed: Richard Cumberland and the Origin of Consequentialism," *Philosophy and History Joint Colloquium*, University of South Carolina, Columbus, SC

2025 "Christian Ethics and the Rights of Nature," *St. John's Lecture*, New Haven, CT

2024 "Christian Ethics and the Rights of Nature," *Distinguished Lecture in Ethics*, Elms College, Chicopee, MA

2024 "Sustainability, Hope and Imagination," *Yale Office of Sustainability Lunch & Learn Series*, New Haven, CT

2023 "Valuing Individuals, Valuing Species," *Yale Environmental Humanities*, New Haven, CT

2021 "Wealth, Poverty, and the Economy of Grace," *Karam Forum*, Fort Worth, TX

2020 "Climate Justice and Individual Emissions," *Human Values Forum*, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

**CONFERENCE TALKS AND LECTURES (SELECTED)**

2025 "An Ecological Natural Law: Tink Tinker and the Natural Law Tradition," *Society of Christian Ethics Summer Meeting*, Virtual Presentation

2025 "Eco-Grief and Mourning Across Borders," *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*, Santa Barbara, CA

2025 "More-Than-Human Rights as Relational Justice," *MOTH Festival of Ideas,* NYU Law School, New York City, NY

2024 "Grief and Mourning in an Era of Extinction," *American Academy of Religion*, San Diego, CA

2024 Panelist, "Imagining Other Worlds: Teaching Religious Studies and Ethics through Science Fiction," *American Academy of Religion*, San Diego, CA

2023 "Interspecies Empathy and Species Conservation: Ethical Tensions," *Extinction, Endangerment, and Environmental Storytelling,* Stavanger, Norway, Virtual Presentation

2023 "Saving Species in a Burning Landscape: The Ethics of Conservation in Richard Flanagan's *The Living Sea of Waking Dreams*," *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*, Tempe, AZ

2023 "Climate Fiction and Moral Imagination," *Annual Meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics*, Chicago, IL

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| 2023 | "Religion through and Beyond Catastrophe: Octavia Butler and Margaret Atwood," *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO |
| 2022 | "How Are We to Value Endangered and Extinct Species? Ethical Reflections on Literary Depictions," *Yale Institute of Sacred Music Lunch Talk*, New Haven, CT |
| 2022 | "Duty, Office, Responsibility: Institutions and Moral Language," *Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting*, Costa Mesa, CA, Virtual Presentation |
| 2021 | "Valuing the Non-Human World: Christian Platonism and Environmental Ethics," *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting,* San Antonio, TX |
| 2021 | "Christianity and the Origins of Utilitarianism," *Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting,* Virtual Presentation |
| 2020 | "The Problem of Friendship with God in Shaftesbury," *Princeton-Bucharest Seminar*, Virtual Presentation |
| 2020 | "Two Visions of Eros in Cambridge Platonism," *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Virtual Presentation |
| 2019 | "Justice in the Anthropocene: A New Relational Context," *Life in the Anthropocene*, Fordham University, New York City, NY |
| 2019 | "The Virtue of Justice and the Justice of Institutions: Aquinas on Money and Just Exchange," *Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting*, Louisville, KY |
| 2017 | "Teleology Transformed: Richard Cumberland and the Perfectionistic Natural Law," *Brown-Yale-Princeton Ethics Colloquium*, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT |
| 2017 | "Social Sin, Moral Complicity, and Economic Harms," *New England-Maritimes Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Boston University, Boston MA |
| 2017 | "Social Sin and Social Wrongs: Moral Responsibility in a Structurally Disordered World," *Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA |

## HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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| 2022- | Fellow, Benjamin Franklin College, Yale University |
| 2020-21 | Affiliate Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University |
| 2018 | Field Development Grant from "Theology of Joy & the Good Life Project" (collaborator with Jennifer Herdt) |

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| 2017 | Best Graduate Student Paper, First Prize, New England-Maritimes Region of the American Academy of Religion (for "Social Sin, Moral Complicity, and Economic Harms") |
| 2017-18 | Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University |
| 2016-19 | Doctoral Fellow, Yale Center for Faith and Culture |
| 2012-19 | University Fellowship, Yale University |
| 2010-12 | Full Tuition Scholarship, University of Notre Dame |
| 2002-06 | Presidential Scholarship, Huntington University |

## ACADEMIC SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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| 2026 | Reviewer, Yale Planetary Solutions Grant Program |
| 2026 | Judge, Yale Planetary Solutions Sci X Sci-Fi Flash Fiction Contest |
| 2025- | Director, Environmental Leadership and Ministry Certificate, Yale Divinity School |
| 2024- | Coordinator, MAR in Religion and Ecology, Yale Divinity School |
| 2024- | Co-Coordinator, Yale Divinity School and Yale School of the Environment Joint Degree Program |
| 2024- | Religion, Ecology and Expressive Culture Faculty Committee, Yale Institute of Sacred Music |
| 2022- | Environmental Humanities Steering Committee, Yale University |
| 2023-24 | Program Committee, "Environmentalisms, Ecologies, and the Black Sacred Arts," Yale Institute of Sacred Music |
| 2023 | Planning Committee, "Environmental Joy Conference," Yale Center for Environmental Justice |
| 2022-24 | Co-organizer, "Religion, Ecology and Expressive Culture Initiative," Yale Institute of Sacred Music |
| 2022-24 | Convener and organizer, "Religion, Ecology and Expressive Culture Student Interest Group," Yale Institute of Sacred Music |
| 2021-22 | Application Committee, Fellowship of Protestant Ethics |
| 2019- | Blind Reviewer for Journal of Religious Ethics, Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics, Journal of Social Philosophy, Modern Theology, Journal of Value Inquiry, Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy, Religions, Palgrave Macmillan |
| 2019-22 | Organizer, "Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion Working Group," Princeton University |
| 2020-21 | Co-organizer, "Princeton Philosophy and Religion Conference," Princeton University |
| 2013-16 | Co-Organizer, "Yale Religious Ethics Colloquium" |
| 2013 | Co-Organizer, "Brown-Yale-Princeton-University-Princeton-Seminary (BYP2) Ethics Colloquium," Yale Divinity School |

## THESIS SUPERVISION

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| 2026 | First Reader, Master's Thesis, "More-Than-Human Stories of the New Testament," Katie Davis, Yale Divinity School |
| 2025-2026 | First Reader, Master's Thesis, "Jesus's Solidarity with Creation," Tim Clayton, Yale Divinity School |
| 2024 | Second Reader, Master's Thesis, "'Digging Up Roots: Exploring Shared Ideologies Between Evangelical Climate Skeptics and Mainstream Liberals," Liz Vukovic, Yale Divinity School |
| 2023 | First Reader, Master's Thesis, "The Tulip's Folly," Luke Stringer, Yale Divinity School |

## RESEARCH LANGUAGES

English
French
German
Latin

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Society of Christian Ethics
International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture