

Cristóbal Serrán-Pagán y Fuentes
Philosophy and Religious Studies
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Teaching Interests

World Religions, Comparative Mysticism, Global Philosophy, Spirituality, Ecology and Women, Religion and Ethics in Films, Hispanic Studies

Teaching Experience

Aug. 2007 to present

Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy

Aug. 2006 to May 2007

Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion

Aug. 2004 to May 2006

Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion

Aug. 2000 to May 2003

Coker College, Hartsville, South Carolina
Assistant Professor of Religion

Degrees Awarded

Sept. 1996 to May 2003

Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
Ph.D. in Religious Studies
Specialization: Philosophy of Religion
Comprehensive Exams: Philosophy of Religion, History of Western Philosophy, Thomas Merton's Intellectual and Historical Background

Mystical Vision and Prophetic Voice in Saint John of the Cross: Towards a Mystical Theology of Final Integration; doctoral dissertation (Boston: Boston University, 2003): 190p.

Sept. 1995 to May 1996

Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
Master of Sacred Theology
Major: Philosophy, Theology and Ethics
Area of Concentration: Systematic Theology

Panentheism in Teilhard de Chardin: A Creative Synthesis; master's thesis (Boston: Boston University, 1996): 153p.

Sept. 1993 to May 1995

Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts
Master of Arts Degree in Philosophy
Comprehensive Exam: History of Philosophy

- Sept. 1989 to May 1993 Saint Thomas University, Miami, Florida
Bachelor of Arts Degree
Major: Liberal Arts
- Sept. 1989 to Dec. 1992 Saint Thomas University, Miami, Florida
Bachelor of Business Administration Degree
Major: International Management
- Sept. 1989 to May 1991 Real Colegio Universitario María Cristina, El Escorial (Madrid), Spain
Bilingual program between R.C.U. María Cristina and Saint Thomas University

Grants and Awards

- 2002 Coker College, The Residence Hall Association's Outstanding Professor
- 1998 William H. Shannon Fellowship
- 1997 Robert Daggy Youth Scholarship
- 1996 Boston University, Scholarship Grant
- 1993 St. Thomas University, Dean's List

Publications

Books

Articles

"The Entire Universe is a Sea of Love': Toward a Mystical theology of Love in St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross" (paper will be published online and in print at [the Unity Institute Theological Journal](#) in the Spring of 2009)
Paper conference at Unity Institute's Lyceum 2008 (Unity Village, Missouri)

"Semillas de esperanza en tiempos de crisis: San Juan de la Cruz y Thomas Merton," edición de Fernando Beltrán Llavador y Paul M. Pearson y publicación de Cistercium-Ciem con la ayuda de la Junta de Castilla y León en *Semillas de esperanza: El mensaje contemplativo de Thomas Merton* (Zamora, España: Ediciones Monte Casino, 2008): 85-106.

"Seeds of Hope in Times of Crisis: Saint John of the Cross and Thomas Merton," edited by Fernando Beltrán Llavador and Paul M. Pearson, and published by Ediciones Cistercium-Ciem with the support of the Junta de Castilla y León in *Seeds of Hope: Thomas Merton's Contemplative Message* (Zamora, Spain: Ediciones Monte Casino, 2008): 81-100.

"Builders of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth: The Transforming Power of Agape Love" ([The Merton Seasonal](#), Winter 2007): 3-11

"Deep Ecumenism in the Mystical Thoughts of D. T. Suzuki and Thomas Merton" ([The Merton Seasonal](#), Fall 2006): 17-26

"Action and Contemplation: A Comparative Study between the Gita and the

Bible” (ASCD Character Education Network and Boston University’s Center for Advancement of Ethics and Character, Spring 2006)

“Merton’s Understanding of the Mystical Doctrine of St. John of the Cross’ Dark Night of the Soul,” published by the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland in *Thomas Merton: A Mind Awake in the Dark* (Abergavenny, Monmouthshire: Papers from the 2000 Oakham Conference, 2002): 165-173

Reviews

Review 10 articles of *Character* Newsletter to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CAEC, published by the ASCD Character Education Network and Boston University’s Center for Advancement of Ethics and Character, (Aug. 8, 2008)

Review of *First Philosophy: Fundamental Problems and Readings in Philosophy*, by Andrew Bailey, Concise Volume, Broadview Press, (Jul. 7, 2008)

Review of *Living Religions*, by Mary Pat Fisher, Chapter on “Christianity,” Prentice Hall’s Religion Program, (Jan. 10, 2008)

Review of *The Seven Mountains of Thomas Merton*, by Michael Mott, *Comunidades* 92 (Salamanca, Spain: Sep. - Dec. 1997): 122-123

Works in Progress

Merton and Taoism, (Fons Vitae)

Visión mística y voz profética en San Juan de la Cruz: Hacia una teología mística de la integración final, (Pueblos Blancos)

Lectures and Presentations

- Jun. 13, 2009 “‘The Root of War is Fear’: Merton and Hanh on Living Compassionately” (paper accepted by the International Thomas Merton Society)
The Eleventh Conference and General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society at Nazareth College, Rochester, New York
- Nov. 5, 2008 “‘The Entire Universe is a Sea of Love’: Toward a Mystical theology of Love in St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross” (paper will be published in Jan. 2009)
Unity Institute’s Lyceum 2008 at Unity Village, Missouri
- Oct. 20, 2008 “Jews, Muslims and Christians of Spain throughout the Ages”
VSU-Hispanic Month, Valdosta, Georgia
- Jan. 31, 2008 “Mystics and Nature: Panentheism in Teilhard and Merton”
Focus the Nation-VSU Panel on the Environment, University Center Theater, Valdosta, Georgia

- Nov. 7, 2007 “Following in the Footsteps of the Spanish Mystics: St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross”
VSU-Council on Undergraduate Research, College of Arts and Sciences,
University Center Theater, Valdosta, Georgia
- Jun. 9, 2007 “Builders of the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth: The Beloved Community of Martin Luther King Jr. and Thomas Merton” (paper accepted by The International Thomas Merton Society)
The Tenth Conference and General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society at Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee
- Mar. 1-2, 2007 “‘All Life Is Interrelated’: The Transforming Power of Agape Love in King, Merton, and Thurman,” (paper accepted by The Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion)
2007 Mid-Atlantic AAR and SBL Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland
- Oct. 28, 2006 “Semillas de esperanza en tiempos de crisis: San Juan de la Cruz y Thomas Merton”
Auditorio Municipal de San Francisco, Ávila, Spain
- Jul. 31, 2005 “Mysticism in D. T. Suzuki and Thomas Merton”
The Unitarian Church; Bloomington, Illinois
- Jun. 16, 2005 “Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Buber: Why Bad Things Happen to Good People?”
The State of South Carolina’s Department of Education and Boston University’s Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Coker College, Hartsville, South Carolina
- Jun. 11, 2005 “Blessed are the Peacemakers: Thomas Merton on Pacifism”
The Ninth Conference and General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society at the University of San Diego, San Diego, California
- Jan. 31, 2005 “Thomas Merton and the Just War Theory”
Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois
- Jun. 15, 2004 “Building Relationships in Native American and Confucian Cultures”
The State of South Carolina’s Department of Education and Boston University’s Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at the University of South Carolina, Orangeburg, South Carolina
- Jun. 19, 2003 “The XIV Dalai Lama: Cultivating Virtue and Living Compassionately”
The State of South Carolina’s Department of Education and Boston University’s Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Coker College, Hartsville, South Carolina

- Jun. 6, 2003 Moderator, Merton and Social Critique, “The Owl of Minerva Flies at Dusk” by Judith Hunter
The Eighth Conference and General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- Jun. 21, 2001 “Gandhi and the Education of the Whole Person”
The State of South Carolina’s Department of Education and Boston University’s Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Coker College, Hartsville, South Carolina
- Jun. 9, 2001 “Thomas Merton: A Contemplative in the Making”
The Seventh Conference and General Meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society at Bellarmine College Louisville, Kentucky
- Feb. 17, 2001 “Thomas Merton’s Thoughts on Mohandas K. Gandhi: A Contemplative Approach to the Spiritual Path of Action”
The South Carolina Academy of Religion at Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina
- Feb. 14, 2001 “Thomas Merton and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Martyrdom of Love”
Coker College, Hartsville, South Carolina
- Nov. 21, 2000 “A Contemplative in Action: Thomas Merton and the Civil Rights Movement in the South”
The AAR-Christian Spirituality Program, Nashville, Tennessee
- Nov. 17, 2000 “A Brief History of Contemplative Prayer in Christianity”
Food for the Poor, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
- Apr. 8, 2000 “Merton’s Understanding of the Mystical Theology of St. John of the Cross’ Dark Night of the Soul”
The Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland at Oakham School, Oakham, Rutland, England
- Jan. 16, 2000 “Thomas Merton’s *New Seeds of Contemplation*”
The Massachusetts Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society at Middlesex Community College, Bedford, Massachusetts
- Oct. 18, 1998 “The Spiritual Geography of St. Teresa of Ávila, St. John of the Cross, and Thomas Merton”
The Newman Association of Smith College and the Contemplation and Action Program of the Helen Hills’s Hills Chapel, Northampton, Massachusetts

- Mar. 19, 1998 “St. Teresa of Ávila: *The Interior Castle*”
The Society for the Study of Religion at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
- Nov. 16, 1997 “St. John of the Cross’ Influence on Thomas Merton”
The Massachusetts Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society at
Middlesex Community College, Bedford, Massachusetts
- Apr. 4, 1997 “St. John of the Cross: *The Dark Night of the Soul*”
The Society for the Study of Religion at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
- Mar. 20, 1997 “The Mystic Meets the Prophet: St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Ávila”
The Society for the Study of Religion at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
- Jan. 19, 1997 “Thomas Merton’s Herakleitos: A Study”
The Massachusetts Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society at Regina
Rafferty’s home, Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Courses Taught

- Valdosta State
University
PHIL 2010--Fundamentals of Philosophy (Fall 2007, Spring 2008)
REL 2020ABCH--World Religions (Fall 2007, Spring 2008, July 2008, Fall 2008,
Spring 2009, Madrid, Spain Summer 2009)
REL 3300A/PHIL 3300A--Philosophy of Religion (Fall 2008, Spring 2009)
REL 3520--Islam (Fall 2007, Fall 2009)
REL 3710A/PHIL 3710A--Hinduism (Fall 2008)
REL 4700B/PHIL 3800A--Philosophy, Religion and Film (May 2008, May 2009)
REL 4700A--Ecology and World Religions (Spring 2009)
REL 4700A/PHIL 4800A and REL 3650A/PHIL 3650A--Mysticism and Social
Justice (Spring 2008, Fall 2009)
REL 4700/PHIL 4800--Spanish Mysticism (Madrid, Spain Summer 2009)
- Goucher College
RLG 130--Non-Western World Religions (Fall 2006)
RLG 209--African Religious Thought (Spring 2007)
RLG 233--Christian Ethics and War (Spring 2007)
RLG 240--Spirituality and Social Justice for our Contemporary World (SP 2007)
RLG 274--Liberation Theology (Fall 2006)
- Illinois Wesleyan
University
REL 102--Introduction to Religious Thought (Comparative Religious Ethics,
Ecology and Religion, Women and Religion)
REL 110--Religions of the World (Eastern and Western)
REL 111--Exploring Mysticism
REL 270--Spirituality and Popular Culture
- Coker College
PHI 205--Survey of Western Philosophy
REL 204--Religions of the World (Western)

REL 205--Religions of the World (Eastern)
REL 307--Buddhism
REL 399--Christian Mysticism
REL 399--Comparative Study of Mysticism
REL 399--History of Christian Thought II: From the Reformation to the Present Time
REL 399--Religion and Values in the Movies
REL 399--Religion and Popular Culture
REL 399--Religious Perspectives on War and Peace

Languages

Fluent in Spanish and English
Proficient at the intermediate reading level in French
Proficient at the intermediate reading level in Latin

Professional Service

Co-Chair, Robert Daggy Scholarship Committee
Consultant Working for Prentice Hall's Religion Program

University Service

Chair-Elect and Chair, Minority & Diversity Issues Committee, Valdosta State University (Aug. 2008-Jul. 2011)
Faculty Advisor to the Philosophy and Religious Studies Club and to Phi Sigma Tau (an International Honor Society for Philosophy), Valdosta State University (2008-2009)
International Studies Committee, Western European and Latin American teams, Illinois Wesleyan University (2004-2006)
Character Education Committee, Teachers' Academy Representative, Coker College (2000-2003)
Honor's Program Committee, Coker College (2003)
Student Development Committee, Coker College (2002-2003)
Faculty Advisory Committee (2001-2002)

Professional Affiliations

Member of the American Academy of Religion
Member of the International Thomas Merton Society

Community Service

Jun. 2009 The Eleventh Conference and General Meeting of the ITMS, Rochester, New York
Co-Chair, Coordinator and Orientation Leader to the Daggy youth scholarship program

Apr. 2009 VSU's Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator of "Seeing Through the Fence: A Documentary"; invited filmmaker Eleni Vlachos to talk about ethics, tradition and our food sources

Apr. 2009 VSU's Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator of "Food for Thought and Food for the Soul" series; invited Dr. Linda

Elder and Dr. Matthew Richard to talk about “Opportunities for Global Learning Service Internships”

- Mar. 2009 VSU’s Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator of “the Movie Night” series; presented the movie “MindWalk” at Hildegard’s Cafe in Valdosta and at VSU’s UC theatre
- Mar. 2009 Azalea International Folk Fair & Dance Competition, Valdosta, Georgia
Represented Spain as part of the European continent by displaying posters and items on the rich cultural history of his native country; this event took place at Valdosta-Lowndes Conference Center in Valdosta thanks to Ms. Serena Huang (Project Director) and Dr. Michael Noll (Coordinator of the European continent)
- Feb. 2009 VSU’s Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Helped to promote Skip Schiel’s multimedia presentation, “Eyewitness Gaza”; this event took place at Hildegard’s Cafe in Valdosta thanks to Dr. Susan Wehling and Dr. Michael Noll
- Feb. 2009 VSU’s Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator of the Interfaith Panel Discussion; invited Rabbi Moshe M. Elbaz, Rev. Floyd Rose, Prof. Mouyyed Hassouna, and Prof. Nesma Muhammed to talk about the following topic: “Is There Any Hope for Peace in the Middle East?”
- Jan. 2009 VSU’s Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator of “Food for Thought and Food for the Soul” series; invited Dr. Lavonna Lovern to talk about “Environmental Justice and Native American Thinking”
- Jan. 2009 Lanier County High School, Lakeland, Georgia
Visit to Ms. Kim Rambly’s class; spoke about the history and culture of Spain
- Nov. 2008 VSU’s Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator of the Interfaith Panel Discussion; invited Fr. Stan White, Rev. Floyd Rose, Dr. Stephen Childs, and Dr. Linda Elder to talk about “The Cultural Divide in America”
- Oct. 2008 VSU’s Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Fundraiser and Coordinator for the “Indian Music of Esha Bandyopadhaya & Indranil Mallick”; invited these two artists from India to lecture on campus and to perform at VSU’s Pound Hall Auditorium and in downtown Hildegard’s
- Oct. 2008 VSU’s Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Helped to promote Ted Peter’s lecture, “Do we Have a Post-Human Future? Nanotechnology, Genetics and Trans-humanism in Theological Perspective”; this event took place at Christ Church Hall in Valdosta thanks to Fr. Peter Ingeman and

the Episcopal Campus Ministries

- Sep. 2008 VSU's Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator of "Food for Thought and Food for the Soul" series; invited Dr. Michael Stoltzfus to talk about sexuality
- Apr. 2008 S.A.V.E. the Earth Festival in Drexel Park, Valdosta, Georgia
Guest Speaker; spoke about the environment using religious and mystical insights from different traditions
- Apr. 2008 VSU's Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator of the Health Care Panel Discussion; invited Cater Davis, DeMarcus Marshall, Richard MacLaughlin and Hutch Zimmerman to talk about health care using philosophical and religious arguments
- Apr. 2008 Visit to Dr. Ofélia Nikolova's VSU Class, HONS 1990 "Cross-Cultural Awareness"; spoke to undergraduate students about Islam
- Mar. 2008 VSU's Philosophy and Religious Studies Club, Valdosta, Georgia
Fundraiser and Coordinator; invited Mr. Latif Bolat, a Turkish musician and historian, to give multiple lectures on campus and to perform two musical concerts in the Bailey Science Center Auditorium and at Hildegard's
- Mar. 2008 Visit to Dr. Amy I Aronson-Friedman's VSU Class, "Siglo de Oro"; spoke to graduate students about St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross using a power-point presentation
- Jan. 2008 "Focus the Nation"-VSU Panel on the Environment, Valdosta, Georgia
Coordinator and Presenter; invited Dr. Carl Hand and Dr. Christine James to join the panel
- Oct. 2007 Field Trip to Atlanta, Centennial Park; invited VSU students to listen the XIV Dalai Lama's Public Address in downtown--sponsored by Emory University
- Oct. 2007 Newbern Middle School, Valdosta, Georgia
Visit to Mrs. Collier's 7th Grade World Studies Class--discussion on "Middle Eastern Religions"
- Sep. 2007 Visit to Dr. Linda Elder's VSU Class, "Spiritual Autobiography"; spoke about St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross using a slide-lecture presentation
- Jun. 2007 The Tenth Conference and General Meeting of the ITMS, Memphis, Tennessee
Co-Chair, Coordinator and Orientation Leader to the Daggy youth scholarship program

Aug. 2006 Morning of Service at Timothy House, Towson, Maryland
Volunteer; visit to a senior home

Mar. 2006 International Studies Program-Western European Studies Team, Bloomington, Illinois
Coordinator and Presenter; invited Spanish Ambassador and Consul General of Spain in Chicago to give a talk at IWU

Jun. 2005 The Ninth Conference and General Meeting of the ITMS, San Diego, California
Coordinator and Orientation Leader to the Daggy youth scholarship program

Jun. 2005 St. Vincent De Paul Village, San Diego, California
Volunteer; served food to the homeless

May 2004 Robert Daggy Scholars Retreat, the Abbey of Gethsemani, Kentucky
Coordinator and Orientation Leader

Jun. 2003 The Eight Conference and General Meeting of the ITMS, Vancouver, Canada
Coordinator and Orientation Leader to the Daggy youth scholarship program

Mar. 2003 Boys Scouts of America, Hartsville, South Carolina
Guest Speaker; presentation to the troop about Spanish culture in order for them to earn their international merit badge

May 2002 Thornwell School for the Arts, Hartsville, South Carolina
Guest Reader; presented a short history of Spain to a 5th grade classroom

Jun. 2001 The Seventh Conference and General Meeting of the ITMS, Louisville, Kentucky
Coordinator and Orientation Leader to the Daggy youth scholarship program

Jun. 2001 The State of South Carolina Department of Education and Boston University's Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character, Hartsville, South Carolina
Coordinator and Lecturer

Jun. 1999 The Sixth Conference and General Meeting of the ITMS, Waterloo, Ontario
Orientation Leader; counseled Daggy youth scholars and organized activities

Oct. 1993 to May 1994 Donald McKay High School, Boston, Massachusetts
Project Excel/Mentor; assisted as ESL and Spanish Instructor for immigrants

Sept. 1992 to Oct. 1992 Habitat Program, Miami, Florida
Volunteer; helped victims of hurricane Andrew

Nov. 1991 to Dec. 1991 Channel Four/WTVJ, Miami, Florida
News Help Center Assistant

Sept. 1991 to Oct. 1991 Saint Ann Missionary Program, Homestead, Florida
Volunteer; counseled minority groups

References

Dr. Fred Downing, Professor of Religion and Chair of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Valdosta State University,
fdowning@valdosta.edu or (229) 249-2776

Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Professor of Religion and Chair of the Philosophy and Religion Department at Goucher College,
kdouglas@goucher.edu or (410) 337-6260

Dr. April DeConick, Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Biblical Studies at Rice University,
adeconick@rice.edu or (713) 348-4995

Dr. Carole Myscofski, Chair and Professor of Religion at Illinois Wesleyan University,
myscofsk@iwu.edu or (309) 556-3177

Dr. Brian Hatcher, Professor of Religion and Humanities at Illinois Wesleyan University,
bhatcher@iwu.edu or (309) 556-3160