

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Trozzo
Sabah Theological Seminary
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Qualifications:

Doctor of Philosophy (with Distinction), May 2011

Drew University, Madison, NJ, USA
Area of Study: Theological and Philosophical Studies
Dissertation: “Im-possible Glory: The Cross and the Abyss”
Advisor: Prof. Catherine Keller

Master of Philosophy (with Distinction), Oct. 2008

Drew University, Madison, NJ, USA
Area of Study: Theological and Religious Studies
Comprehensive Examinations: Theology of Jurgen Moltmann; Post-structuralist Theology; The Concept of God Beyond Being in Historical Context; Understandings of “Self” in Philosophical and Pastoral Theology

Master of Sacred Theology, May 2005

Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, Columbus, OH, USA
Area of Study: Theological Studies
Thesis: “Ecological Models of Christology”
Advisor: Prof. James Childs

Master of Divinity, May 2005

Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, Columbus, OH, USA
Included one year of study at the Lutheran Center in Atlanta at the Interdenominational Theological Center, focusing on African and African-American Christianity, especially African-American Lutheranism
Clinical Pastoral Education Unit at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 2001

Bachelor of Arts, May 1998, cum laude

Loyola University in Maryland, Baltimore, MD, USA
Major: History
Minors: Political Science, Classical Civilizations
Included one year of study at the Catholic University – Leuven, Belgium, studying theology and European politics

Professional Academic Experience:

2018-present: Honorary Research Associate, Australian Lutheran College of the University of Divinity, Adelaide, Australia.

2012-present: Missionary Professor, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Global Mission Unit

2015-present: Director of the Lutheran Study Centre at Sabah Theological Seminary, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

2015: Theologian in Residence, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai, India

2013-2014: Associate Director, Lutheran Study Centre at Sabah Theological Seminary, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

2012- present: Lecturer: Theology, History and Ethics; Sabah Theological Seminary

Courses taught at Sabah Theological Seminary:

Postgraduate: Theology of the Cross in the Asian Context, Contemporary Lutheran Theology, Readings in Martin Luther, Theological Methodology, Global Women's Theology, Lutheran Theology of Pastoral Ministry (in Bahasa Malaysia), Asian Perspectives on Being Lutheran, Lutheran Ethics, Christian Theology of Nature, Theology of the Lutheran Confessions, Faith and the Postmodern World

Undergraduate: Systematic Theology (2 semester sequence), Global Christian Movement (2 semester sequence), Christian Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy (in English and in Bahasa Malaysia), Lutheran Identity (in Bahasa Malaysia), Ecumenism

For Youth and Lay Church Members: Foundations of Christian Theology, Church History, Ethics in the Gospel of Matthew

Other Teaching:

2018: Visiting Lecturer, Alpha Omega International College, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, teaching the course, "Christian Faith and the Postmodern World"

2010: Guest Lecturer for Prof. Catherine Keller's doctoral seminar, *The Cloud of the Im-possible*, at Drew University, on the use of philosophers John D. Caputo and Jacques Derrida for theological reflection.

2007-2011: Teaching Assistant, Drew University

Duties: giving lectures, facilitating small group discussions, managing online learning

Courses taught:

Systematic Theology (under the supervision of Dr. Christopher Boesel)

Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling (under the supervision of Dr. Angela Son)

Research:

Books:

The Cyberdimension: A Political Theology of Cyberspace and Cybersecurity, Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2019.

Rupturing Eschatology: Divine Glory and the Silence of the Cross, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014

Editor, *Stand Boldly: Lutheran Theology Faces the Postmodern World*, Berkley, CA: Three Trees Press, 2009.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

“Expanding Eco-Theological Object Theory: I-You, I-Ens, and Hyperobjects” *Theologia in Loco*, Vol. 1, No. 1, *forthcoming* – November 2018

“The Centrality of the *Communicatio Idiomatum* For Lutheran Theological Identity,” *Lutheran Theological Journal*, Vol. 52, No. 2, August 2018.

“John the Possibilizer: Toward a Kearnian Baptismal Hermeneutic, Part 2” *Religious Theory* (supplement to The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory), January 28, 2018, <http://jcrt.org/religioustheory/2018/01/28/john-the-possibilizer-the-promise-of-a-kearnian-baptismal-hermeneutic-part-ii-eric-trozzo/>

“John the Possibilizer: Toward a Kearnian Baptismal Hermeneutic, Part 1” *Religious Theory* (supplement to The Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory), January 21, 2018, <http://jcrt.org/religioustheory/2018/01/21/john-the-possibilizer-the-promise-of-a-kearnian-baptismal-hermeneutic-part-i-eric-trozzo/>

“The Pastoral Luther as Guide for ‘Experience-Near’ Theology: Reflections from Sabah, Malaysia” *Norsk Tidsskrift for Misjonsvitenskap (Norwegian Journal of Missiology)*, #1/2016, Argang 70. Pages 22-38

Chapters in Books:

“Greed, Wealth, and Economics: A Lutheran Ethical Perspective,” in *Introduction to Lutheran Ethics*, editor Michael Press, Lutheran Study Centre, 2014

“A Framework for Lutheran Ethics,” in *Introduction to Lutheran Ethics*, editor Michael Press, Lutheran Study Centre, 2014

“The Eucharist as Theological Basis for Ecological Ethics” in *Introduction to Lutheran Ethics*, editor Michael Press, Lutheran Study Centre, 2014

“The Community as Place of Ethical Decision-Making,” in *Introduction to Lutheran Ethics*, editor Michael Press, Lutheran Study Centre, 2014

“God's Vitality: Creative Tension and the Abyss of *Différence* Within the Divine Life” in *Divine Multiplicities: Trinities and Diversities*, editors Chris Boesel and S. Wesley Ariarajah, New York: Fordham University Press, 2013.

“A Little Like Jonah: Crossing, Dwelling, and the Event of the Gospel,” in *Contextual Reflections from Asia*, editors Cheong Weng Kit, Eleanor Perry, Roselyn Nelson, Philip Cao, Kusam Yontok, Sabah Theological Seminary Publications, 2013.

Contributor to sections on Lent, with Henry Langknecht, in *The Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary Year A*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013

Book Reviews:

Serene Jones' *Trauma and Grace*, in *Trinity Lutheran Seminary Review* 31, no 2, Sum-Fall 2010, p. 138-139.

Academic Paper Presentations:

"The Priesthood of All Believers in the Lutheran Tradition," Malaysia Lutheran-Pentecostal/Charismatic Dialogue, Alpha Omega International College, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, June 20, 2018

"Should Gay and Lesbian People be Welcomed in the Church?" Reformation 500 Colloquium, Martin Luther Theological Seminary, Lae, Papua New Guinea, October 2017

"Repentance and Resistance: Exceeding the Tyranny of the Algorithm in the Big Data Era," Centre for the Study of Religion and Society, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 2017

"Martin Luther's Theology of the Holy Spirit," Malaysia Lutheran-Pentecostal Dialogue," Sabah Theological Seminary, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, March 2017

"Cyberwar and the Deconstruction of the Christian Just War Tradition," Gurukul Theological College and Research Institute Faculty Research Seminar, Chennai, India, November 2015

"*Différence* in Divinity?" Drew University Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium X, *Divine Multiplicities: Trinities and Diversities*, Madison, NJ, October 2010.

"God Ungrounded: Envisioning the Multiplicity of a God Beyond Being," Drew University Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium IX, *Polydoxy*, Madison, NJ, October 2009.

"A Multiplicity of Kingdoms," Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions Consultation and History of Christianity Section, American Academy of Religion national meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2008.

"About Face: A Kohutian Turn on Levinasian Eco-Ethics," Religion and Psychology section, Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD, March 2007

"The Khanya Programme and African Theologies of Nature," Religion and Ecology section, American Academy of Religion national meeting, Washington, DC, November 2006.

Official respondent, Drew University Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium VI, *Apophatic Bodies*, September 2006.

Invited Lectures:

“Firman Allah dan Kebenaran (The Word of God and Righteousness),” Luther Seminary, Tinnangol, Malaysia, June 11, 2018.

“Contextualizing Lutheran Theology: Economy, Ecology, Politics, Culture, and Interreligious Dialogue,” BCCM Bahasa Malaysia Theology Committee, October 12, 2017

“Understanding Luther’s Theological Context,” Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea Partners Forum Consultation, Goroka, Papua New Guinea, September 20, 2017

“Five Hundred Years of Reformation,” South Andhra Lutheran Church 150th Anniversary Celebration, Tirupati, India, November 8, 2015

“The Contemporary Relevance of Justification” Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute Reformation Day Keynote Lecture, Chennai, India, October 31, 2015

“Self-understanding and identity of Lutheranism in southeast-Asia: Mission in a multi-religious, multi-cultural, and multi-linguistic context.” Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide, Australia, October 14, 2015

“Sacraments as Ethical Formation” STT HKBP (Huria Kristen Batak Protestan Theological Seminary) Beginning of the Academic Year Lecture, Pematang Siantar, Indonesia, January 14, 2015

“Faith, the Environment, and the Art of Paying Attention,” St. John’s Lutheran Church Adult Forum, Summit, New Jersey, USA, March 10, 2010.

Publications for General Church Audiences

Founding editor and lead contributor, “Pathways to Preaching/Laluan Berkhotbah,” a quarterly theological resource for preaching produced by the Lutheran Study Centre, 2016-

Seminar/Workshop Leadership:

The Communion of Saints in Context, Asian Lutheran regional seminar, Sabah, July 15-16, 2019

Being Lutheran Today, with Basel Christian Church of Malaysia, English General Council, July 1-3, 2017

Introduction to Martin Luther’s Theology, with the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia, English General Council. Session leader for, “Theology of the Cross” and “Two-Kingdoms.” April 26-27, 2016

Introduction to Lutheran Ethics, at Abdi Sabda Theological Seminary, Medan Indonesia. Session leader for “Lutheran Perspectives on Economic Ethics” and “The Sacramental Basis of the Holy Community.” March 25-27, 2015

Sacraments and the Christian Life, in Kuala Lumpur with the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Malaysia and Singapore. Session leader for “Eucharist and Environmental Concern” and “Care for the Poor as Sacramental Transformation.” March 21-23, 2015.

The Small Catechism: Introduction for Lay Leaders, in Pitas, Malaysia for the Protestant Church of Sabah. January-February 2015 (4 Saturdays).

Lutheran Sacramental Theology, in Kota Kinabalu and Kudat, Malaysia, with Basel Christian Church of Malaysia and Protestant Church of Sabah. Session leader for “Sacraments and the Formation of Holy Community,” (in Bahasa Malaysia), Feb. 2-6, 2014.

Introduction to Lutheran Ethics, in Kuala Lumpur with the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Malaysia and Singapore. Session leader for “Economic Ethics,” “Frameworks of Lutheran Ethics,” and “Ethics in Christian Community.” Oct. 3-5, 2013.

The Small Catechism: Introduction for Lay Leaders, at the Bible Training Centre, Tinangol, Malaysia, for the Protestant Church of Sabah. March-April 2013 (4 Fridays).

“The Creed” in Beaufort, Malaysia, with Basel Christian Church of Malaysia Bahasa Malaysia General Council. In Bahasa Malaysia. January 30, 2013.

“Our Christian Call to Earthkeeping,” New Jersey Synod ELCA Conference on Congregational Ministries, Trenton, New Jersey, March 28, 2009.

Academic Administrative Committees and Responsibilities:

2018- present: Academic and Admissions Committee.

This committee oversees student academic progress, including matters of academic suspensions and leaves of absence as well as assigning thesis supervisors. The committee also makes decisions on applications for admission to the seminary programs.

2015-2017: Administration Committee.

This committee oversees the seminary physical plant, development, and financial concerns, and other matters of the daily administration of the school.

2015- present: Director of the Lutheran Study Centre (LSC)

As director I oversee a department with an annual budget of approximately RM200,000 per year and provide a vision for the Centre’s future plans. The LSC works with the seminary, the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (FELCMS), and with individual Lutheran churches. Within the seminary, the duties include arranging study plans for advanced Masters degree students, coordinating visiting lecturers, and representing Sabah Theological Seminary at regional Lutheran events such as the Mekong Mission Forum. With the FELCMS, I arrange for the production of resources on Lutheran theology. This ranges from tracts for new members, to preaching

resources for pastors, to translations of writings by Martin Luther. I also arrange for several continuing education seminars per year with the churches, in English, Mandarin, and Bahasa Malaysia, both for pastors and lay leaders. I also serve as a consultant on teaching Lutheran studies for other seminaries in the region.

2013- present: Publication Committee.

This committee oversees the publication of academic books, the seminary newsletter, seminary website and social media, and other communications materials

Professional Memberships and other Professional Service:

The Australian Association for the Study of Religion
American Academy of Religion
The Association for Theopoetics
Society of Anglican and Lutheran Theologians
North American Paul Tillich Society

Participant, Malaysian Lutheran-Pentecostal Dialogue, 2017-

Outside reader for Doctor of Ministry thesis, Lutheran Theological Seminary – Philadelphia, 2010.

Professional Ministry Experience:

2012-present: Missionary to Malaysia, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Global Mission
2006 – 2012: Pastor; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Chatham, New Jersey, USA (shared position with my wife, Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo).

2002-2003: Vicar; Epiphany Lutheran Church, Suwannee, Georgia, USA

1999-2000: Ministry Team Leader; A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, Big Bend National Park, Texas, USA

1998-1999: Director of Youth Ministry; St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Cumberland, Maryland, USA.

Ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2006, and a member of the clergy roster in the New Jersey Synod, ELCA.

Awards:

2005: Anna Fendt Award, for excellence in systematic theology by a graduating senior at Trinity Lutheran Seminary

1998: Loyola University History Department Honors

1994-1998: Loyola University Honors Program