

Kristi Del Vecchio

Assistant Professor of Religion
Oberlin College
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EDUCATION

- 2025 Ph.D. in Religious Ethics, The University of Chicago Divinity School
- Dissertation Title:* “Climate Change and Kinship: Creative Religious and Moral Responses to Eco-Reproductive Concerns”
- Qualifying Examinations:*
- Religious and Theological Ethics
 - Religious and Philosophical Ethics
 - Religious Ethics and the Sciences with Environmental Ethics Specialty Area
 - Anthropology, Ethics, and the Environment
- 2017 M.A., Theology, Catholic Theological Union
Research-Focused Concentration in Interreligious Dialogue
- 2013 B.A., Biology and Religious Studies, Concordia College
Minor in Chemistry

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Fall 2026 Oberlin College, Assistant Professor of Religion
- 2025-2026 Bucknell University, Visiting Assistant Professor in Religion and Ethics
- Spring 2024 The University of Chicago, Instructor of Record (as PhD Candidate)
Winter 2022

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Primary Environmental and Climate Change Ethics; Religious and Philosophical Ethics; Environmental Justice; Environmental Humanities and Post-Humanities; Christian Ethics; Christian and Interreligious Environmentalism
- Secondary Reproductive and Feminist Ethics; Ecofeminism; Interfaith and Interreligious Studies; Anthropology and Religion; Science and Religion

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

- 2025 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Creative Moral Responses to Eco-Reproductive Concerns: Addressing Gaps in Christian Environmental Ethics,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 52, no. 4 (2025): 1-27, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jore.12488>.
- 2018 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Interreligious Environmentalism: Pragmatic Projects and Moral Competencies that Address Climate Change,” *Journal of Interreligious Studies* 22 (2018): 46-63, <https://irstudies.org/index.php/jirs/article/view/211>.
- 2016 Eboo Patel, Noah Silverman, and Kristi Del Vecchio, “In Our Time: Advancing Interfaith Studies Curricula at Catholic Colleges and Universities,” *Engaged Pedagogies in Catholic Higher Education* 3 (2016): 1-6, <http://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/epiche/vol3/iss1/1/>.

Works in Progress

- 2026 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Sustaining the Environmental Conditions for Reproductive Freedom: Strategies of Resistance from Christian Anti-Fossil Fuel Advocates,” in review with *The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* as of December 2025.

Contributions to Edited Volumes

- 2018 Kristi Del Vecchio and Noah Silverman, “Learning from the Field: Six Themes from Interfaith/Interreligious Studies Curricula,” in *Interreligious/Interfaith Studies: Defining a New Field*, eds. Eboo Patel, Jennifer Howe Peace, and Noah Silverman (Boston: Beacon Press, 2018), 49-59.

Public Scholarship and Media Interviews

- 2026 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Climate Fiction and Critical Hope” *Sightings* (January 22, 2026), <https://martycenter.org/sightings/climate-fiction-and-critical-hope>.
- 2024 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Sustaining Kin in the Climate Crisis: An Earth Day Reflection,” *Sightings* (April 18, 2024), <https://martycenter.org/sightings/sustaining-kin-in-the-climate-crisis-an-earth-day-reflection>.
- 2024 Nara Schoenberg, “Some young people planning fewer or no kids because of climate change” with interview quotes from Kristi Del Vecchio, *The Chicago Tribune* (March 11, 2024), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/03/11/climate-change-kids/>.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Paper and Panel Presentations

- 2026 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Envisioning Eco-Futures through Pedagogies of Climate Fiction,” the Religion and Ecology Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2026 (anticipated).
- 2026 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Revisiting Pope Francis on Climate Change, Population, and Kinship: Lessons from Christian Environmentalists,” Catholic Theological Union Perelmutter Conference: Christian and Jewish Approaches to the Ecological Crisis, March 2026.
- 2025 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Environmental Conditions for the Possibility of Reproductive Freedom,” the Religion and Ecology Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2025.
- 2024 Rachel Heath, Valeria Vergani, and Kristi Del Vecchio, “Emerging Scholars in an Emerging Field of Interreligious and Interfaith Studies,” the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2024.
- 2023 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Kinnovation: Addressing the Theological Avoidance of Eco-Reproductive Ethical Concerns in Christian Contexts,” the Religious Ethics Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2023.
- 2023 Zahra Ayubi, Kristi Del Vecchio, Margaret Kamitsuka, and Jeremy Posadas, “The Possibility of Reproductive Agency,” Religion and Reproductive Politics Conference, Martin Marty Center at The University of Chicago Divinity School, April 2023.
- 2017 Kristi Del Vecchio, “Interreligious Environmentalism: Pragmatic Projects and Moral Competencies that Address Climate Change,” the Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2017.

Invited Responses

- 2024 Kevin Schilbrack, “The Humanities and the Moral Imagination” with response and moderation by Kristi Del Vecchio, Religion, Social Criticism, and the Moral Imagination Conference at The University of Chicago Divinity School, November 2024.
- 2024 Grace Y. Kao, *My Body, Their Baby: A Progressive Christian Vision for Surrogacy* with response by Kristi Del Vecchio, Seminary Co-Op Bookstore and The Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, The University of Chicago Divinity School, January 2024.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught as the Instructor of Record

- Spring 2026 “What is Religion? Theories and Methods” (RELI 232), Bucknell University.
- Spring 2026 “Environmental Ethics” (RELI 226/ENST 236), Bucknell University.
Fall 2025
- Fall 2025 “Introduction to Ethics” (RELI 125), Bucknell University.
- Spring 2024 “Is It Ethical to Have Children in the Climate Crisis?” (RLST/ENST/HLTH 24000, HIPS 24100, GNSE 23154, CCTS 21023), The University of Chicago.
- Winter 2022 “Environmental and Urban Studies B.A. Colloquium II” (ENST/GEOG 29802), The University of Chicago.

Preceptorships and Research Mentorships

- 2022-2023 B.A. Thesis Preceptor and Research Mentor, The Committee on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization, The University of Chicago.
- 2021-2022 B.A. Thesis Preceptor, The Environmental and Urban Studies Department and The Program on the Global Environment, The University of Chicago.

Teaching Assistantships

- Spring 2020 “Is Humanity Doomed?” (RLST/ENST 21020), Taught by David Barr, The University of Chicago.
- Summer 2019 “Islam and Islamophobia: A Catholic Response” (C4041S), Taught by Scott Alexander, Catholic Theological Union.

Pedagogical Training and Certifications

- 2022 College Teaching Certificate, The University of Chicago Center for Teaching.
- 2022 Certification in the Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion, The University of Chicago Divinity School.
- 2020 Training in Writing Pedagogy, The University of Chicago Writing Program.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Teaching and Research Fellowships

- 2023-2024 Alma Wilson Teaching Fellowship and Prize, The University of Chicago Divinity School.
- 2023-2024 Junior Dissertation Fellowship, The Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, The University of Chicago Divinity School.
- Fall 2023 Sacred Writes Fellowship, The Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, The University of Chicago Divinity School.
- 2021-2022 Inclusive Pedagogy Fellowship, The University of Chicago Divinity School.

Grants and Funding

- 2024-2025 \$1,000 of Professional Development Funding, Interfaith America.
- 2023-2024 \$1,000 of Professional Development Funding, Interfaith America.
- 2022-2023 \$1,500 of Professional Development Funding, Interfaith America.
- 2022-2023 \$750 of Supplemental Research Funding for Dissertation Fieldwork, The University of Chicago Divinity School.
- 2018-2025 Full Tuition Scholarship and Stipend Award for Doctoral Degree, The University of Chicago Divinity School.
- 2014-2017 Full Tuition Scholarship for Master's Degree, Arthur Vining Davis Foundations Scholarship, Catholic Theological Union.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2024 Conference Facilitator at the Interfaith Leadership Summit, hosted by Interfaith America (formerly Interfaith Youth Core), Chicago, IL
- Training Room Facilitator for Undergraduate Students (2019 and 2024)
 - Training Room Facilitator for Undergraduate Educators (2021-2023)
- 2013-2018 Staff Member at Interfaith America (formerly Interfaith Youth Core), Chicago, IL
- Academic Initiatives Manager, Aug 2016 - Oct 2018
 - Academic Initiatives Associate, Aug 2015 - July 2016
 - Institutional Engagement Associate, Aug 2014 - July 2015
 - Administrative Associate, Sept 2013 - Aug 2014

SERVICE

- 2026-Present Steering Committee Member, Religion and Ecology Unit, American Academy of Religion.
- 2022-Present Board Member, The Association of Interreligious and Interfaith Studies.
- 2025-2026 Conference Organizer with Ranana Dine, “Christian and Jewish Approaches to the Ecological Crisis,” Catholic Theological Union.
- 2016-2018 Editorial Assistant for Eboo Patel, Jennifer Howe Peace, and Noah Silverman, *Interreligious/Interfaith Studies: Defining a New Field* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2018).
- 2016-2018 Seminar Organizer, “Teaching Interfaith Understanding,” co-hosted by the Council of Independent Colleges and Interfaith America.
- 2015-2016 Conference Organizer, “Interfaith Studies: Curricular Programs and Core Competencies,” co-hosted by California Lutheran University and Interfaith America.
- 2012-2013 Editorial Assistant for Ernest Simmons, *The Entangled Trinity: Quantum Physics and Theology* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014).

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2013 Commencement Speaker, Concordia College (MN).
- 2013 Student Honoree, Student Government Association Distinguished Service Award, Concordia College (MN).
- 2013 Departmental Honors, Biology and Religion, Concordia College (MN).

LANGUAGES

- 2020 Spanish, Advanced Proficiency for Academic Reading and Research, The University of Chicago.
- 2019 French, Advanced Proficiency for Academic Reading and Research, The University of Chicago.
- 2017 Norwegian, Written and Oral Language Study, North Park University.
- 2015 Arabic, Written and Oral Language Study, Fawakih Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies.