

Todd Michael Rester

Education:

Doctorate, Historical Theology, Calvin Theological Seminary, Ph.D. 2016, GPA: 3.867 / 4.0
Language Exams: French, German.

Dissertation: *Theologia Viatorum: Institutional Continuity and the Reception of a Theological Framework from Franciscus Junius's 'De Theologia Vera' to Bernhardinus de Moor's 'Commentarius Perpetuus'* | Doctoral Supervisor: Richard A. Muller

- Calvin Theological Seminary, Huizenga Fellowship for Doctoral Studies, 2007–2009
- Leiden Universiteit, Research Fellow of the Scaliger Instituut, 2010. “Theologia Viatorum: The Theology of Leiden from Junius to De Moor / Continuity and Development in the structure and goal of theology in Franciscus Junius (1545–1602), Johannes a Marck (1656–1731), and Bernhard De Moor (1709–1780)”
- French Paleography, Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Dr. Tom Lambert, Summer 2008.

Master's of Divinity, Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson, MS), M.Div. 2006, GPA: 3.52 / 4.0

- Graduation Merit: Outstanding Senior in Systematic Theology
- Independent studies: Calvin's French (D. Thomas) & Patristic Latin (J. Ligon Duncan, III).

Bachelor's of Science, Cum Laude, Louisiana Tech University, Major: Marketing, Minor: Medical Technology, May 1999. GPA: 3.48.

Languages:

Passive reading and written translation: Latin (Medieval & Early Modern), Koine Greek, Biblical Hebrew, French (Early Modern and Modern), Dutch (Early Modern and Modern), German (Early Modern and Modern).

Active conversational (Basic-Intermediate): Modern French and Modern German.
Credentials via Queen's University Belfast in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL) available upon request.

Current Scholarly Interests and Expertise:

- History of the doctrine of Scripture and its reception
- Early modern and Enlightenment conflicts between theology and philosophy on general and special revelation
- Institutional continuity as a method for interpreting intellectual history, doctrinal formulation, and confessional development in discrete social contexts
- Early modern and post-Enlightenment models of missiology
- History of biblical exegesis, evolution of systematic theology in early modern universities
- Protestant reception of patristic church fathers
- Early modern confessional standards, commentaries, and processes of confessionalization.
- Reception of medieval theology, philosophy, and ethics in early modern Protestant exegesis

Current Position:

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Queen's University Belfast (1 Sept 2016 – 31 Aug 2020) – ["War and the Supernatural in Early Modern Europe," a project of the EU European Research Council \(Project ID: 677490\).](#)

- Primarily responsible for research and translation of early-modern, radical Roman Catholic exegetical and political views on faith and war, as well as the natural limits of political power and the suspension of the moral order in religious war. Also responsible for the planning and execution of conferences and co-editing of resultant essay collections. Project outcomes include:
 - Beyond Aquinas: *Franciscans and Scotists on Politics* (Routledge: 2020), under contract. A critical edition of texts and translations of early modern Franciscans and Scotists on politics, war, and missiology.
 - A monograph on the institutional reception and promulgation of Franciscan and Scotist political thought at the Roman Catholic universities of Paris, Salamanca, and Leuven in the early modern period.
 - Planned and executed the conference “War & the University in the 16th Century,” 28-30 June 2018, Queen’s University Belfast. Responsibilities included the coordination of travel, accommodation, and venue planning with a budget of £15,000 for 15 scholars from seven countries.

- Secondly, as a faculty member of Queen’s University Belfast, I have been involved as:
 - Occasional lecturer in the Master’s of Arts, History of Religion strand as well as in undergraduate History courses, for example:
 - HIS1003 LT6 / TT11-TT12 - “The Atlantic Enlightenment in Context,” Fall 2017, undergraduate history lecture and tutorial sessions on the social, theological, political, legal, and philosophical shifts which occurred in the trans-Atlantic world from 1685 to 1815. I co-designed and taught this course with another post-doctoral research fellow.
 - MHY7089, “Faith and Identity in Early Modern Europe,” convener Dr. Scott Dixon; MA History lecture and tutorial period, 8 Feb 2018, “Religious Principles, Personal Piety, Political Action and Social Control in the Early Modern Period.”
 - Graduate History Colloquium, Queen’s “Institutional Continuity: Tracking the development, transmission, and decline of an idea as taught at Leiden University (1594-1779),” 7 October 2016.
 - As needed I assist doctoral students in their research and practical development, for example:
 - Karie Schultz, (QUB doctoral student in History, Ian Campbell, supervisor) in conjunction with the EU research project, is working on the reception of Reformed political thought in British and Scottish universities. I assist in matters of theology, philosophy, Latin training, and paleography, as needed.
 - Harrison Perkins (QUB doctoral student in History, Crawford Gribben, supervisor), who is working on Bishop James Ussher. We have worked through the transcription and translation of Latin manuscript material of Ussher’s theology lectures, housed at the Codrington Library, Balliol College, Oxford University. Other manuscripts are being consulted at Trinity College Dublin.

Digital Humanities and Research Tools:

Director (Volunteer), Junius Institute for Digital Reformation Research (www.juniusinstitute.org)
– (May 2013-present)

Responsibilities include fundraising; project design, implementation, and management of the leadership team; the planning and execution of colloquia for doctoral candidates and established scholars, and book digitization projects. One project of the Junius Institute includes:

- The Post-Reformation Digital Library (www.prdl.org) – (2008-present) an aggregated bibliography of approximately 126k digitized volumes of early modern theology, philosophy, and law available for free to students and scholars globally. This website has reached over 175k visitors from over 170 countries.

Teaching Experience:

Adjunct Professor, Kuyper College, Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015. The goal of this introductory course was: (1) to survey major themes in philosophy through primary source readings and (2) to survey Christian worldviews. After this course, utilizing selected readings throughout the history of philosophy, undergraduate students are able to:

- (1) Identify major lines of thought in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics.
- (2) Engage varying worldviews on philosophical and ethical questions in a cogent way.
- (3) Think and write critically in analytical reflection essays.

Adjunct Professor, Calvin Theological Seminary – instructing and assisting ThM. students in writing their master's theses projects. Over 85% of these students were English as Second Language graduate students.

- Written Expression Course, Fall 2011, Fall & Spring 2014, Fall & Spring 2015
- Research Methodology Course, Fall 2012

Adjunct Professor, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Intensive Latin Courses, Su 2010, Su 2013, Fa 2015, Spr 2016. This course included live video streaming of courses via skype and supervision of coursework via distance learning. After these courses successful graduate students (M.Div. & Th.M.) were able:

- (1) To read classical, patristic, medieval, and early modern Latin for the purpose of conducting original research with exegetical, theological, and philosophical sources in the Reformation and Post-Reformation period.
- (2) To engage lines of exegesis and doctrinal developments from Protestant and Roman Catholic Latin translations of the Bible and primary sources.
- (3) To read and engage early modern theology, philosophy, logic, ethics, and law.
- (4) To prepare critical transcriptions and translations.

Instructor, Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, 16th century Latin Paleography, June 2012. Academic levels included undergraduate to post-doctoral participants with varying degrees of Latin expertise. This course was funded in part by the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference. Participants of this course are able:

- (1) To read, transcribe, and translate hand written documents from the 16th to 18th centuries.
- (2) To conduct individual research in rare book special collections.

Teaching/Research Assistant, Calvin Theological Seminary, Dr. R. A. Muller Fall 2010 / Dr. L. Bierma Spr 2011. Dr. R. A. Muller, Fall 2009 / Dr. L. Bierma, Spr 2009. Dr. C. Plantinga Fall 2012

- Translation of selections of Theodore Beza's French and Latin for R. A. Muller's research on predestination, approximately 20k words, (Fall 2009).
- Indexing: Dr. L. Bierma's translation of Willem van't Spyker, *Calvin: A Brief Guide to His Life and Thought* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).
- Grader & occasional lecturer for Dr. L. Bierma's "Church History 1500 – Present"
- Grader of Latin language exams for doctoral and masters students, Calvin Theological Seminary, 2010-2016.

Adjunct Professor, Belhaven College, Old Testament Survey course, Spr – Su 2007.

Selected Translations:

Translator, Dutch Reformed Translation Society, (2009-present), Petrus Van Mastricht's *Theoretical-Practical Theology / Theoretico-Practica Theologia*, estimate 1.6 million English words in 7 English volumes.

- Petrus van Mastricht, *Theoretical Practical Theology*, volume 1 (Prolegomena), (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2018)
- Petrus van Mastricht's *The Best Method of Preaching: the Use of the Theoretical-Practical Theology*, trans. T. M. Rester (Reformation Heritage Books: Grand Rapids, 2013).
- Volumes 2-7 in editing, projected publication, volume 2, spring 2019 (250k words), volume 3 by late 2019, with the remainder by 2023.

Translator, *Handbook of Dutch Church History / Handboek van Nederlandse Kirkgescheidenis*, (Vandenhoek & Ruprecht, 2014).

Translator, *Psalms 1-72*, Reformation Commentary Series on Scripture, Old Testament VII, edited by H. J. Selderhuis (InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL, 2015). First English translation of selections from 16th century Lutherans and Reformed on the Psalms.

Translator, William Ames's *Sciagraphia Catecheseos Christianae* (1635), published as "A Sketch of the Christian's Catechism", volume 1 of Classic Reformed Theology Series, ed. Dr. R. Scott Clark, (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2009). William Ames's commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism.

Translator, Acton Institute:

- Abraham Kuyper, *On the Church, Collected works in Public Theology*, vol. 2 (Lexham Press, 2016).
- Franciscus Junius, *The Mosaic Polity* (Grand Rapids: Christian's Library Press, 2015).
- Franciscus Junius, *De Mosis Politiæ Observatione* (1592), "Scholia: The Observance of the Mosaic Polity" *Journal of Markets & Morality*, Spring 2011. Chapters 1 & 2.
- "Musculus on Oaths & Usury" in *Journal of Markets & Morality*, Fall 2008, 80 pages. Translation of excerpts on Psalm 15 from Musculus' *In Davidis Psalterium Sacrosanctum Commentarij* (Basil: 1573).

Select Presentations, Published Articles, Conferences, Organizations, & Societies:

Presentations of research: "The Translation of Petrus van Mastricht: *Theologia theoretico practica*,"

Conference "Grace in Christian Experience from John Owen to Jonathan Edwards,"
Union Theological College, Queen's University Belfast, 28 August, 2018.

Faculty and Doctoral Colloquium, Evangelical Theology Faculty, Leuven, Belgium, 3
September, 2018.

Paper Presentation: "'Without excuse': teaching and disputing Romans 1:20, *the imago Dei and notions communes* at Leiden University from 1689-1780." Conference Venue: "The Reformation and the Reformed," Society of Reformation Studies, Westminster College, Cambridge University, 10-12 April, 2018. This paper is in process of publication with *Renaissance & Reformation Review*.

Paper Presentation: "John Mair and Juan Focher on forced baptism, the role of the prince, and holy war." Conference Venue: Colloque / Conference "Conversion religieuse et espace politique. Nouveaux angles d'approche (Antiquité – Epoque moderne)," 22 January, 2018, Université Paris Est-Créteil. This conference and colloquium was part of a publicly funded project, *Pouvoir Politique et Conversion Religieuse Antiquite – Moderne* (POCRAM-ANR 13-CULT-0008), sponsored by l'Agence Nationale de la Recherche.

Paper Presentation: "Christian Princes and Pagan Lands: John Mair, dominium, and just war,"
Conference
Venue: "War & the University in the Sixteenth Century," 28 June 2018, Queen's
University Belfast.

Chapter: "Describing Calvinism: Early modern polemical engagements with Reformed Protestantism" in *The Cultures of Calvinism in Early Modern Europe*, eds. Crawford Gribben & Graeme Murdock (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

Paper Presentation: "Reformed Receptions of Canon Law," at the conference "Law and Religion: The Legal teachings of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations," May 2012, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Published as "Roman Canon Law in Protestant Reformed Theologians as Both Touchstone and Foil" in *Law and Religion: The Legal Teachings of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2014).

Paper Presentation: "Doctrine is for Preaching; Preaching is for Living: An introduction to Petrus van Mastricht's *Theoretico-Practica Theologia*" 2012 Doctrine for Proclamation Conference, Bavink Institute, 18 October 2012.

Paper Presentation: "Franciscus Junius, Natural Law, and Subsidiarity" at Institution für Reformationsgeschichte, Zürich, Switzerland (RefoRC in Zürich, May 2011)

Renaissance Society of America (Spring 2009 – Present)

- Paper Presentation: "A Digital Researcher's Toolkit: Sive Ad Fontes Renatos ac Digitaliter Acquisitos," New Technologies Conference, Venice, Italy, April 2010 Conference

Sixteenth Century Society & Conference: (Spring 2009 – Present)

- Paper Presentation: "*Dominus Dixit*: principles of exegetical theology applied in two loci of Peter Martyr Vermigli's 1 Corinthians commentary" October 2012, Cincinnati, OH.

Published in *Reformation & Renaissance Review: Journal of the Society for Reformation Studies*, Vol 15, No. 1 (2013).

- Paper Presentation: "A Reformed Approach to Typology: Junius & Ames on Psalm 2" October, 2010 Conference Montreal, Quebec Canada.

Published as "Type, Anti-type, and the Sensus Literalis: Protestant Reformed Orthodox Approaches to Psalm 2" in *Church and School in Early Modern Protestantism: Studies in Honor of Richard A. Muller on the Maturation of a Theological Tradition* (Brill, 2013).

- Roundtable Presentation: "Trends and Challenges in Digital Research Methods: The Post-Reformation Digital Library (PRDL) and Beyond" October, 2011 Conference Ft. Worth, TX USA

Junius Institute / CTS Graduate Student Colloquium (Fall 2007 – Spring 2016)

- "Digital Resources & Research Methodology" Fall 2009, Calvin Theological Seminary
- "Disputed Practices: Theological Disputations as Pedagogical technique at Leiden University 1685 -1780" Fall 2010, Calvin Theological Seminary
- "Scholastic Piety: Approaches and Degrees of Difference in Bernhardinus de Moor and Petrus van Mastricht" Oct 2013, Calvin Theological Seminary
- Roundtable discussion: "Franciscus Junius and the Development of the Reformed Tradition" Nov. 2014, Calvin Theological Seminary
- "Roman Law & Mosaic Polity in Reformed Theology: F. Junius' Approach to Jurisprudence" Feb 2015, Calvin Theological Seminary
- "A Reformation of Terms: Mining & Building Lexica of Early Modern Philosophy & Theology" Sept. 2015, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary
- "From the *Synopsis Purioris* to Marckius and De Moor: A Trajectory of Doctrine, Pedagogy, and Institutional Continuity" April 1, 2016, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies: "Putting Rare Books Within Everyone's Reach: Historical Theology & PRDL," Feb. 2011

Academic Service:

- Curriculum Assessment Committee, Calvin Theological Seminary, Fall 2009-Spring 2011
- Library Committee, Calvin Theological Seminary & Calvin College, Fall 2010-Spring 2012
- Royal Historical Society, member (2016-present)
- Renaissance Society of America, member
- Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, member

Ecclesiastical Service:

- Summer Camp Pastor, Twin Lakes Camp & Conference Center, a ministry of First Presbyterian Church (PCA), Jackson MS, 2006-2007. Primary duties included sharing the Gospel with students, pastoral care of 100 college-aged counselors and approximately 30 camp staff.
- Ruling Elder, Redeemer Presbyterian Church (OPC), Ada, MI (2011-2016)
 - Regular adult education teacher, (2008-2015)
 - Adult Education Committee, chairman, (2011-2015)
 - Children's Education Curriculum Committee (2015)
- Under care of Michigan & Ontario Presbytery (2008-2017)
 - Pastoral Intern, Redeemer Presbyterian Church (January 2015 – June 2015)
- Church membership:
Southern Baptist (1984-1998); Presbyterian Church of America (1998-2007);
Orthodox Presbyterian Church, (2008-2017); Presbyterian Church of Ireland, (2017-present)