

CURRICULUM VITAE

Edmund Waldstein, O.Cist.

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Born November 27th, 1983 in Rome

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CURRENT POSITION

2018-present	Lecturer , Katholische Hochschule ITI
2016-present	Lecturer in moral theology, Phil.-Theol. Hochschule Benedikt XVI. Heiligenkreuz
2022-present	Director of the János-Brenner-Haus in Heiligenkreuz

EDUCATION

In progress	Habilitation in Moral Theology, University of Innsbruck
2019	Dr. theol. , theological ethics, Universität Wien, Austria.
2010	Mag. theol. in systematic theology, Phil.-Theol. Hochschule Benedikt XVI. Heiligenkreuz, Austria
2006	B.A. in liberal arts, Thomas Aquinas College, California.

DISSERTATION

Dissertation 2019

Title: “The Double-Bind of Loneliness: David Foster Wallace from the Perspective of Theological Ethics.”

Abstract: The writings of the American novelist David Foster Wallace (1962-2008) are full of double-binds, problems in which any attempt at a solution to the problem is itself a problem. One of these is rooted in loneliness or isolation on the one hand, and unacceptable attempts to undo loneliness on the other. Wallace describes the horrors of loneliness and isolation in an ever more atomized world. And he describes how the pain of loneliness engenders an impulse to “give oneself away.” This can happen either consciously—as in the attempt to “give oneself” to some cause greater than the self—or (more often) unconsciously in the pursuit of pleasures or excitements to distract—oneself from loneliness. Wallace sometimes calls this giving away of the self “worship.” But most forms of “worship” do not really help to overcome loneliness and isolation. They spiral back to an ever-deeper loneliness. Hence the double-bind between loneliness and “worship” can also be seen as simply the double-bind of loneliness; loneliness as a double-bind. Wallace was not content with describing the double-bind; he also wanted to explore ways of overcoming it. On my reading, Wallace’s work suggests that there is no “solution” to the double-bind in the sense of an insight or practice that would allow one to simply escape. There are, however, ways of living with and confronting the double-bind that partially overcome it or transcend it from within. I argue that Wallace sees these ways as having both religious and ethical dimensions. They are ways of finding an ethics that enables real connection with others—a “giving away” of the self that paradoxically coincides with a finding of the true self. In sketching out such paths, Wallace makes use of theological and religious ideas. I show that Wallace’s work can be an aid to the reflections of theological ethics. He can help theological ethics to escape the ideological trap of serving as one more deceptive easy way out of the double-bind of the human condition. His work can help theological ethics face the human condition as experienced, and to reflect theologically on a truly human way of dealing with it.

Advisor: Prof. Sigrid Müller

External Readers: Prof. Hille Haker, Prof. Allard den Dulk

ECCLESIAL FUNCTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

2006	Began Novitiate in the Cistercian Abbey of Stift Heiligenkreuz, Austria.
2010	Final Vows in Stift Heiligenkreuz.
2010	Ordination to the diaconate
2011	Ordination to the priesthood.
2011-2015	Student chaplain, Hochschule Heiligenkreuz.
2015-2016	Curate in the parishes of Pfaffstätten and Trumau, Archdiocese of Vienna, Austria.

- 2016-2019 Vice rector of the inter-diocesan seminary *Leopoldinum* in Heiligenkreuz.
- 2019-2022 Parish priest of Gaaden, Archdiocese of Vienna, Austria.
- 2022-present Director of the *János-Brenner-Haus* for discerning vocations in Heiligenkreuz. This is a place where students of theology live who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life.
- 2024-present Member of the Ecumenical Commission of the Archdiocese of Vienna

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SERVICES TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

- 2021-present Ordinary Member of the Sacra Doctrina Project, Ave Maria, Florida.
- 2019-present Member of the Board of Directors, Mother of Divine Grace School, Ojai, California.
- 2016-present Fellow of the Dialogos Institute in Norcia, Italy.
- 2016-present Founding Member of The Vienna-Qom Circle for Catholic-Shi'a Dialogue on Religion, Philosophy and Political Theory (ViQo Circle), Vienna, Austria/Qom, Iran.
- 2018-2020 Member of the Board of Directors, Johannes Messner Gesellschaft, Vienna, Austria.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2023 "Universal Predicates and Universal Causes." *Aquinas Review* 26.2: 51-67.
- 2023 "The True and the Good in the Age of Ideology: Dietrich von Hildebrand and Charles De Koninck." *Divinitas: Rivista internazionale di ricerca e di critica teologica* 66.2: 151-188.
- 2022 "The Analogy of Perfection." *New Polity* 3.1: 11-25.
- 2021 "Politics as a Sketch for the Church." *New Polity* 2.1: 6-32.
- 2019 "Politics as Prudence." *Philosophical News* 19.2: 91-100.
- 2019 "Common Good Eudemonism." *Divinitas: Rivista internazionale di ricerca e di critica teologica* 62.1: 427-441.

- 2025 “Hierarchy and Synodality: Ratzinger and the Antiauthoritarianism of Postwar German Theology,” in: Pietro Luca Azzaro and Stephen M. Hildebrand, eds. *Interpreting the Signs of the Times Church and Secularity in the Theology of Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI*. Steubenville: Franciscan University of Steubenville Press, 90-99.
- 2024 “La llamada ‘nueva teoría del derecho natural’,” in: Miguel Ayuso, ed. *¿El derecho natural contra el derecho natural? Historia y balance de un problema*. Madrid: Marcial Pons.
- 2023 “Bernhard Häring’s Moral Theology,” in: Kevin Flannery, ed. *The Faith Once for All Delivered: Doctrinal Authority in Catholic Theology*. Steubenville: Emmaus Academic, 101-123.
- 2022 “Theologische Ethik und Bioethik: eine christliche Perspektive. Zur Herrschaft des Menschen über den Menschen,” in: Christoph Böhr and Markus Rothhaar, eds. *Anthropologie und Ethik der Biomedizin: Grundlagen und Leitfragen*. Wiesbaden: Springer, 145-153.
- 2021 “Robert Spaemann and Wolfgang Waldstein as Critics of the ‘Brain Death’ Concept,” in: Wolfgang Buchmüller and Johannes Paul Chavanne, eds. *Cor ad cor loquitur*. Heiligenkreuz: Be&Be, 339-351.
- 2021 “Integralismus und Freiheit,” in: Alkuin Schachenmayr and Johannes Lackner, eds. *Gesta Sanctottensis*. Münster: Aschendorff, 147-165.
- 2021 “Spiritual Ends and Temporal Power: An Integralist Reading of The City of God,” in: Bolek Z. Kabala, Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo, and Nathan Pinkoski, eds. *Augustine in an Unsettled Time*. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 149-166.
- 2020 “What are Natural Things?” in: Thomas Storck, ed. *The Glory of the Cosmos*. Waterloo, ON: Arouca Press, 1-18.
- 2018 “Contrasting Concepts of Freedom,” in: Stefan Gugerel, Christian Machek und Clemens Egger, eds. *Ordnungskonzeptionen für die Zukunft: Impulse aus schiitischer, orthodoxer und katholischer Tradition*, Ethika Themen. Vienna: Institut für Religion und Frieden, 125-146.
- 2016 “Die Lehre des 2. Vatikanums zur Religionsfreiheit im Lichte der Überlieferung,” in: Gundakar Liechtenstein, Felix Mayrhofer. eds. *Die Sonnenreflexionsuhr im Stift Heiligenkreuz als Denkmal für Gewissens und Religionsfreiheit. Mit grundsätzlichen Überlegungen zu der Erklärung „Dignitatis humanae“ des 2. Vatikanischen Konzils*. Heiligenkreuz: Be&Be Verlag, 217-251.

- 2015 “The Soul in the Novel: From Daniel Defoe to David Foster Wallace,” in: Eric Austin Lee and Samuel Kimbriel, eds. *The Resounding Soul: Reflections on the Metaphysics and Vivacity of the Human Person*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 199-210.

EDITED BOOKS

- 2022 *Integralism and the Common Good*, Volume 2: *The Two Powers*. Brooklyn, New York Angelico Press.
- 2021 with Peter A. Kwasniewski, *Integralism and the Common Good*, Volume 1: *Family, City, and State*. Brooklyn, New York: Angelico Press.

SELECTED BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 “Ne Dimittas Legem Matris Tuæ,” Review of Peter Seewald, *Benedict XVI: A Life Volume I: Youth in Nazi Germany to the Second Vatican Council 1927–1965*. London: Bloomsbury, 2020. In: *The Lamp* 6, 39-41.
- 2018 Review of Rowan Williams, *On Augustine*. London: Bloomsbury, 2016. In: *Ambo* 3, 500-5001.
- 2018 Review of Marcia Pally, *Commonwealth and Covenant: Economics, Politics, and Theologies of Relationality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016. In: *Studies in Christian Ethics* 31.3, 354-357.
- 2018 “Was ist Christus?” Review of Josef Zemanek, *Jesus Christus — Sendung und Funktion*. In: *Academia* February 2017, p. 30.
- 2017 “An Integralist Manifesto.” Review of Andrew Willard Jones, *Before Church and State: A Study of Social Order in the Sacramental Kingdom of St. Louis IX*. Emmaus Academic, Steubenville, 2017. In: *First Things* 276 (October 2017), 52-53.
- 2010 Review of *Kyriale Cisterciense: Editio Sancrucensis*. Be&Be Verlag, Heiligenkreuz, 2010. In: *Analecta Cisterciensia* 60, 356-357.
- 2009 Review of *The Crusades, Christianity, and Islam*, by Jonathan Riley-Smith, (Bampton Lectures in America). Columbia University Press, New York 2008. In: *Analecta Cisterciensia* 59, 482-484.
- 2008 Review of *Survival or Prophecy? The Correspondence of Jean Leclercq and Thomas Merton*, ed. Patrick Hart, OCSO (Monastic Wisdom Series 17). Cistercian Publications. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, 2008. In: *Analecta Cisterciensia* 58, 286-289.

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

Selected print publications in which writing has appeared:

- *The Catholic Herald*. London.

- *First Things*. New York.
- *The Lamp*. Three Rivers, Michigan.
- *Plough Quarterly*. Walden, New York.
- *Sancta Crux*. Heiligenkreuz, Austria.

Selected online publications in which writing has appeared:

- *Church Life Journal*. churchlifejournal.nd.edu. Notre Dame, Indiana.
- *Ethika Politika*. www.ethikapolitika.org. Washington DC.
- *The Josias*. thejosias.com. Virginia.
- *Popula*. popula.com. California.
- *Sanrucensis* sanrucensis.wordpress.com. Personal blog.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED LECTURES

- 2022 “Universal Predicates and Universal Causes,” St John’s College, Annapolis Maryland, 28 October.
- 2019 “A Defense of Political Augustinianism,” The Thomistic Institute and the Harvard Catholic Center at Harvard University, 2 April.
- 2019 “Whether it is Sinful to Desire Happiness: Martin Luther’s Critique of Aristotelianism,” Thomas Aquinas College, 29 March.
- 2019 “An Integralist Reading of the City of God: Against the Secularists.” University of Dallas, 27 March.
- 2017 “Eudaemonism and the Common Good,” International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria, 12 October.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “Hierarchy and Synodality: Ratzinger and the Anti-Authoritarianism of Post-War German Theology,” at a Conference hosted by the Vatican Foundation Joseph Ratzinger and Franciscan University of Steubenville: “Joseph Ratzinger’s Vision of the Church and Its Relevance for Contemporary Challenges,” Steubenville, 20 October.
- 2019 “Theologische Ethik und Bioethik: Zur Herrschaft des Menschen über den Menschen,” presented at the conference “Der Mensch und die moderne Biomedizin: Anthropologische und ethische Grundfragen,” Phil.-Theol. Hochschule Benedikt XVI., Heiligenkreuz, Austria, 28 September.

- 2017 “‘True empathy’s impossible’: David Foster Wallace and the difficulty with loving one’s neighbor,” presented at the conference “Philadelphia: The Challenge of fraternity,” Junior Session, International Congress of the European Society for Catholic Theology, Strasbourg, France, 30 August.
- 2017 “Eudaemonism and the Common Good,” presented at the conference “The Common Good as a Common Project,” Nanovic Institute For European Studies, University of Notre Dame, 26 March.
- 2017 “Pluralistischer Realismus und Dialog zwischen Schiiten und Katholiken,” presented at the conference “Ethik im Diskurs der Kulturen und Religionen,” Netzwerk Moralthologie, Würzburg, 4 March.
- 2016 “Contrasting Concepts of Freedom,” presented at the conference “Heute gerecht leben Impulse zu Ordnungskonzeptionen aus katholischer, orthodoxer und schiitischer Tradition,” Vienna-Qom Circle for Catholic-Shi'a Dialogue on Religion, Philosophy, and Political Theory; Vienna, 19 September.
- 2016 “The Dialectics of Individualism and Totalitarianism in Charles de Koninck, David Foster Wallace,” presented at the conference “Political Demonology: The Logic of Evil in Contemporary Literature and Theology,” Worcester College, Oxford, 20 May.
- 2015 “On the Primacy of the Common Good Against the Personalists,” presented at the 23rd annual Summer Symposium of the Roman Forum: “Forbidden Topics: A Free and Rational Catholic Challenge to the Frightened Modern Mind,” Gardone Riviera, 8 July.
- 2014 “Freedom and Necessity in Jonathan Franzen and David Foster Wallace,” presented at the conference “*INFINITE WALLACE/WALLACE INFINI*,” Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3, Paris, 12 Sept.
- 2013 “The Soul in the Novel: From Daniel Defoe to David Foster Wallace,” presented at the conference “The Soul,” The Centre of Philosophy and Theology Nottingham, St. Annes’s College, Oxford, 30 June.
- 2012 “Empire and Providence in Virgil, Augustine and Dante,” presented at the conference “The Idea of Christendom.” International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria, 18 June.
- 2011 “Order as the Telos of the Universe in Aquinas and De Koninck,” presented at the conference “The Future of Creation Order,” Association for Reformational Philosophy / Faculty of Philosophy, VU Univer

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Eudaimonism
- The Common Good
- Virtue Ethics
- Natural Law
- Environmental Ethics

- Catholic Social Teaching
- Integralism
- The Theology and Philosophy of Nature
- Theological Readings of Literary Fiction

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Special Questions in Moral Theology
- Truth and Lies
- Politics and Mysticism
- Virtue and Happiness
- Ancient Ethics
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Natural Philosophy
- Philosophical Anthropology

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Native Language: English

Fluent: German

Reading knowledge: Latin, French, Italian, Ancient Greek.