

DUSTIN D. BENAC
Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Th.D., Duke University Divinity School, 2020

Dissertation: “Adaptive Church: A Practical Theology of Adaptive Work in the Pacific Northwest”

Advisor: Professors Craig Dykstra

M.Div., Duke University Divinity School, 2015 (*summa cum laude*)

B.A., Theology, Whitworth University, 2010 (*summa cum laude*)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Associate, Duke University Divinity School, 2020

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Benac, Dustin and Erin Weber-Johnson, “Ecclesial Imagination for Organizational Transformation: Hospice Care, Midwifery, and the Ordering of a Common Life,” *Practical Theology* 12.2 (2019): 158-174.

Benac, Dustin, “A Bonhoefferian Approach to Social Analysis: Life Together as *Communio*, Relation, and Possibility,” *The Bonhoeffer Legacy: An International Journal* 5.2 (2019): 63-82.

Benac, Dustin, “Opposability: Unearthing Christianity’s Opposable Inner Logic and its Capacity to Form Leaders for Adaptive Leadership in Contemporary Society,” *Journal of Religious Leadership* 15.1 (Spring 2016): 101-32.

Benac, Dustin, “A Seat at the Table: Affective Formation and United Methodist Higher Education,” *Christian Higher Education* 14.3 (2015): 127-41.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

Benac, Dustin, “Network-Based Christianity in the Pacific Northwest: Evolution of the Emerging Church or New Organizational Form?” *The Emerging Church, Millennials, and Religion*, Vol. 2, ed. Terry Shoemaker, Xochitl Alvizo, and Rachel Schneider (Wipf & Stock, expected 2020).

ESSAYS

Benac, Dustin, "[Theological Education for a New Age](#)," *The Presbyterian Outlook* (September 25, 2018).

Benac, Dustin and Erin Weber-Johnson, "[Organizational Imagination: The Practical Wisdom for Communities in Transition](#)," *The Presbyterian Outlook* (September 12, 2018).

Benac, Dustin, "Marilynne Robinson's Home and the Stories We Tell in Ordinary Time," *The Cresset* 80.1 (Michaelmas 2016): 4-8.

BOOK REVIEWS

Theology as Interdisciplinary Inquiry: Learning with and from the Natural and Human Sciences, edited by Joshua Mauldin and Robin Lovin, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* 30.1/2 (2018): 205-206.

Augustine: Conversions to Confessions, by Robin Lane Fox, *Christian Scholar's Review* 46.4 (Summer 2017), 412-14.

Christian Practical Wisdom: What It Is, Why It Matters, by Dorothy Bass, Kathleen Cahalan, Bonnie Miller-McLemore, James Nieman, and Christian Scharen, *Reading Religion* (September 17, 2016), <http://readingreligion.org/books/christian-practical-wisdom>.

Journey Toward Justice, by Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Wesleyan Theological Journal* (Spring 2016): 273-75.

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Benac, Dustin, "[It's Always Better to Fish Together \(and Other Leadership Lessons from the River\)](#)," *Faith & Leadership* (April 2017).

Benac, Dustin, "[Andrew Forrest: 'Every Dying Church in America Has a Community Garden'](#)," *Faith & Leadership* (April 2017).

Benac, Dustin, "[Paul-Gordon Chandler: Peacebuilding through the Arts](#)," *Faith & Leadership* (March 2016).

Benac, Dustin, "[Performing in the Circus: Resources to Help Leaders \(and Followers\) Play Their Part with Excellence](#)," *Seedbed Blog* (August 2015).

Benac, Dustin, "[Revelation's City Without a Temple, a New Vision for Institutions](#)," *Faith & Leadership* (September 2013).

Benac, Dustin, "[From Columbine to the State Capitol: How the school shooting still shapes Kevin Parker's civic service](#)," *Christianity Today: This is Our City* (September 2013).

INVITED SPEECHES & PRESENTATIONS

PROFESSIONAL

"The Evolution of Pastoral and Ecclesial Imagination: Ecclesial Ecology as Place and Prism for Adaptive Work," American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting: Practical Theology Session, Boston, MA, November 21-24, 2020 (invited).

"Reimagining Church: Ecclesial-Organizational Adaptation on the Periphery of Christendom," 22nd Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Dunedin, New Zealand, August 23-29, 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19).

"Adaptive Church: A Practical Theology of Ecclesial Adaptation in the Pacific Northwest," Princeton Theological Seminary Graduate Student Conference, Princeton, NJ, March 27-28, 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19).

"Reimagining Church: Fields, Networks, and Ecclesial Ecologies in the Pacific Northwest," Duke Network Analysis Center (DNAC), Durham, NC, January 13, 2020.

"Network-Based Christianity in the Pacific Northwest: Evolution of the Emerging Church or New Organizational Form?" American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting: The Emerging Church, Millennials, and Religion Session, San Diego, CA, November 23-26, 2019.

"Life Together as *Communio*, Relation, and Possibility: A Bonhoefferian Alternative to Hauerwasian and Bourdieusian Approaches to Social Analysis," American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting: Bonhoeffer and Social Analysis Session, Denver, CO, November 17-20, 2018.

"The Promise of Organizational Theory for the Study of Religion and Religious Organizations," American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting: Sociology of Religion Session, Denver, CO, November 17-20, 2018.

"Other Duties as Assigned: The Craft of Fundraising for Research and Higher Education," American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting: Student Lounge Roundtable Series, Denver, CO, November 17-20, 2018.

"Seeing the Field: Ecclesial Educational Institutions in the Pacific Northwest as an Organizational Field and Site for Adaptive Work," American Academy of Religion (AAR) Pacific Northwest Annual Meeting: History of Christianity and North American Religion Session, Tacoma, WA, May 11-13, 2018.

“Thinking Institutionally as a Christian Practice,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting: Practical Theology Session, San Antonio, TX, November 19-22, 2016.

“Playing the Grant Roulette: When and How to Play the Grant-Game in Higher Education,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting: Student Lounge Roundtable Series, San Antonio, TX, November 19-22, 2016.

“Affective Formation and United Methodist Higher Education,” Wesleyan Theological Society Annual Meeting, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Mount Vernon, OH, March 6-7, 2015.

“Dollars and Cents: Making Sense of Funding Education and Academic Research,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Student Lounge Roundtable Series, San Diego, CA, November 24, 2014.

“Opposability: Unearthing Christianity’s Opposable Inner Logic and its Capacity to Form Leaders for the Contemporary World,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN, June 6, 2014.

“Duke Divinity School Christian Educators Meeting,” Facilitator, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC, February 27, 2014.

“Collaborative Disaster Planning Processes between Hospitals and Emergency Management State-Specific Webinars,” Moderator, American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), Irving, TX, June 2011-September 2011.

“Discipleship,” Jesus and the Kingdom of God: Whitworth University, Spokane, WA, November 2010.

“Mystery and Grace: Barth and Lewis on Biblical Inclusivism,” Spokane Intercollegiate Research Conference (SIRC), Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA, April 2010.

COMMUNITY

“Ordinary Ground in Mark 9:2-9,” Duke Divinity School Summer Course of Study, Durham, NC, July 24, 2019.

“The Foundations of Relationships,” First Baptist Church Boerne Disciple Now My Session, Boerne, TX, February 2012.

“Fear Not,” Spring Valley Mennonite Church, Spring Valley, WA, January 2011.

“Why Live a Godly Life?” First Baptist Church Boerne Youth Group, Boerne, TX, June 2010.

“Philemon,” First Baptist Church Boerne Senior High Boys, Boerne, TX, January 2010.

“Authority,” Sky Ranch Ute Trail, Powderhorn, CO, summer 2009.

“Professor Bitter-Much,” Sky Ranch Ute Trail, Powderhorn, CO, summer 2009.

“Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries Presentation,” Messiah Lutheran Church, Fair Oaks Ranch, TX, July 2008.

“My Life Story,” St. Mark Presbyterian Youth Group, Boerne, TX, June 2008.

“Jesus Gives Bart His Sight,” Boerne WyldLife, Boerne, TX, March 2007.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS (SELECT)

AWARDS

Duke Sanford School of Public Policy, Center for the Study of Philanthropy and Voluntarism Dissertation Support Fellowship	2019—2020
Saint Louis University Lived Religion in a Digital Age Research Fellowship	2019—2020
Duke Divinity School Th.D. Fellowship	2015—2020
John Wesley Fellowship	2015—2020
Duke Provost Graduate Student Fellowship	2017—2018
John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute Ph.D. Lab Fellow	2017—2018
Dempster Graduate Fellowship	2015—2016
Outstanding Theology Student, Whitworth University	2011
Whitworth Laureate Society (Honors Society)	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

SCHOLARSHIPS

Eastern Star Training Award for Religious Leadership Scholarship Recipient	2012—2018
Irene S. Wischer Foundation Scholarship Recipient	2012—2015
Generations Leaders Among Us Scholarship Recipient	2012
Duke Divinity Stange Full-Tuition Scholarship Recipient	2012—2015
Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Recipient	2007—2010
Whitworth University Mind and Heart Scholarship Recipient	2007—2010

PERSONAL GRANTS RECEIVED

Benac, Dustin. “Networks, Higher Education, and Social Imaginaries,” *Information Initiative @ Duke Data Expeditions* (\$1,500): granted July 2018.

Grigoni, M., Dubie, E., Benac, D., Jobe, S., and Juskus, R. *Duke University Interdisciplinary Studies*, Duke Support for Interdisciplinary Graduate Networks (D-SIGN) grant for “Theology, Religion & Qualitative Methods Network” (\$5,000): granted March 2018.

Benac, Dustin. *Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School*, innovation grant (\$5,000): granted August 2017.

Benac, Dustin. *The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust*, research grant (\$2,000): granted August 2017.

Benac, Dustin. *Duke University Interdisciplinary Studies*, Graduate Student Training Enhancement Grant (GSTEG) (\$1,500): granted April 2017.

Benac, Dustin. *General Board of Higher Education and Ministry*, education grant (\$3,000): granted April 2016.

Benac, Dustin. *Middle East Travel Seminar*, travel grant (\$6,000): granted March 2014.

Benac, Dustin. *The Fant Foundation*, education grant (\$15,000): granted April 2012.

Benac, Dustin. *The Seay Foundation*, education grant (\$52,000): granted April 2007.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Indiana University

National Study of Congregations' Economic Practices June 2018—December 2019

- Conducted semi-structured interviews with pastors from across the Southeast and Northeast that explored their cultural, religious, and practical orientations to money.
- Worked with a team of qualitative researchers to coordinate and complete the qualitative component of this study.
- Served as a calling team member for a nationally representative study that examines congregations' economic practices.
- Worked with faith-leaders, principal investigators, and researchers in order to increase response rate for the survey component of this study.

Duke University

Reimagining Doctoral Education (RIDE) Committee November 2017—July 2018

- Served in an administrative fellowship in the Provost's Office by supporting the university-wide Reimagining Doctoral Education Committee.
- Conducted an internal inventory of opportunities available to doctoral students at Duke by inventorying reports provided by schools, centers, and interdisciplinary initiatives.
- Prepared a coding schema and conducted a literature review about best practices, innovations, and trends in doctoral education.
- Provided support for the development of surveys of alumni and current doctoral students.

Duke Divinity School

Divinity Archives and Special Collections

May 2016—August 2016

- Supported the processing of The Thomas C. Oden Collection at Duke Divinity School by reviewing Thomas Oden's papers upon receipt by Duke Divinity School.

- Worked collaboratively with a research team to develop a schematization for a collection registry in order to process over sixty linear feet of archival material.

Duke University Rubenstein Library

Peter Storey Papers

May 2013—June 2013

- Reviewed Peter Storey's papers that chronicled his experience serving as a United Methodist pastor during South Africa's Apartheid, relationship with Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, and tenure as President of the South African Council for Churches. Reviewed materials included: correspondence, lectures, presentations, photos, date books, and news clippings.
- Combined research with an interview with Peter Storey to develop a book proposal *Peter Storey—South Africa's Candle Light and Midnight*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Duke Divinity School

Instructor: Digital Rule of Life (PARISH 790)	Fall 2020
Instructor: Theology in the Contemporary Church (WCOS 522)	Fall 2019
Instructor: Theology in the Contemporary Church (SCOS 522)	Summer 2019
Preceptor: American Christianity (AMXTIAN 756)	Spring 2019
Preceptor: Early and Medieval Christianity (CHURHST 750)	Fall 2018
Preceptor: Christian Theology (XTIANTHE 755)	Fall 2017
Co-Instructor: Forming Disciples in the Wesleyan Tradition (PARISH 770)	Spring 2017
Preceptor: Christian Theology (XTIANTH 755)	Fall 2016

Duke University

Teaching Assistant: Freshman Pre-Orientation to Research in the Humanities (P-Search) with Dr. Phil Stern	Summer 2018
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EMPLOYMENT

Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

Doctoral Research Assistant	January 2020—April 2020
Preceptor/Teaching Assistant	September 2016—April 2019
Co-Instructor	January 2017—May 2017
Divinity Archives and Special Collections Assistant	May 2016—August 2016
Research Assistant	September 2015—August 2016

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Qualitative Researcher	June 2019—December 2019
National Study of Congregations Economic Practices (NSCEP)	
Calling Team Member	June 2018—November 2018
National Study of Congregations Economic Practices (NSCEP)	

Duke University, Durham, NC

Provost Graduate Fellow	November 2017—July 2018
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Fundraising Consultant, Various

Faculty member in the Department of Surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC) December 2016—December 2017
Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries (Boerne, TX) February 2012—July 2012
Speck Consulting (Phoenix, AZ) November 2011—February 2012

Duke Divinity School Center for Reconciliation, Durham, NC

Development and Fundraising Associate July 2012—July 2015

GRANT WRITING EXPERIENCE

Benac, D., Riak, A. *The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society Peace with Justice Grant Program*, \$3,000 with \$3,000 matching: granted April 2016.

Riak, A., Benac, D., Lalam, M. Duke Center for Reconciliation. *Cornerstone Trust*, \$36,000: Granted June 2015.

Benac, D., Olson-Getty, D., Riak, A. Duke Center for Reconciliation. *The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society Peace with Justice Grant Program*, \$2,500 with \$2,500 matching: granted March 2014.

Benac, C and Benac, D. Personal Grant for Casey Benac. *The Seay Foundation*, \$15,000: granted January 2014.

Benac, D., Davelaar, K., Riak, A. Research Award for Chris Rice of the Duke Center for Reconciliation. *The Josiah Charles Trent Memorial Foundation Endowment Fund*, \$2,000 with \$2,000 matching: granted November 2013.

Benac, Dustin. Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries Capital Campaign. *Cecilia Young Willard Helping Fund*, \$2,000: granted September 2013.

Benac, Dustin. Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries. *The Dixie Starnes Wenger Foundation*, \$1,000: granted October 2012.

Benac, Dustin. Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries. *The CarMax Foundation*, \$5,000: granted July 2012.

Cantu, S., Benac, D., Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries. *The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation*, \$50,000: granted April 2012.

Speck, D., Arteaga, D., Fernandez, M., Speck, T., Benac, D. “Community-Centered Healthy Marriage and Relationship Grants.” *Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families*, \$350,000: granted October 2011—September 2014.

Speck, D and Benac, D. "Let's Move! in Indian Country." *Native American Programs—Improving the Well-Being of Children Supplemental Grant*, \$20,000: granted June 2011—August 2011.

GRANT MANAGEMENT

Benac, Dustin (Coordinator). "Competitive Training Grants Program Proposal—American College of Emergency Physicians." *Department of Homeland Security*, \$1,154,223: granted October 2005—September 2011, coordinated April 2011—September 2011.

TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Duke Th.D. Colloquium in Reflective and Faithful Teaching (CRAFT)
Wabash Center Teaching Seminar for Doctoral Students
ICPSR "Qualitative Research Methods" at the University of North Carolina's Odum Institute
The Collegeville Institute's "Writing Theology for the General Reader" writing workshop
Leadership Education A Convocation of Christian Leaders
Racial Equity Institute (REI) Phase 1 Training
Duke Summer Institute for Reconciliation

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND PROFICIENCY

NVivo Qualitative Research Software
Tableau Data Visualization Software
Gephi Network Visualizations Software

LANGUAGE SKILLS AND PROFICIENCY

Academic German: Graduate level reading and translation
Academic French: Graduate level reading and translation
Koine Greek: Intermediate reading and exegesis
Biblical Hebrew: Introductory reading and exegesis

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Duke Divinity School—Strategic Planning Committee
Duke Divinity School—Duke Graduate Conference in Theology Planning Committee
Ad Hoc Peer Review—*Christian Higher Education*
Duke Divinity School—Admissions Committee
Duke Divinity School—Center for Reconciliation Student Formation Discernment Process

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service to Community

Intern: C. A. Dillon Youth Development Center, Butner, NC (2013)

Pro-Bono Writer: Street Zine (2011)

Camp Counselor, Sky Ranch Camps (2009)

En Christo, Spokane, WA (2008)

Youth Volunteer Coordinator, Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries (2008)

Service to Church

CityWell United Methodist Church, Durham, NC (2014—Present)

Leadership Team Member (2016—2018)

Admin Team Member (2016)

Munger Place United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX (2011-2012, 2014)

Ministry Intern (2014)

Member, Kitchen Group Member, Childcare Volunteer

Vintage Faith Community Church, Spokane, WA (2008-2010)

Member, Volunteer, and Missional Community Member

Guest Preaching:

Spring Valley Mennonite Church, Spring Valley, WA (January 2011)

REFERENCES

Dr. Craig Dykstra

Senior Fellow at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity
Duke Divinity School
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(904) 992-0915; (919) 402-6633

Dr. L. Gregory Jones

Dean and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and
Christian Ministry
Duke Divinity School
gjones@div.duke.edu
(919) 660-3434

Dr. Mark Chaves

Professor of Sociology, Religious Studies, and Divinity
Duke University
mac58@soc.duke.edu
(919) 660-5783

Dr. Patricia O'Connell Killen

Professor Emerita, Department of Religion
Pacific Lutheran University
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Dr. David King

Karen Lake Buttrey Director, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving and Assistant Professor,
Philanthropic Studies
Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy
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