

JOHN A. DARR, Ph.D.

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(New Testament Studies)

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ADDRESSES

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Boston College
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Newton, MA 02458

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	1987	New Testament	Vanderbilt University
M.A.	1982	New Testament	Vanderbilt University
M.A. (high honor)	1977	Theology	Wheaton Graduate School
B.A. (high honor)	1975	Biblical Studies	Wheaton College (IL)

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Theology (Bible), Boston College, 1994–present
Director of Graduate Studies, Theology Department, Boston College,
1996–99, 2006–2007, Fall 2015, and 2016–2018.
Assistant Professor of Theology, Boston College, 1988–94
Assistant Professor of Religion, Holy Cross College, 1987–88
Instructor, Boston University School of Theology, 1985–87
Coordinator of Alumni & Church Relations, Boston University School of
Theology, 1985–86
Development & Public Relations Officer, Boston University School of
Theology, 1984–85
Assistant Professor of Religion, Baldwin-Wallace College, Ohio, 1982–83
Instructor, Koiné Greek, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1981–82
Special Assistant to the Graduate School Dean, Minority Recruitment,
Vanderbilt University, 1981–82

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Books

*On Character Building: The Reader and the Rhetoric of Characterization
in Luke-Acts.* Literary Currents in Biblical Interpretation.
Edited by David Gunn. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press,
1992. Reprint ed.: Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2020.

Herod the Fox: Audience Criticism and Lukan Characterization. Journal
for the Study of the New Testament, Supplement Series, vol. 163.

Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1998.

Books in Progress

Taming Troubling Traditions: Luke's Style of Argumentation and the Problematic Ending of Acts.

Characters and Characterization in Luke-Acts. Co-edited with Michal Beth Dinkler (Yale) and Frank Dicken (Lincoln Christian U.)

Articles and Essays

"Chronologies of Paul." In *Paul's Faith and the Power of the Gospel: A Structuralist Introduction to the Pauline Letters*, by Daniel Patte, pp.352-60. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1983. Reprinted as Appendix 2 (pp. 552-560) in *Engaging the New Testament: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, by Russell Pregeant. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995. Chronological charts from this article were reprinted in *Pauline Parallels*, 2nd ed. [Foundations and Facets: New Testament], by F.O. Francis and J.P. Sampley. See pp. 67, 141, 175, 207 and 223. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984. Reprinted in Russell Pregeant, *Encounter With the New Testament: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009 (pp. 205-214).

"Interpreting the Parables." *Focus* (Boston University School of Theology). Spring, 1986. Pp. 1-5.

Essay on Norman R. Petersen's *Rediscovering Paul: Philemon and the Sociology of Paul's Narrative World*. *Religious Studies Review* 14,2 (1988):118-121.

"Discerning the Lukan Voice: The Narrator as Character in Luke-Acts." *Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers* 31 (1992):255-265.

"Mimetic Desire, the Gospels, and Early Christianity: A Response to René Girard." *Biblical Interpretation* 1,3 (1993):357-367.

"Narrator as Character: Mapping a Reader-Oriented Approach to Narration in Luke-Acts." *Semeia* 63 (1993):43-60.

"'Watch How You Listen' (Luke 8.18): Jesus and the Rhetoric of Perception in Luke-Acts." Pp. 87-107 in *The New Literary Criticism and the New Testament*, ed. E. S. Malbon and E. V. McKnight. JSNT Supplement Series, vol. 109. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press; and Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1994.

"The Use of Isaiah in the New Testament." In *Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations (Leader's Guide)*, by Kathryn P. Darr. *Journey Through the Bible*, volume 7, pp. 67-70. Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 1996.

"'Watching in the Night Visions': Daniel's Apocalypse and Early Christian Reflection on Jesus." In *Ezekiel and the Book of the Twelve (Leader's Guide)*, by Kathryn P. Darr. *Journey Through the Bible*, volume 8, pp. 71-72. Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 1996.

- "Messianic Motifs in the Book of the Twelve." In *Ezekiel and the Book of the Twelve (Leader's Guide)*, by Kathryn P. Darr. *Journey Through the Bible*, volume 8, pp. 68-70. Nashville: United Methodist Publishing House, 1996.
- "'Is there an extratext in this class?' Or, An Introduction to Some Recent Introductions to the New Testament." *Religious Studies Review* 23/3 (1997):239-243.
- "Irenic or Ironic? Another Look at Gamaliel Before the Sanhedrin (Acts 5:33-42)." Pp. 121-139 in *Literary Studies in Luke-Acts: A Collection of Essays in Honor of Joseph B. Tyson*. Edited by T. E. Phillips and R. P. Thompson (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1998).
- "Reader-Oriented Approaches." Pp. 309-310 in *Dictionary of Biblical Criticism and Interpretation*. Edited by Stanley E. Porter (London and New York: Routledge, 2007).
- "'Vivre pour raconter': point de vue critique et éthique lucanienne." Translated by Vincent Sénéchal. Pp. 57-74 in *Regards croisés sur la Bible: Études sur le point de vue*. (Actes du IIIe colloque international du Réseau de recherche en narrativité biblique, Paris 8-10 Juin 2006). *Lectio Divina*, hors-série (Paris: Les Éditions du Cerf, 2007).
- "Belittling Mary: Insult, Humiliation and Early Developments in Mariology." Pp. 24-39 in *From the Margins 2: Women of the New Testament and Their Afterlives*. Edited by Christine E. Joynes and Christopher C. Rowland (The Bible in the Modern World, 27; Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009).
- "'Be not anxious': Reading Martha and Mary (Lk. 10.38-42) Within Luke's Overall Discourse on Anxiety." Pp. 76-92 in *Reading Ideologies: Essays on the Bible and Interpretation in Honor of Mary Ann Tolbert*. Edited by Tat-siong Benny Liew (The Bible in the Modern World, 40; Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011).
- "Narrative Therapy: Treating Audience Anxiety through Psychagogy in Luke." *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 39,4 (Winter, 2012 [appeared April, 2013]):335-348.
- "Creation and Anthropology: Biblical Understandings of What It Means to Be Human." *The Torch* (Boston College's Catholic Newspaper) 1,5 January 29, 2014):10-11.
- "Levi's Banquet (Luke 5:29-39) and Lukan Discipleship: Group Characters and Christian Identity Formation." Pp. 23-39 in *Characters and Characterization in Luke-Acts*. Edited by Frank Dicken and Julia Snyder. *Library of New Testament Studies*, 548; London & New York: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2016.
- "Murmuring Sophists: Extratextual Elements in Luke's Portrayal of Pharisees." Pp. 243-258 in *Anatomies of the Gospels and Beyond: Essays in Honor of R. Alan Culpepper*. Edited by Mikeal Parsons, et al. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2018.

"Reading Luke-Acts as Scriptural History and Philosophical Biography: A Pragmatic Approach to Lukan Intertextuality and Genre." Pages 397-416 in *Modern and Ancient Literary Criticism of the Gospels: Continuing the Debate on Gospel Genre(s)*. [Literaturkritik der Evangelien in Moderne und Antike. Eine Fortsetzung der Debatte um Evangeliengattung(en)] Edited by Robert Matthew Calhoun, David P. Moessner, and Tobias Nicklas. Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament, 451. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020.

Essay in Progress

"Characterization in Luke-Acts." Contracted for *The Oxford Handbook on Luke-Acts*. Publication projected 2024.

Book Reviews and Notes

Philip L. Shuler. *A Genre for the Gospels: The Biographical Character of Matthew*. *Journal of Religion* 65 (1985):273-74.

Robert Alter and Frank Kermode, eds. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*. *Theology Today* XLV (1988):348-50.

Donald Juel. *Messianic Exegesis: Christological Interpretation of the Old Testament in Early Christianity*. *Quarterly Review* 9 (1989):98-100.

Frederick W. Danker. *Jesus and the New Age: A Commentary on St. Luke's Gospel*, rev. ed. *Interpretation* 44 (1990):88-89.

Robert W. Funk. *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative*. *Interpretation* 44 (1990):102-104.

J. Bradley Chance. *Jerusalem, the Temple, and the New Age in Luke-Acts*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 52 (1990):149-51.

John R. Donahue. *The Gospel in Parable: Metaphor, Narrative, and Theology in the Synoptic Gospels*. *Quarterly Review* 10 (1990):98-100.

Stephen D. Moore. *Literary Criticism and the Gospels: The Theoretical Challenge*. *Journal of Biblical Literature* 110 (1991):152-55.

Susan R. Garrett. *The Demise of the Devil: Magic and the Demonic in Luke's Writings*. *Interpretation* 45 (1991):312-14.

Dennis D. Sylva, ed. *Reimagining the Death of the Lukan Jesus*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 53 (1991):731-32.

David B. Gowler. *Host, Guest, Enemy and Friend: Portraits of the Pharisees in Luke-Acts*. *Journal of Biblical Literature* 112 (1993):152-54.

Steven M. Sheeley. *Narrative Asides in Luke-Acts*. *Critical Review of Books in Religion* 1993, pp. 290-91.

John T. Squires. *The Plan of God in Luke-Acts*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 57 (1995):191-92.

- Marcus J. Borg. *Jesus in Contemporary Scholarship*. *Bible Review* 11,3 (June, 1995):14.
- David Ravens. *Luke and the Restoration of Israel*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 59 (1997):171-172.
- Raymond E. Brown. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. *Bible Review* 14,4 (1998):18-20.
- Stephen J. Patterson. *The God of Jesus: The Historical Jesus and the Search for Meaning*. *Bible Review* (1999):10-12.
- Elizabeth Struthers Malbon. *In the Company of Jesus: Characters in Mark's Gospel*. *Journal of Religion* 82 (2002):618-619.
- Sharon H. Ringe and H.C. Paul Kim (editors). *Literary Encounters With the Reign of God*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 68 (2006):171-173.
- Mikeal C. Parsons. *Luke: Storyteller, Interpreter, Evangelist*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 70 (2008):616-617.
- François Bovon. *L'évangile selon saint Luc (19,28-24,53)*. CNT 3d; Geneva: Labor et Fides, 2009. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 73 (2011):851-852.
- Daniel Marguerat (editor). *Reception of Paulinism in Acts (Réception du Paulinisme dans les Actes des Apôtres)*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 74 (2012):424-425.

Papers and Presentations

- "The Pharisees in Luke-Acts: Some Preliminary Observations from a Reader-Response Perspective." New England Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Wellesley College, March 27, 1987.
- "'Not With Observation': Rhetoric and Irony in Luke 17:20-21." New England Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Episcopal Divinity School, March 25, 1988.
- "'This Fox': A Literary Interpretation of Jesus' Epithet for Herod in Luke 13:32." Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, IL, November 20, 1988.
- "Observers Observed: The Pharisees, the Reader, and the Rhetoric of Characterization in Luke-Acts." Presented to the Society of Biblical Literature, Literary Aspects of the Gospels and Acts Group, Anaheim, CA, November 19, 1989.
- "'Good News to the Poor': The Rhetoric of Poverty and Possessions in Luke-Acts." Presented at the Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Somerville College, Oxford University, England, August, 1992.
- "II Corinthians 8 and 9 as Paradigms of Christian Stewardship, Fund-Raising, and Administration." A Biblical lesson in two parts for

- the Office of Finance and Field Service, National Division of the Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church. Raleigh, NC, August 28-29, 1992.
- "Discerning the Lukan Voice: The Narrator as Character in Luke-Acts." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Literary Aspects of the Gospels and Acts Group, San Francisco, November, 1992. [Also presented at the Boston Theological Institute's New Testament Group, Weston Seminary, Cambridge, MA, October 5, 1992]
- "'Watch How You Listen' (Luke 8:18): Seeing and Hearing as Metaphors for Reading in Luke-Acts." Presented at the Catholic Biblical Association, Fifty-Sixth General Meeting, Atchison, Kansas, August 15, 1993.
- "Luke's Paul and Paul's Paul: Some Reflections on Recent Studies of the Apostle's Characterization in Acts and the Letters." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Luke-Acts Seminar and Pauline Epistles Section (joint session), Washington, DC, November 22, 1993.
- "'What is written? How do you read?' The Rhetoric of Reading (in) Luke-Acts." For the Catholic Biblical Association, Fifty-Eighth General Meeting, Loudonville, NY, August 13, 1995.
- "The Genesis of Christian Community: Story, Ritual, Witness, and Mission in Luke-Acts." For the United States Catholic Mission Association Annual Conference, Hartford, CT, Oct. 27-29, 1995.
- "Writing a Reader-Oriented Commentary: Luke 1-4 as Test Case." Invited paper for the Narrative Exegesis of the New Testament Seminar of the Catholic Biblical Association, Fifty-Ninth General Meeting, St. Paul, MN, August 10-13, 1996.
- "Secondary Texts and Extratexts: Some Reflections on Russell Pregeant's Engaging the New Testament." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Academic Teaching and Biblical Studies Group, New Orleans, LA, November 24, 1996.
- "Spirit and Power in Luke-Acts." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Synoptic Gospels Section, San Francisco, CA, November 22, 1997.
- "The Spirit in Luke-Acts." Joint Biblical Colloquium at University of Zimbabwe and Arrupé College, Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa, July, 1998.
- "Eschatology and Ecology." For ZIRRCO. Masvingo, Zimbabwe, Africa, July, 1998.
- "Should We Love Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36-50)? A Rejoinder to Robert Tannehill." Invited paper for the SBL/CBA Regional meeting at Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA, April 16, 1999.
- "Keys for Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels." Six-hour series for The

Foundation for Biblical Research, Charlestown, NH, May 27, 2000.

"Evil in Luke: Some Pragmatic Observations." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Biblical Criticism and Literary Criticism Section, Denver, CO, November 18, 2001.

"Vivre pour raconter: point de vue critique et éthique lukanienne." (English: "Living to Tell the Tale: Critical Point of View and Lukan Ethics"). Invited plenary address for "La Bible en Récits 3, Le Point de Vue", Colloque International d'Analyse Narrative Biblique, sponsored by RRENAB (Réseau de Recherche en Analyse Narrative des Textes Bibliques), Centre Sèvres Faculté Jésuites de Paris, Paris, June 10, 2006.

"Hostile Takeover or Takeover of the Hostel? A Response to David Landry's Intertextual Reading of the Infancy Narratives in Luke and Matthew." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Synoptic Gospels Section, Washington, D.C., November 18, 2006.

"Belittling Mary: Insult Genre, Humiliation, and the Early Development of Mariology." For the conference *Biblical Women and Their Afterlives: New Testament Characters*, Trinity College, Oxford, March 17, 2008.

"High Anxiety: Reading Martha, Mary, and Jesus in Luke 10:38-42." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Synoptic Gospels Section, New Orleans, LA, November 23, 2009.

"'Be not anxious for your ψυχῇ' (Luke 12:22): Psychagogical Rhetoric and Audience Formation in New Testament Narrative." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Rhetoric and the New Testament Section, Atlanta, GA, November 21, 2010.

"Treating Troubling Traditions: Evasion, Deflection, and Confrontation in Matthew and Luke." For the Society of Biblical Literature, Synoptic Gospels Section, San Francisco, CA, November 20, 2011.

"The Call of Levi Episode as Narrative Synopsis in Luke." Prepared for the Society of Biblical Literature, Synoptic Gospels Section, Chicago, IL, November 20 2012. [Not read due to illness]

"Ressources Bibliques pour l'Écologie." For conference "La Bible et la Conservation des Ressources Naturelles" (Atelier d'information et de sensibilisation des leaders religieux dans les villages riverains de la forêt classée et réserve partielle de la faune de la Comoé-Leraba." Niangoloko, Burkina Faso, West Africa, January 10-11, 2014.

"The Bible and Ecology in Burkina Faso, West Africa." Presentation to the Theology Department, Boston College, October 8, 2014.

"Everything Old is New Again: The Parable of Garments and Wineskins (5:36-39) in Luke's Narrative Discourse on Time." Invited paper for the Society of Biblical Literature, joint session of the Gospel of Luke and the Formation of Luke-Acts Sections, San Diego, CA, November 23, 2014.

"Levi's Banquet (Luke 5:29-39) and the Functions of Parables in Luke." Invited two-hour seminar for the *Greek Exegesis of Luke* course (Prof. Michal Beth Dinkler), Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT, April 2, 2015.

"Murmuring Sophists: Extratextual Elements in Luke's Portrayal of Pharisees." Invited paper for the Society of Biblical Literature, joint session of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts Sections, San Antonio, TX, November 19, 2016.

"Biblical Anthropology in Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, '*Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*'." Two-hour presentation in French and English for "Religion et Conservation des Ressources Naturelles" (Atelier d'Information et de Sensibilisation des Leaders Religieux Actifs dans les Villages Riverains de la FCRPF/CL), Banfora, Burkina Faso, Africa, January 11, 2017.

"Spirit and Genre in Luke-Acts." Invited paper for *The Gospels and Ancient Literary Criticism: Continuing the Debate on Gospel Genre(s)*. Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, November 14, 2018.

"Quintilian's *Actio* and Modern Performance Criticism of the Gospels." A response to Geert Van Oyen, "Quintilian on Performance." *The Gospels and Ancient Literary Criticism: Continuing the Debate on Gospel Genre(s)*. Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, November 15, 2018.

"Learning to Read with Luke and Theophilus." For the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Gospel of Luke Section, Denver, Colorado, November 20, 2018.

"Luke and the Rhetoric of Transition: Another Look at the Story of Jesus' Baptism (Luke 3:21-22)." For the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Gospel of Luke Section, Denver, Colorado, November 20, 2022.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Organized, raised funding for, and presented at a conference: *The Bible and the Conservation of Natural Resources*, for Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders in Burkina Faso, West Africa. (French: *Atelier d'information et de sensibilisation des leaders religieux dans les villages riverains de la forêt classée et réserve partielle de la faune de la Comoé-Léraba*). Niangoloko, Burkina Faso, West Africa, January 10-11, 2014.

Organized, raised funding for, and presented at a conference: *Religion et Conservation des Ressources Naturelles* (Atelier d'Information et de Sensibilisation des Leaders Religieux Actifs dans les Villages Riverains de la FCRPF/CL). Banfora, Burkina Faso, West Africa, January 10-11, 2017.

GRANTS RECEIVED

American Academy of Religion Research Grant (1989–90)
Boston College Research Assistance Grants (Fall 1989,
Summer 1992, Spring 1993)
Boston College Research Incentive Grant (1993)

MEMBERSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND JOURNALS

Society of Biblical Literature (1982–
Chair, Synoptic Gospels Section (1991–1997)
Co-chair, Biblical Criticism and Literary Criticism
Section (2001–2008)
Steering Committee, Gospel of Luke Consultation (2012)

Catholic Biblical Association (1992–

External Reviewer, *Biblical Interpretation*

External Reviewer, *Studies in Jewish-Christian Relations*

DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Director of Graduate Studies (1996–99, 2006–2007, Fall 2015; and
2016–2018; ex-officio on executive and Ph.D. admissions
committees)
Director of Undergraduate Studies (1991–94)
Executive Committee (2005–2008)
Chair, M.A. Committee (2005–2008)
Curriculum Committee (2009–2012; chair, 2011–12)
Language Committee (2009–present [French exams])
Faculty Collegiality Committee (2010–2012)
New Testament Faculty Search Committee (2018–19)
International Studies/Theological Ethics Faculty Search
Committee (2021–22)
Dissertation Proposal Review Committee (2020–22 [chair, 2021–22])
Ph.D. Teaching Fellow Mentor
Ph.D. Dissertation Director

UNIVERSITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Athletics Advisory Board (1997–2003)
Academic Integrity Committee (2000–2005)
(Chair of subcommittee 2002–2005)
Fulbright Awards faculty interviewer (2005–14)
A&S Graduate Educational Policy Committee (2009–2012)
Woods College of Advancing Studies, Educational Policy
Committee, 2014–2020
Morrisey Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Academic Integrity
Committee, 2016–2020
School of Theology and Ministry, S.T.D. examiner and advisor