

# **F. LeRon Shults**

## **Academic Curriculum Vitae**

*Office address:*

Bethel Theological Seminary  
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1807 Tioga Blvd.  
New Brighton, MN 55112

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### **1. Education and Research Experience**

**Research Fellowship, Oxford University (Summers 2003-2005)**

Templeton Oxford Seminars on Science and Christianity:  
Oxford, England

**Doctor of Philosophy, Princeton Theological Seminary (1998)**

Specialization in Theology and Philosophy (Interdisciplinary Studies):  
Princeton, New Jersey

**Faculty Research Fellow, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, (Spring 1997)**

Research and Seminars in Philosophical Theology:  
Groningen, The Netherlands

**Doctor of Philosophy, Walden University (1991)**

Specialization in Educational Psychology – Adult Learning Theory:  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Master of Arts, Fuller Theological Seminary (1987)**

Concentration in Philosophical Theology:  
Pasadena, California

**Bachelor of Arts, Roberts Wesleyan College (1985)**

Major in Philosophy and Religion:  
Rochester, New York

## **2. Academic Teaching Experience**

### ***Professor of Theology***

#### **Bethel Theological Seminary (1997 to Present)**

This position includes teaching responsibilities in both systematic and philosophical theology. Each year I teach the core systematic theology series, which Bethel Seminary divides into three classes:

Theology I (Revelation, Trinity, Divine Attributes, Creation)  
Theology II (Anthropology and Christology)  
Theology III (Holy Spirit, Salvation, Church and Eschatology)

Many of my advisees are in Bethel's Master of Arts in Christian Thought (M.A.C.T.) program, which focuses on equipping students for vocations that require special expertise in philosophical analysis. Many of these students go on to further graduate study. I teach the following elective courses in this program:

Logic and Critical Thinking  
The Doctrine of God  
Kierkegaard and Postmodernity  
The Philosophical Theology of Jonathan Edwards  
Theology and Contemporary Culture  
Theology and Science  
Perspectives on Evil and Suffering

### ***Teaching Fellow and Research Assistant***

#### **Princeton Theological Seminary (1994-1997)**

#### **Fuller Theological Seminary (1986-1987)**

As a Teaching Fellow at Princeton Seminary, I facilitated weekly precept seminars with M.Div. students, in which we reviewed material from lectures and readings, and discussed issues related to the courses.

As a Research Assistant, I worked on two major research projects: serving Dr. J. Wentzel van Huyssteen in his work on "The Shaping of Rationality" in Theology and Science and Dr. James E. Loder in his work on "Human Development in Theological Perspective." I also served as Ph.D. Student Representative during this time.

At Fuller Theological Seminary (1986-87) I was a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Ray S. Anderson for his core courses in Systematic Theology and his elective on Karl Barth. This position also included grading and running precepts.

### ***Academic Administration and Advising***

**Capella University (1993 to 1995)**

**Walden University (1988 to 1993)**

Working with 25 founding faculty members, I helped develop the graduate curriculum for Capella University, a school of professional education in Minneapolis, MN. As Dean for Academic Affairs, my primary administrative responsibilities were academic quality control, faculty development, and monitoring student progress. My responsibilities as a faculty member in the Interdisciplinary Studies program included advising individual students and leading group seminars at intensive regional sessions.

At Walden University, where I received my first doctorate, I served in several administrative positions. As Assistant Academic Dean and Director of Research and Planning, I helped administrate the educational delivery system of the graduate school, which involved facilitating faculty-student interaction and academic advising. From 1988-1990, I served as Admissions Director. In addition to my administrative work, I presented lectures at intensive seminars on critical thinking, adult learning theory and principles, and cultural and philosophical issues.

### **3. Professional Academic Activities**

- Executive Steering Committee member for the national “Christian Systematic Theology” Group of the *American Academy of Religion*. This involves planning the themes, reading and selecting papers submitted for presentation, and organizing the invitation of special speakers for the annual meeting. In San Antonio (2004), our group is sponsoring sessions on the theme of the church in contemporary society.
- Chair, *The North Central Program for Science and Theology*, a local society for theology and science dialogue. In this position, I chair the committee that oversees the development and planning for NCPST, which is sponsored by the Minnesota Consortium of Theological Schools. This involves organizing and facilitating dialogue among faculty with a diversity of backgrounds and interests. We have monthly meetings, larger quarterly discussion groups, and semi-annual guest lectures.
- Editorial Board or Proposal Reviewer: The John Templeton Foundation, Scholar’s Press, Christian Theological Research Fellowship.
- Member, *Society of Christian Philosophers*, *American Academy of Religion*, *Society for the Study of Theology*, *European Society for the Study of Science and Theology*. In the latter society, which meets this year in Barcelona, Spain, I serve as a moderator for one of the discussion groups.

### **4. Scholarship**

## **4.1. Books and Monographs**

### **Books**

*Reforming Theological Anthropology: After the Philosophical Turn to Relationality.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co, 2003.

*The Faces of Forgiveness: Searching for Wholeness and Salvation* (with Steven J. Sandage). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

*The Postfoundationalist Task of Theology: Wolfhart Pannenberg and the New Theological Rationality.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999.

### **Books in Progress**

*Reforming the Doctrine of God.* Eerdmans Publishing Co. Est. completion, October 2004.

*Transforming Spirituality: Psychological and Theological Perspectives* [working title]. Baker Academic Press. Est. completion, January 2005.

*Christology and Contemporary Science* [working title]. Ashgate Publishing Ltd. (Series in Religion and Science). Est. completion, December 2005.

*The Evolution of Rationality: Interdisciplinary Essays in Honor of J. Wentzel van Huyssteen* (editor). Eerdmans Publishing Co. Est. completion, December 2006.

### **Monographs**

*Sub Ratione Dei: Wolfhart Pannenberg's Theological Anthropology and the Postfoundationalist Task of Theology.* Dissertation at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1998.

*An Open Systems Model for Adult Learning in Theological Inquiry.* Dissertation at Walden University, 1991.

## 4.2. Book Chapters

- “The Role of Trinitarian Reflection in the Science-Religion Dialogue” in Niels Henrik Gregersen and Marie Nielsen, eds., *Preparing for the Future: The Role of Theology in the Science-Religion Dialogue*, Forum Teologi Naturvidenskab 3 (Aarhus: University of Aarhus, 2004): 27-40.
- “Imago Dei and the Emergence of Sapiential Life” in Niels Henrik Gregersen & Christina Hjöllund, eds., *Coping with Evil: Perspectives from Science and Theology*, Forum Teologi Naturvidenskab 2 (Aarhus: University of Aarhus, 2003): 95-117.
- “The Philosophical Turn to Relationality: The Responsibility of Practical Theology” in Dana Wright, ed., *Redemptive Transformation in Practical Theology: Festschrift for James Loder* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003).
- “Sharing in the Divine Nature: Transformation, *Koinonia* and the Doctrine of God” in Todd Speidell, ed., *On Being a Christian... and Human* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2002): 87-127.
- “Is it ‘Natural’ to be Religious?” in *The Person: Perspectives from Science and Theology* [Studies in Theology and Science, vol. 6], Niels Henrik Gregersen, ed., (Geneva: Labor et Fides, 2000): 103-113.
- “Schleiermacher’s *Reciprocal Relationality*: The Regulative Principle of his Theological Method,” in *Schleiermacher on the Workings of the Knowing Mind*, Ruth Drucilla Richardson, ed., (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1998): 177-196.

## 4.3. Journal Articles

- “Theology and Postmodernism.” *Jnanadeepa: India Journal of Religious Studies*, in press.
- “The Futurity of God in Lutheran Theology.” *Dialog: A Journal of Theology* (Spring 2003): 39-49.
- “Mathematics on Mars Hill,” with Benjamin P. Shults. *Metanexus Institute Online Journal: Views*. [www.metanexus.net/views](http://www.metanexus.net/views). July 2003. [http://www.metanexus.net/metanexus\\_online/show\\_article.asp?8350](http://www.metanexus.net/metanexus_online/show_article.asp?8350)
- “The ‘Body of Christ’ in Evangelical Theology.” *Word & World* 22/2 (Spring 2002): 178-185.
- “Relationality in Science and Theology: An Evaluation of Pannenberg’s Interdisciplinary Method” *Zygon*, 36/4 (December, 2001): 809-825.

- “One Spirit with the Lord: Insights from James Loder’s Theological Anthropology” *Princeton Theological Review*, 7/3 (Summer, 2000): 17-26.
- “Pedagogy of the Repressed: What Keeps Seminarians from Transformational Learning?” *Theological Education*, 36/1 (Fall, 1999): 157-169.
- “Faith versus Science?” *The Standard* 89/4 (Fall, 1999): 16-19.
- “A Theology of Everything? Evaluating Wolfhart Pannenberg’s Interdisciplinary Method” *Christian Scholar’s Review* 28/1 (Fall, 1998): 155-163.
- “Constitutive Relationality in Anthropology and Trinity: The Shaping of the *Imago Dei* Doctrine in Barth and Pannenberg” *Neue Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie und Religionsphilosophie*, 39 (December, 1997): 304-322.
- “*Holding On* to the Theology-Psychology Relationship: The Underlying Fiduciary Structures of Interdisciplinary Method” *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 25/3 (Fall 1997): 329-340.
- “Structures of Rationality in Theology and Science: Overcoming the Postmodern Dilemma” *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, 49 (December, 1997): 228-236.
- “The Pragmatist Conception of Truth and The Postliberal Research Program,” *Princeton Theological Review*, 4 (Winter, 1997)26-36.
- “The *Anhypostatis-Enhypostatis* Christological Formula: From Leontius of Byzantium to Karl Barth,” *Theological Studies*, 57 (September, 1996)431-446.
- “Integrative Epistemology and the Search for Meaning” *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 4 (Fall, 1993):125-140.
- “A Theology of Chaos: An Experiment in Postmodern Theological Science” *Scottish Journal of Theology*, 45:2 (Spring, 1992): 223-235.

#### **4.4. Encyclopedia Articles**

- “Coherentism,” “Foundationalism,” “Nonfoundationalism,” “Postfoundationalism,” and “Postmodern Science” in *Encyclopedia of Science and Religion*, J. Wentzel van Huyssteen, Editor in Chief (New York: Macmillan Reference, 2003).
- “Pannenberg, Wolfhart,” in *Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, Hans Hillerbrand, Editor (New York: Routledge Reference, 2003).

#### 4.5. Scholarly Conference Presentations and Lectures

“Philosophy, Science and the Human Spirit.” Paper to be presented as the inaugural lecture of NCPST 2004-2005 series “Theology, Science and Anthropology,” September 28, 2004.

“Modeling Spirituality: Psychology, Religion and the Dynamics of Transformation.” Paper to be presented at the AAR (San Antonio, TX): November 2004.

“Rational Causative Substance: The Philosophical Categories of the Early Modern Doctrine of God.” Paper presented at the Templeton Oxford Seminars, Wycliffe Hall (Oxford, England): August 2, 2004.

“The Philosophy of Time.” Paper presented at Eberhard-Karls Universitat Tubingen (Tubingen, Germany): April 7, 2004.

“Becoming Wise: Reflections on the Category of ‘Purpose’ in Biology, Culture and Theology.” Paper presented at the *European Conference on Science and Theology* (Barcelona, Spain): April 1-6, 2004.

“Is Theology a Science?” Paper presented at the Templeton Oxford Seminars, Wycliffe Hall (Oxford, England): July 24, 2003.

“The Futurity of God in Lutheran Theology.” Paper presented at *The Future of Lutheran Theology: Charism and Context* (Aarhus, Denmark): January 17, 2003.

“The Role of Trinitarian Reflection in the Religion-Science Dialogue.” Paper presented at the *Danish Forum for Theology and Natural Science*. (Aarhus, Denmark): January 19, 2003.

“Temporality, Causality and the Concept of God.” Paper presented at the Upper Midwest AAR (St. Paul, MN): April 11, 2003.

“*Imago Dei* and the Emergence of Sapiential Life.” Paper presented at the *Danish Forum for Theology and Natural Science*. (Aarhus, Denmark): November 12-13, 2001.

Dissertation Respondent for the biannual Norwegian theological doctoral student conference; invited by The Norwegian Lutheran School of Theology (Oslo, Norway): November 7-9, 2001.

“Theological Rationality” and “Theological Anthropology.” Lectures presented at Princeton Theological Seminary, October, 2000.

“The Futurity of God: An Analysis of Contemporary Theological Trends.” Paper presented at the Upper Midwest *American Academy of Religion* (St. Paul, MN): April, 2000.

“C’est pour lui que sont toutes choses: On Human Causality and Divine Futurity.” Paper presented at the *European Conference on Science and Theology* (Lyon, France): April, 2000.

- “Neurobiology and the Image of God.” Lecture at Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN): March, 2000.
- “The Postfoundationalist Task of Contemporary Theology.” Lecture at Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, CA): February, 2000.
- “The Veritable Ideal of Systematicity: A Postfoundationalist Construal of the Task of Theology.” Paper presented at the “Christian Systematic Theology” Group of the *American Academy of Religion* (Boston, MA): November, 1999.
- “The Destiny of the Self.” Paper presented at the *Evangelical Philosophical Society* (Boston, MA): November, 1999.
- “Pedagogy of the Repressed: Seminarians and Transformational Learning.” Paper presented at the *Evangelical Theological Society* (Orlando, FL): November, 1998.
- “The Christian Meta-Distinction: Closing the Debate on the Openness of God.” Paper presented at the *Evangelical Philosophical Society* (Orlando, FL): November, 1998.
- “Postliberal Agenda and Evangelical Credenda.” Paper presented at the Upper Midwest *American Academy of Religion* (St. Paul, MN): April 17, 1998.
- “Are We ‘Naturally’ Religious?: An Analysis of Wolfhart Pannenberg’s Anthropology.” Paper presented at the *European Conference on Science and Theology* (Durham, England): March, 1998.
- “Relationality and Theological Method.” Paper presented at the Groningen University Philosophy of Religion colloquium (The Netherlands): April 20, 1997.
- “The Fiduciary Structures of Rationality in Theology and Science.” Paper presented at the *European Conference on Science and Theology* (Krakow, Poland): March, 1996.
- “The Regulative Function of Reciprocal Relationality in Schleiermacher’s Theological Anthropology.” Paper presented at the *American Academy of Religion*, (New Orleans, LA): November 23-26, 1996.
- “One Spirit with the Lord: A Permutational Model for Spiritual Unity in the Dialectical Identity of the Christian.” Paper presented at the *Evangelical Theological Society* (Jackson, MS): November 21-22, 1996.
- “The Adult Learner’s Search for Meaning: Psychological and Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Religious Education.” Paper presented at the Religious Education Association’s annual meeting: *Adult Learners: Making Critical Connections*, (Indianapolis): November 8-11, 1992.

- “Towards a Postcritical Paradigm for Transformative Adult Learning in Graduate Education.” Paper presented at the Eighth Annual Conference of NUCEA: *Teaching Adults in Changing Times* (University of Chicago): February, 1992.
- “Integrative Adult Learning Theory as a Matrix for Epistemological Transformation.” Paper presented at the 13th Annual Conference of the *Association for Integrative Studies* (Bemidji State University, Minnesota): October 24-27, 1991.
- “Integrating the Arts and Sciences: An Experiment in Interdisciplinary Epistemology.” Paper presented at the *National Conference on Nontraditional/Interdisciplinary Programs* (George Mason University, Virginia): May 11-13, 1991.
- “An Open Systems Model for Academic Advising.” Paper presented at the *National Conference on the Adult Learner* (University of South Carolina at Columbia): May 25-29, 1991.
- “The Personal Coefficient in Adult Faith Development.” Paper presented at the *International Conference on Michael Polanyi* (Kent State University, Ohio): April 11-14, 1991.

#### 4.6. Book Reviews

- Review of *Subjektivität und Selbinterpretation des dreifaltigen Gottes: Eine Studie zur Genese und Explikation des Paradigmas Selbsoffenbarung Gottes in der Theologie Karl Barths*, by Michael Menke-Peitzmeyer, in *Theological Studies* (in press).
- Review of *God: An Open Question*, by Anton Houtepen, in *Religious Studies Review* (in press).
- Review of *In Our Image: Artificial Intelligence and the Human Spirit*, by Noreen L. Herzfeld, in *Worship* 77/2 (March 2003)186-187.
- Review of *Scientism*, by Mikael Stenmark, in *Ars Disputandi* (2002): [www.arsdisputandi.org](http://www.arsdisputandi.org).
- Review of *God After Darwin*, by John Haught, in *Tradition and Discovery*, 28/1 (2001-2002)35-36.
- Review of *Deus Trinitas: The Doctrine of the Triune God*, by David Coffey, in *Pneuma* 23/2 (Fall, 2001)326-328.
- Review of *When Science Meets Religion: Enemies, Strangers or Partners?*, by Ian Barbour, in *Theology Today*, 58/3 (October, 2001)434-435.
- Review of *Provocations: Spiritual Writings of Kierkegaard*, compiled and edited by Charles E. Moore, in *The Kierkegaard Newsletter* 41 (February, 2001)14-15.

- Review of *Trinity, Time and Church: A Response to the Theology of Robert Jenson*, edited by Colin Gunton, in *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, 22/1 (February, 2001)95-96.
- Review of *Saving and Secular Faith*, by Brian A. Gerrish, in *Theology Today* 57/4 (January, 2001)589.
- Review of *Disruptive Grace: Studies in the Theology of Karl Barth*, by George Hunsinger, in *Theological Studies* 61/3 (2000)593-594.
- Review of *Inquiring After God: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, by Ellen Charry, in *Religious Studies Review*, 26/4 (October, 2000)361.
- Review of *Systematic Theology, Volume III*, by Wolfhart Pannenberg, in *The Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, 20/3 (1999)321-323.
- Review of *God and Contemporary Science*, by Philip Clayton, in *Cross Currents*, 49/3 (Fall, 1999)408-410.
- Review of *Duet or Duel: Theology and Science in a Postmodern World*, by J. Wentzel van Huyssteen, in *Interpretation*, 53/4 (October, 1999)436.
- Review of *Anglo-American Postmodernity: Philosophical Perspectives on Science, Religion, and Ethics*, by Nancey Murphy, in *Theology Today*, 55/2 (July, 1998)255-256.
- Review of *The Deeper Intelligence*, by Andrew G. Hodges, in *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* 16 (Spring 1997)86-87.
- Review of *God, Cosmos, Nature and Creativity*, edited by Jill Gready, in *Theology Today*, 53 (July, 1996)277.

## 5. Honors and Awards

- Bethel Seminary 1999 *Faculty Excellence Award*.
- Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences “Course Award” and “Advanced Course Award” for designing and teaching “Theology and Science” (PH248).
- *Magna cum laude* for Princeton Ph.D. dissertation.
- Welles National Award for Doctoral Research in Education, for Walden University dissertation.
- Templeton Awards for Exemplary Papers in Theology and Science, Honorable Mention: “Holding on to the Theology/Psychology Relationship” and “Structures of Rationality in Theology and Science.”
- *Who’s Who in America* 2003.
- College awards: Phi Beta Kappa, National Dean’s List, Regent’s Scholarship, *summa cum laude*.

## 6. Miscellaneous

- *Research Languages*: German, French, Greek, Latin, Hebrew.
- *Personal*: Born in Victoria, Texas on February 05, 1965. Married to Elizabeth M. Shults since May 5, 1984. Three children – Sara (16), Mischa (13), and Laura (10). Hobbies include long-distance cycling and classical music.