

CURRICULUM VITAE for David Mahan

Rivendell Institute
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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge (Peterhouse) June 2005

Ph.D. Thesis: *Poetry as Public Theology: Poetic Witness in the Work of Charles Williams, Micheal O'Siadhail, and Geoffrey Hill*

Yale Divinity School May 1995

M.A.R. in Religion and Literature (*cum laude*)
Awarded Religion and the Arts Prize, May, 1995

Miami University of Ohio May 1982

B.A. in History (*cum laude*)
Awarded the Boyd and Carol Shafer Scholarship for outstanding achievement in the History Major, Sept., 1981

PUBLICATIONS

Books & book entries:

Biography of Charles Williams, *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*
(Blackwell, Fall 2010)

'An Unexpected Light': Theology and Witness in the Poetry and Thought of Charles Williams, Micheal O'Siadhail, and Geoffrey Hill (Wipf & Stock, Princeton Theological Monographs, Fall 2008)

Chapter "A summons to try to look, to try to see: Close Reading/s" for book *Musics of Belonging: The Poetry of Micheal O'Siadhail* (ed. David Ford, Carysfort Press, January 2007)

Articles & Papers

"**Your** Dead / **Our** Dead / **My** Dead: What Artistic Encounters with the Dead Teach Us about Empathy and Witness," co-presenter Dr. Tanya Walker, DDD16 Conference, Padua, Italy, Sept. 2023.

Introductory Essay for “Forum on Christian Poetics,” *Christianity and Literature* (Dec. 2022).

“The Wind’s Prayer, the World’s Sabbath: Spirit and Place in Lance Henson and Wendell Berry, *Religions* (August 30, 2021), 12: 697.

“Revised Versions: Poetry as Bible Reading in Three Modern Examples,” *Christianity and Literature* (February 13, 2019), 68: 3, pp. 456–474.

“Poetry and the Complexities of Remembrance: An Appeal,” *Milín Havivin: Yeshivat Chovevei Torah (YCT) Rabbinical School's Jewish Studies*, (August 2014).

“*Geoffrey Hill's Christian Contextures: The Theological Shape/Shaping of Hill's Critical Thought*” presented at the Forum on Religion & Literature, Yale University (November 7, 2013)

“Hearts of Stone, Feet of Clay: Geoffrey Hill’s Troubled Pilgrims,” *Christianity and Literature* (Spring, 2011), pp. 405–18.

“Equipping the Faithful Imagination”
Presented at the Conference on Pastoral Excellence, Yale University
17 May 2007

“Shapes of Things to Come: Human Flourishing & the Arts”
Presented at International Arts Movement conference, NYC
23 February 2007

“Dante’s Images of Reconciliation”
Presented at International Arts Movement conference, NYC
24 February 2006

“‘rampageous clowns’ and ‘the steel claws of contingency’: Geoffrey Hill’s Tragic Farce of the Self in *The Triumph of Love*”
Presented at the Rivendell Colloquium on Human Flourishing, Yale University
26 January 2005

“Poetry and the Ethics of Speech”
Presented before the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics, Oxford University,
7 September 2002.

“The Poet in the King’s Court: Charles Williams’ *Arthurian* and the Theology of Camelot”
Presented at the Religious Faith & Literary Art Conference, Baylor Univ.,
February 2001

“‘New Verse’ and the ‘High Dream’: Faith, Culture, and the Conditions for Artistic Excellence [and Cultural Renewal] in the Thought of T.S. Eliot”
Presented at the Religious Faith & Literary Art Conference, Baylor Univ.,
February 2000

Reviews

Review of *Geoffrey Hill: Selected Poems* (Yale, 2009), *The City* (Spring 2010)

Review of *R.S. Thomas: Poetry and Theology* by William Davis, in *Christianity and Literature* (Spring 2009)

Review of *Saturday's Silence: R.S. Thomas and Paschal Reading* by Richard McLauchlan (in *Christianity and Literature*, publication pending)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Executive Director of the Rivendell Institute, Yale University 1995 – Present

Lecturer, Associate Fellow, Institute of Sacred Music, Yale Divinity School 2010 - Present

Sample Courses listings:

“Critical Methods in Reading Poetry Theologically”

“Faith-[In]forming: Christian Poetics for the 21st Century”

“Literature of Trauma”

“Spiritual Topographies in Modern Poetry & Fiction”

“Difficult Faith and the Quest for Redemption in 20th-21st Century American Fiction”

“Imagining the Apocalypse: Scripture, Fiction”

“Literary Appropriations: Writers & Philosophers in Conversation”

“Continuing Bonds with the Dead Through Art”

Teaching Fellow (“Vikings!”), ENG 154 Yale Dept. of English Spring, 2009

Teaching Fellow (“Philosophy of Religion”), PHL 326
Yale Dept. of Philosophy Fall, 2008

Campus Minister

Yale University (Director of Yale Students for Christ) 1987 – 1999

Springfield College, Mass. (Director of Ministry) 1985 – 1987

Virginia Tech University 1982 – 1985

Instructor, School of Leadership, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO

Engaging the Contemporary Mind Institute July 1-15, 2001

Class “Cultural Fault Lines”

Co-taught class, “Major Thinkers of Modernism and Post-Modernism”

(Delivered lectures on Freud and Derrida) July 2-16, 1999

Lecturer on Biblical Literature (in Association with The Academy of Sciences) and Coordinator of Student Ministries, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia

May-June, 1990, 1991, 1993

OTHER AFFILIATIONS (Past and Present)

Christian Poetics Scholars Network	2020 – Present
Member, Yale Religious Ministries	1987 – Present
Fellow of Berkeley College, Yale University	1995 – Present
Consortium of Christian Study Centers	2009 – Present
Conference on Christianity and Literature	2018 – Present
Modernist Studies Association	2021 – Present
Elm City Abolitionists (Coordinator)	2013 – 2019
The Phillip Center (Board)	2008 – 2014
Working Group in Contemporary Poetry, Yale University	2004 – 2011
Cultural Leadership Summit, Sundance Film Festival	2008 – 2010
Member, Faith as A Way of Life National Working Group, a Lily Foundation funded project of the Yale Center for Faith & Culture	2001 – 2005
Co-Coordinator of the Yale Faith & Science Colloquium	1988 – 1992