

John Kiess, Ph.D.
Department of Theology
Loyola University Maryland
4501 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210
jrkiess@loyola.edu
(410) 617-2811

Academic Appointments

2017-	Associate Professor of Theology, Loyola University Maryland
2011-17	Assistant Professor of Theology, Loyola University Maryland

Education

2011	Ph.D., Graduate Program in Religion, Duke University
2005	M.Phil., Theology, Cambridge University
2004	MA, Comparative Ethnic Conflict, Queen's University Belfast
2001	BA, Political and Social Thought, University of Virginia

Books

War, Global Health, and Peacebuilding (London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, in progress)

Hannah Arendt and Theology (London: Bloomsbury/T&T Clark, 2016)

Edited books/translations

Our Greatest Weapon is Love: The Essential Writings of Christophe Munzihirwa, S.J.,
edited and translated by John Kiess (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2024)

Journal articles and essays

"Advancing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda through Health System
Reconstruction: The Case of the Catholic Church in the Nyankunde Health Zone, DR
Congo," *Journal of Moral Theology* (forthcoming October 2026)

"Christophe Munzihirwa, S.J. and the Impact of the Rwandan Genocide in Congo,"
Journal of Global Catholicism (forthcoming 2026)

"Peace," in *Saving Words*, ed. Joseph S. Pagano and Amy E. Richter (Eugene, OR:
Cascade Books, 2021), 132-143

"The Sacrament of Anointing during Northern Ireland's Troubles," in *The Surprise of
Reconciliation in the Catholic Tradition*, ed. J.J. Carney and Laurie Johnston (Mahwah,
NJ: Paulist Press, 2018), 179-200

"Response to the Contributors," Book Symposium on *Hannah Arendt and Theology*,
Syndicate (March/April 2018)

“Descending into the Ordinary: Lived Theology, War, and the Moral Agency of Civilians,” in *Lived Theology: New Perspectives on Method, Style, and Pedagogy*, ed. Charles Marsh, Peter Slade, and Sarah Azaransky (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 134-152

“Restorative Justice and the International Criminal Court,” *The Journal of Moral Theology* 5:2 (June 2016), 116-142

“Civilian Vulnerability in Contemporary War: Lessons from the War in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,” in *Can War Be Just in the 21st Century? Ethicists Engage the Tradition*, ed. Tobias Winright and Laurie Johnston (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2015), 156-168

“Common Ruins of Love: Augustine and the Politics of Mourning,” in *Augustine and Social Justice*, ed. Teresa Delgado, John Doody, and Kim Paffenroth (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015), 207-226

“Social Imagination and the Mission of the Church: A Review Essay of Emmanuel Katongole’s *Sacrifice of Africa*,” *Modern Theology* 30:2 (April 2014), 414-420

Academic presentations

Panelist, “Theological Inquiry Across the University: Where Do We Go From Here,” Theological Horizons, University of Virginia (virtual), 24 April 2025

“Christophe Munzihirwa, S.J. and the Impact of the Rwandan Genocide in Congo,” presented at the “Thirty Years Beyond the Genocide: Lessons for the Global Church” conference, College of the Holy Cross, 19 April 2024

Panelist, “Exploring the Peculiar Institution of Slavery, Loyola’s Connection to It, and Where We Should Go from Here,” Karson Institute, Loyola University Maryland, 27 February 2024

“A Disarmed Love: The Refugee Advocacy of Christophe Munzihirwa, S.J.,” John D. Stratton Conference, Ashland Center for Nonviolence, Ashland University, 25 February 2023

“Peace, Protest, and Politics,” Symposium on Race, Peace, and the Pursuit of Social Justice, Karson Institute, Loyola University Maryland, 30 April 2022

“What is Truth and Reconciliation?” Conversations on Social Justice, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 10 July 2020

“Wrestling with the Legacy of Reconciliation Discourse in the American Context,” 81st Meeting of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in the USA, Chicago, 16 December 2019

“Rebuilding Health Systems in the Aftermath of War: An Agenda for Peacebuilding,” Building Sustainable Peace Conference, University of Notre Dame, 9 November 2019

“The Sacrament of Anointing during Northern Ireland’s Troubles,” Conference on Social Reconciliation and the Catholic Tradition, Creighton University, 29 September 2017

“Political and Social Reconciliation in Contemporary Anglican Perspective,” 77th Meeting of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in the USA, Chicago, 14 September 2017

“Response to the Panelists,” Book Panel on *Hannah Arendt and Theology*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, 19 November 2016

“Restorative Justice and the International Criminal Court,” Loyola Junior Faculty Symposium, April 22, 2016

Guest Expert, “The Role of Religion in Bioethics,” Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, 4 December 2015

“The Possibilities for Peacekeeping in Africa: The Case of the Democratic Republic of Congo,” Society of Christian Ethics, Chicago, 10 January 2015

“Religion, Science, and Democracy,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, 25 November 2013

“Social Imagination and the Mission of the Church: Thinking with Emmanuel Katongole’s *Sacrifice of Africa*,” College Theological Society, Creighton, 31 May 2013

Convener, “Theology, Religion, and the Responsibility to Protect,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, 19 November 2012

“Hannah Arendt and the Politics of Immortality,” Annual Meeting of the Hannah Arendt Circle, Baltimore, March 10, 2012

“Thinking about Lived Theology from the Context of the Congo,” Spring Institute for Lived Theology, Charlottesville, 25 May 2011

“The Political Economy of Violence and Moral Agency of Civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,” Society of Christian Ethics, New Orleans, 5 January 2011

“Religious Authority in Stateless Societies: The Case of the Catholic Church during the War in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, 10 November 2010

“When War is Our Daily Bread: Congo and the Ethics of Contemporary Conflict,” Rinehart Lecture in Theology and Ethics, Ashland University, 26 October 2009

“The Role of the Church during the Troubles,” Church in the Public Square Consultation, Belfast, Northern Ireland, April 2004

“Constructing a Theological Narrative of the City of Charlottesville,” Conference on Lived Theology, Charlottesville, 14 June 2003

Essays for a popular audience

“Slavery and the Work of Repair at Loyola University Maryland,” *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*, No. 63 (Fall 2024), 26-27

“The End of Impunity? The International Criminal Court Issues a Verdict,” *The Christian Century*, 129, No. 13 (June 27, 2012), 10-12

Book reviews

Review of Joseph Capizzi, *Politics, Justice, and War: Christian Governance and the Ethics of Warfare*, in *Horizons* 44:2 (December 2017), 476-477

Review of Nigel Biggar, *In Defence of War*, in *Modern Theology* 32:3 (July 2016), 456-459

Review of Christian Scharen and Aana Marie Vigen, ed. *Ethnography as Christian Theology and Ethics*, in *Journal for the Society of Christian Ethics* 33:1 (Spring/Summer 2013), 190-91

Podcasts

“Healthcare Equity,” *Cancer Disparities with Dr. Otis Brawley*, August 19, 2020

Grants, Fellowships, and Honors

Honorary member, Alpha Sigma Nu, 2024
Loyola Peace and Justice Faculty Research Grant, 2024
Loyola University Mid-Career Summer Grant, 2019
Loyola Peace and Justice Studies Course Development Grant, 2019
Virginia Seminar Writing Fellowship, Project on Lived Theology, 2014-15
Loyola University Summer Research Grant, 2012, 2014
Evan Frankel Dissertation Fellowship, 2010-11
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship, 2004-10
Duke University Graduate School Dissertation Travel Award, 2009
Duke University Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, 2009
U.S-Ireland Alliance Scholarship, 2003-4
Goodwin Prize for Theological Writing, 2001

Courses Taught

TH201 Introduction to Theology

TH304	Introduction to Christian Ethics
TH310	Ethics of War and Peace
TH318	Bioethics and Social Justice
TH396	War, Health, and Peacebuilding
TH401	Peace and Justice Studies Capstone Seminar
HN499	The Examined Life (Honors Program)
TH677	Theologies and Ethics of Social Justice

University Service

2021-24	Co-chair, President's Task Force on Loyola's Connections to Slavery
2016-22	Director, Office of Peace and Justice
	-Managed \$1.75 million endowment supporting peace and justice programming on campus. Responsibilities included:
	-Directing undergraduate minor in Peace and Justice Studies; advising students; teaching capstone course
	-Organizing Bunting Peace and Justice Speaker Series
	-Managing annual grant opportunities supporting course development and faculty/student research
2021-	Interfaith Advisory Board
2021-	Steering Committee, Karson Institute for Race, Peace, and Social Justice
2015-	Core adviser (part of Messina first-year program)
2015-16	Steering Committee, Center for the Humanities
2015-16	Teaching Enhancement Workshop (presenter)
2016	Faculty adviser, Roadtrip Student Retreat, Office of Student Engagement
2014	Judge, Undergraduate Student Research and Scholarship
2013-	Faculty participant, Loyola Humanities Symposium
2013	Selection Committee, Pedro Arrupe Award

Service to the Department of Theology

2025-26	Interim program director, Master of Theological Studies
2025-26	Interim undergraduate major/minor advisor
2021-23	Department senator

Search Committees

2025	Assistant Professor, Comparative Theology
2022	Assistant Professor, Comparative Theology
2021	Full-time, non-tenure track position in Theology
2016-17	Assistant Professor, Comparative Theology
2016	Visiting Assistant Professor, Comparative Theology
2014	Visiting Assistant Professor, Bible
2013-14	Assistant Professor, Global Christianity
2011-12	Assistant Professor, Bible

Subcommittees

2020-24	Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
2015-24	Departmental Evaluation

2013-15	Major and Minor Recruitment
2011-13	Tenure and Review Policies
2015	Theology Writing Prize

Service to the Academy

2012-18	Steering Committee, Religion, Social Conflict and Peace Group, American Academy of Religion
2013- 2013	Peer Reviewer, <i>Modern Theology</i> , <i>The Review of Politics</i> , <i>Arendt Studies</i> Selection Committee, Goodwin Prize for Theological Writing

Service to the Church

2016-24	Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue in the USA -Appointed by Executive Council of Episcopal Church to serve on 12-member ecumenical dialogue on theme of reconciliation; final document (“A Call to Reconciliation”) released in 2026
2019-20	Archdiocese of Baltimore, Racism Workgroup

Professional Societies

American Academy of Religion
Society of Christian Ethics