

# TIMOTHY K. BEAL

Florence Harkness Professor of Religion  
Director, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7112  
216-368-2221 / beal@case.edu / www.case.edu/artsci/rlgn/beal

## EDUCATION

**PH.D.**, Emory University, Graduate Division of Religion, 1995 (Old Testament/Hebrew Bible).

**CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES**, Emory University, 1995

**M.DIV.**, Columbia Theological Seminary, 1991

**B.A.**, Seattle Pacific University, 1986 (English).

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

### FACULTY POSITIONS HELD

**Florence Harkness Professor of Religion**, Case Western Reserve University, 2004 to present.

**Harkness Professor of Biblical Literature**, Case Western Reserve University, 2002 - 2004.

**Harkness Associate Professor of Biblical Literature**, Case Western Reserve University, 1999-2002.

**Assistant Professor of Religious Studies**, Eckerd College, 1994 - 1999; secondary appointments in Women's and Gender Studies and Environmental Studies programs.

**Honourary Lecturer**, University of Glasgow, Centre for the Study of Literature, Theology and the Arts, summer 1997.

**Adjunct Professor in Hebrew Exegesis**, Columbia Theological Seminary, 1993 - 1994.

**Teaching Assistant**, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, spring 1993.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD**

**Director, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities**, Case Western Reserve University, 2003 to present.

**Co-editor, Afterlives of the Bible book series** (with Tod Linafelt), University of Chicago Press, 2003 to present.

**Associate Director, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities**, 2002-2003.

**Co-director, Interdisciplinary Initiative on Religion and Culture**, Case Western Reserve University, 2001 to present.

**Editorial Board, *Postscripts***, 2004 to present.

**Editorial Board, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament***, 2000 to present.

**Director, Senior Capstone Course**, Eckerd College, 1995 - 1997.

**Steering Committee Member**, Reading, Theory, and Bible Section of the Society of Biblical Literature, 1999 to present.

**Chair**, Reading, Theory, and Bible Section, Society of Biblical Literature, 1995 - 1998.

**Co-chair** (with Danna Nolan Fewell), Reading, Rhetoric, and the Hebrew Bible Section of the Society of Biblical Literature, 1994 - 1995.

**Editorial Assistant**, *Literary Currents in Biblical Interpretation* (David M. Gunn and Danna Nolan Fewell, Editors), Westminster John Knox Press, 1991 - 1994.

**Assistant Site Director** for the archeological excavation at Tell Nimrin (Shuna South), Jordan (James W. Flanagan and David McCreery, Directors), summer 1993.

**Boiler Fireman and Will-call Desk**, D.A. Burns & Sons, Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners, Seattle, Washington, 1986-1988.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **BOOKS**

*Roadside Religion: In Search of the Sacred, the Strange, and the Substance of Faith*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2005. *Publishers Weekly* "Best Religion Books of 2005," *New York Times Book Review* "Editor's Choice." Paperback edition, 2006.

*Mel Gibson's Bible: Religion, Popular Culture, and The Passion of the Christ* (co-edited with Tod Linafelt). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

*Theory for Religious Studies* (with William E. Deal). New York and London: Routledge, 2004.

*Religion and Its Monsters*. New York and London: Routledge, 2002. Korean translation by Dulnyouk Publishing Company.

*Esther*. Berit Olam: Studies in Hebrew Narrative and Poetry. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999.

*The Book of Hiding: Gender, Ethnicity, Annihilation, and Esther*. London and New York: Routledge, 1997.

*God in the Fray: A Tribute to Walter Brueggemann* (co-edited with Tod Linafelt). Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

*Reading Bibles, Writing Bodies: Identity and The Book* (co-edited with David M. Gunn). London and New York: Routledge, 1996.

### **FORTHCOMING BOOKS**

*The End of the Word As We Know It: Supply Side Religion and the Decline of Sacred Capital*. New York: Harcourt, forthcoming 2008.

*Religion in America: A Very Short Introduction*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2007.

### **SCHOLARLY ARTICLES**

“Judges.” In *The Oxford Handbook of English Literature and Theology*, ed. Andrew Hass and David Jasper. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

“Esther.” In *Renovare Study Bible*, ed. Richard Foster, Walter Brueggemann, and Eugene Peterson. Harper San Francisco, 2005.

“Additions to Esther.” In *Renovare Study Bible*, ed. Richard Foster, Walter Brueggemann, and Eugene Peterson. Harper San Francisco, 2005.

“The Phineas Priesthood and the White Supremacist Bible.” In *Sanctified Aggression: Violent Legacies of Biblical, Jewish and Christian Vocabularies*, ed. Jonneke Bekkenkamp and Yvonne Sherwood. Sheffield: Continuum, 2004.

“To Love Tallith More than God” (with Tod Linafelt). In *Derrida and Religion: Other Testaments*, ed. Kevin Hart and Yvonne Sherwood. New York and London: Routledge, 2004.

“Fearing the Other – Within and Beyond.” In *The Hedgehog Review* 5 (2003) 108-114.

“Facing Job.” In *Levinas and Biblical Studies*, ed. Tamara Eskenazi and Gary A. Phillips. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2004.

“Beowulf’s Bible: The Monsters and the Biblical Critics” (with Tod Linafelt). In *Relating to the*

*Text: Form Critical and Interdisciplinary Insights on the Bible* (Festschrift for Martin Buss, ed. T. Sandoval and C. Mandolfo. Sheffield: Continuum, 2003.

- “Specters of Moses: Overtures to Biblical Hauntology.” In *Constructs of Ancient Israel: The Bible and Its Social Worlds*, ed. David M. Gunn and Paula McNutt. New York and London: Continuum, 2002.
- “Higher Critics on Late Texts: Reading Biblical Scholarship after the Holocaust” (co-authored with Deborah Krause). In *A Shadow of Glory: Reading the New Testament after the Holocaust*, ed. Tod Linafelt. New York and London: Routledge, 2002.
- “Teaching the Conflicts, For the Bible Tells Me So,” *Professing in the Postmodern Academy: Faculty and the Future of Church-Related Colleges*, ed. Stephen R. Haynes (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2002) 183-194.
- “Matters of Survival: A Conversation” (with Elie Wiesel). In *Strange Fire: Reading the Hebrew Bible after the Holocaust*, ed. Tod Linafelt. New York: New York University Press, 2000. Reprinted in *Religious Studies News*, September 2000.
- “Intertextuality.” In *Handbook for Postmodern Biblical Interpretation*, ed. Andrew K.M. Adam. St. Louis: Chalice, 2000.
- “Bataille, Georges” (with Tod Linafelt). In *Handbook for Postmodern Biblical Interpretation*, ed. Andrew K.M. Adam. St. Louis: Chalice, 2000.
- “Behold Thou the Behemoth: Imagining the Unimaginable in Monster Movies.” In *Imag(in)ing Otherness: Filmic Visions of Living Together*, ed. David Jasper and S. Brent Plate. Oxford: American Academy of Religion and Oxford University Press, 1999.
- “Judges, The Book of” (with David M. Gunn). In *The Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation, Volume 1*, ed. John H. Hayes. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.
- “C(ha)osmopolis: Qohelet’s Last Words.” In *God in the Fray: A Tribute to Walter Brueggemann*, ed. Tod Linafelt and Timothy K. Beal; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1998.
- “Literary Theory, Literary Criticism, and the Bible” (with Tod Linafelt and Kyle Keefer). In *The Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation, Volume 2*, ed. John Hayes. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.
- “Tracing Esther’s Beginnings.” In *The Feminist Companion to Esther, Judith, and Susanna*, ed. Athalya Brenner. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.
- “Sifting for Cinders: Strange Fires in Leviticus 10:1-5” (with Tod Linafelt). *Semeia* 69/70 (1995): 19-32.
- “The System and the Speaking Subject in the Hebrew Bible: Reading for Divine Abjection.” *Biblical Interpretation 2* (1994): 171-89.

“Ideology and Intertextuality: Surplus of Meaning and Controlling the Means of Production.” In *Reading Between Texts: Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible*, ed. Danna Nolan Fewell. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1992.

“Glossary.” In *Reading Between Texts: Intertextuality and the Hebrew Bible*, ed. Danna Nolan Fewell. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1992.

“Bringing out the New and the Old: An Interactive Approach to the Parables, Instanced in Matthew 13:51-52.” *Church Divinity* (1989-1990) 106-22.

## ARTICLES AND FEATURES IN PUBLIC MEDIA

“Roadside Religion,” short film (12 minutes) produced by David C. Barnett for WVIZ Ideastream’s television show *Ideas*, first aired August 17, 2006.

“Romancing the ‘Code’.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Chronicle Review, June 9, 2006, B14.

“A Right at Righteous, a Left at Licentious.” *The New York Times*, July 17, 2005. Sunday Travel section.

“Seeking Out Lives of Faith, in All Their Awesome Absurdity.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Chronicle Review, April 15, 2005. Cover article.

“The Passion of the Christ: They Know Not What They Watch.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Chronicle Review, March 19, 2004, B14-15.

“Redemption in an Unlikely Place.” *The Washington Post*, Sunday Outlook, Oct. 20, 2003, B3.

“Bibles du Jour.” In *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Chronicle Review, July 26, 2002, B5.

“Getting in Touch with the Monsters that Lurk Inside.” *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Beliefs feature, October 20, 2001, E3.

“Our Monsters, Ourselves.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Chronicle Review, November 9, 2001, B18-19.

Portions of my book, *Roadside Religion*, have been excerpted in online versions of *The New York Times*, *BeliefNet*, *SoMA Review*, the *Society of Biblical Literature Forum*, and *NPR.org*.

Feature articles and interviews on *Roadside Religion* have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Orlando Sentinel*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The St. Petersburg Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, and *USA Today*, among others.

Interviews of me about *Roadside Religion* have been aired on *All Things Considered* (NPR), *The Bob Edwards Show* (NPR), *The Osgood File* (syndicated AM radio), *Oregon Public Radio* (OPB

Portland), WCPN Cleveland, Focus 580, On Point (WBUR Boston), Focus 580 (WILL Chicago), God Talk (CJOB Winnipeg), and on Ideastream's TV show, *Ideas*, and Fox TV's *Good Day Atlanta*.

## RECENT PUBLIC LECTURES AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

"Emergencies, Emergences, and the Fate of the Disciplines in the Discourse of the Humanities," Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes annual meeting, University of Chicago, April 27, 2006.

McCarthy Lecture in Theology and the Arts on "Roadside Religion," Washington Theological Union, March 26, 2006.

"Religion by the Roadside," public lecture, Juniata College, March 15, 2006.

"Roadside Religion: American Holy Lands," special session at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, November 21, 2005.

"Literary Awakenings," with Darcey Steinke, The Goethe-Institut, New York, October 20, 2005.

"Cinema Sacra: Christology in the Gospels of Gibson and Pasolini." Keynote address for conference "Sacred Text, Sacred Film?" University of Central Florida, April 3, 2005

"Cultural Histories of the Bible." International Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, Groningen, The Netherlands, July 27, 2004.

"Roadside Religion: Biblical Recreation and the American Religious Imagination." The Robert S. Mason Lecture. Georgetown University. March 1, 2004.

"Religious Recreation." St. Peter Cathedral public lecture. Cleveland, Ohio. February 16, 2004.

"Mimetic Monsters." Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section of the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. November 23, 2003.

"Vigilantes of Christendom and the White Racist Bible." Keynote lecture of the annual meeting of the Central States Society of Biblical Literature. St. Louis. April 5, 2003.

"From the Veil: Derrida, Cixous, and Paul" (with Tod Linafelt). Special session on Jacques Derrida and biblical interpretation, Society of Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion annual meeting. Toronto. November 2002.

"The White Supremacist Bible and the Phineas Priesthood." Masterclass on Religion and Violence. Amsterdam. April 2002.

"Hate among the Ruins." Society for the Anthropology of Religion annual meeting. Cleveland. April 2002.

"Our Monsters, Ourselves." Texas Christian University. April 2002.

- “Ritual and the Production of Space at the former Aryan Nations Compound in Hayden, Idaho.” Presentation to Religion faculty. Texas Christian University. April 2002.
- “Florida Horrorscapes.” Keynote address for national film studies conference, “Visions of Nature, Voices of Nature” on Florida in film. St. Petersburg. January 2002.
- “Beowulf’s Bible: The Monsters and the Biblical Critics” (with Tod Linafelt). Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section of the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting. Denver. November 2001.
- “Religion and Its Monsters, Monsters and Their Religion.” Presented to the faculty of University of Vermont. Burlington. March 2001.
- “Structure, Sign and Monstrosity in the Discourse of the Human Sciences: Cosmogony, Apocalypse and the Mythopoetics of Theory.” Literary Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Section of the Society for Literature and Religion. University of Nijmegen. Nijmegen. September 2000.
- “Saint Lovecraft and the Cthulhu Mythos: Religion, Hagiography, and Horror.” American Literature and Religion Section of the Society for Literature and Religion. University of Nijmegen. Nijmegen. September 2000.
- “Cthulhu in 2000: Chaos Monsters and Popular Culture.” Northeast Regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Syracuse. March 2000.
- “Gods, Monsters, and the Witch’s Monkeys.” Work-in-Progress Colloquium of the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities. Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland. February 2000.
- “Bataille’s Religion.” Religion and Literature Colloquium. Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland. December 1999.
- “Colonising, and Colonised, Old Testament” (with Yvonne Sherwood). New Historicism and Biblical Studies Consultation of the Society for Biblical Literature. November 1999.
- “*Monstrum tremendum et fascinans*: Religion and Horror.” Arts, Literature, and Religion Section of the Southeast Regional American Academy of Religion. Chapel Hill. March 1999.
- “Semiotics of the Monstrous: Rousing Leviathan in Job and Hobbes.” Semiotics and Exegesis Section of the Society of Biblical Literature. Orlando. November 1998.
- “Biblical/Hypertextual Spaces and the Pedagogy of Estrangement.” Academic Teaching and Study of Religion Section of the American Academy of Religion. Orlando. November 1998.
- “The Body in Pain, the Body Politic, and the Monstrous.” Public lecture, Georgetown University. Washington DC. March 1998.
- “The Influences of Hellenism on Judaism.” Visiting Scholar Lecture. Temple Beth El. St.

Petersburg. February 1998.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**Library Opportunity Grant**, “Holy Bible Business,” Kelvin Smith Library, 2006 (\$2,250).

**Presidential Initiative Fund grant (PI)**, Case Western Reserve University, funded by The Cleveland Foundation. \$1.82 million to develop new programming in the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, including an annual thematic seminar integrated with senior faculty fellowships and visiting fellowships. This new program is featured in the American Association of Universities report, *Reinvigorating the Humanities* (2004).

**Senior Faculty Fellow**, “The White Supremacist Bible,” funded by Case Western Reserve University and the Ohio Board of Regents Challenge Program, 2001 (\$4,800).

**Co-Director** (with Tod Linafelt), “Bible and Pop Culture: A Multimedia CD-Rom Project for Teaching in Biblical Studies,” funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., February 1997 to June 1998 (\$11,000).

**Fellow**, Faculty Roles, Faculty Rewards, and Institutional Priorities, funded by the Consortium for the Advancement of Private Higher Education (Kathryn J. Watson, director), 1996 to 1998.

**Associate Director**, Rhodes Consultation on the Church Related College, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. (\$1.49 million total to date). I was a Fellow from 1995 to 1996 and Associate Director from 1997 to 1999.

**Fellow**, Science and Humanities: Integrating Undergraduate Education (a grant project to develop the Environmental Studies major at Eckerd College), funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation (John Reynolds, director), 1996.

**American Schools of Oriental Research Scholar** (Tell Nimrin, Jordan), summer 1993.

**Award for Teaching Excellence**, Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, 2004.

**Nominee**, Carl F. Wittke Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2002-03.

**Nominee**, Carl F. Wittke Award, 2000-01.

**Professor of the Year**, Alpha Phi, CWRU Chapter, 2000-01.

## SERVICE

at Case Western Reserve University

**University Research Council**, August 2006 to present

**Executive Committee**, College of Arts and Sciences, 2004 to present. **Ad hoc committee** considering the creation of non-tenure-track assistant professor faculty positions.

**University Faculty Senate**, 2001 to 2004.

**Committee on the Status of Women**, University Faculty Senate, 2002 to 2005.

**Women's Center Steering Committee**, 2003-2006.

**Library Committee**, 2004 to present

**Share the Vision common book selection committee**, 2003-2006.

**University Distinguished Lecture Committee**, 2003-2005.

**First Seminar Committee**, College of Arts and Sciences, January 2003 to present. **Chair**, 2004-2005.

**Executive Committee**, College of Arts and Sciences, 2000-2003. **Chair Council Representative** to the Executive Committee, 2000-2001. **Faculty Senate Representative** to the Executive Committee, 2002-2003.

**Dean's Task Force on General Education Requirements**, College of Arts and Sciences, directed by Lee Thompson, Psychology, summer 2001.

**Featured speaker**, College of Arts and Sciences Visiting Committee, September 2002.

**Selection Committee**, WP Jones Fellowships, fall 2001 and fall 2002.

**Representative of Religion Department**, prospective student weekends, 1999 to present.

**Freshman advisor**, SAGES General Education pilot program, fall 2002.

**Faculty Interviewer**, Adelbert Squire Scholarship, spring 2000.

**Subcommittee on General Education Requirements**, 1999-2001.