

Crystal L. Downing

Co-Director of the Marion E. Wade Center

Co-Holder of the Marion E. Wade Chair in Christian Thought

Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

Ph.D. in English, University of California, Santa Barbara, December 1986

*** Indicates an award-winning publication*

PUBLISHED BOOKS

The Wages of Cinema: Looking through the Lens of Dorothy L. Sayer. IVP Academic, forthcoming.

***Subversive: Christ, Culture, and the Shocking Dorothy L. Sayers.* Broadleaf, 2020. A *Publishers Weekly* starred selection and “Pick of the Week.”

Salvation from Cinema: The Medium is the Message. Routledge, 2017.

***Changing Signs of Truth: A Christian Introduction to the Semiotics of Communication.* IVP Academic, 2012. A *Publishers Weekly* selection in its 2nd printing.

How Postmodernism Serves (my) Faith: Questioning Truth in Language, Philosophy and Art. IVP Academic, 2006.

***Writing Performances: The Stages of Dorothy L. Sayers.* Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. Granted the International *Barbara Reynolds Award* for best work on Sayers, June 2009.

PUBLISHED ESSAYS

“Faith in Film: A Christian Aesthetic.” *The Oxford Handbook of Theology and Film*. Ed. Gerard Loughlin. Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Power of the Spirit: Sayers and Cinema,” *The Spirit and the Screen: Pneumatological Reflections on Contemporary Cinema*, ed. Chris E.W. Green and Steven Felix-Jager (Lanham, MD: Roman & Littlefield, 2023), 55-68.

“The Power of Imagination: Sayers and the Seeing of Cinema,” *Journal of Christian Legal Thought* 12:2 (2022): 51-55.

“The Wonder of Cinema in Dorothy L. Sayers and Spike Lee,” in *God and Wonder: Theology, Imagination, and the Arts*, ed Jeffrey Barbeau & Emily McGowin (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2022), 133-48.

“Finding the Word in a Liberal Arts Manger: A Sign for You”: Christian Scholars Blog Sept '21

“Theo-Drama and Mise-en-Scene”: Christian Scholars Review Blog July '21

“The Fortress of Christian Higher Education”: Christian Scholars Review Blog June '21

“Academic Freedom: From Ram-skit to Bull-dung”: Christian Scholars Review Blog, May '21

“From Ireland to Illinois: The Marion E. Wade Center.” *Intercom: A Catholic Pastoral and Liturgical Resource* 52.7 (Sept 2022): 14-15.

“Dorothy L. Sayers and C. S. Lewis at War.” *The Undiscovered C.S. Lewis*. Ed. Bruce Johnson. Winged Lion Press, 2021. 307-20.

- “Out of the Machine: Cinema and Science Fiction.” *The Robot Will See You Now: Artificial Intelligence and the Christian Faith*. Ed. John Wyatt and Stephen N. Williams. London: SPCK, 2021. 28-42.
- “Christ and Culture: C.S. Lewis, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Reinhold Niebuhr.” *The Inklings and Culture: A Harvest of Scholarship from the Inklings Institute of Canada*. Ed. Monika B. Hilder, et al. Cambridge Scholars, 2020. 95-109.
- “The Theatrical Tradition of Dorothy Sayers.” *Chronicles: A Magazine of American Culture*. 44 (November 2020): 22-23.
- “Through the Screen: Dorothy L. Sayers’s Journey into New Worlds.” *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*. 36 (2019): 5-20.
- “Dorothy L. Sayers: Reluctant Prophet,” *Christianity Today* (June 2018): 64-68.
- “Betraying the Medium: The Doubt in *Mass Appeal*,” *Dreams, Doubt and Dread: The Spiritual in Film*. Ed. Zachary Settle & Taylor Worley. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2016.
- “The Divine Comedy of C.S. Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers,” *Women and C. S. Lewis*. Ed. Carolyn Curtis and Mary Pomroy Key. Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2015.
- “Sayers ‘begins here’ with a vision for social and intellectual change,” *Christian History* 113 (Spring 2015): 18.
- With Alister McGrath and Colin Duriez, “Friends, Warriors, Sages,” *Christian History* 113 (Spring 2015): 4-9.
- “The Indulgence of *Sense and Sensibility*: A Human Comedy,” *The Ignatius Critical Edition of Sense and Sensibility*. Ed. Joseph Pearce. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2014.
- “*Jane Eyre*: Reading the Writing on the Wall,” *The Ignatius Critical Edition of Jane Eyre*. Ed. Joseph Pearce. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2014.

- “The Architecture of Romanticism: Wordsworth and Coleridge,” *The Ignatius Critical Edition of Romantic Poetry*. Ed. Joseph Pearce. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2014.
- “Staging Ideology and Love in *Good Bye, Lenin!*” *Film & History: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 43.2 (Fall 2013): 5-16.
- “Pastoral Hope in *Elysium*,” *Books and Culture Online* (November 2013).
- “Angelic Work: The Medieval Sensibilities of Dorothy L. Sayers,” *Journal of Inkling Studies* 3.2 (October 2013): 111-32.
- “The Real Thing or Anna Karenina’s Silver Linings Playbook,” *Books and Culture* (May/June 2013): 34.
- “Identifying Theology: The Double Helix of Dorothy L. Sayers and C. S. Lewis,” in *Persona and Paradox: Issues of Identity for C.S. Lewis, his Friends and Associates*, ed. Suzanne Bray and William Gray. Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Series, 2012. 144-55.
- “Catherine Prescott: Behind the Face,” *SEEN* XII:1 (2012): 2-5
- “Strange Bedfellows: Faith and Film,” *Christian Scholar’s Review* 40:4 (Summer 2011): 441-451.
- “Fighting Family,” *Books and Culture*, 17.2 (March/April 2011): 10.
- “A Rose by Any Other Name,” *The Ignatius Critical Edition of Romeo and Juliet*. Ed. Joseph Pearce. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2011. 165-81.
- “Finding Satisfaction in *Great Expectations*,” *The Ignatius Critical Edition of Great Expectations*. Ed. Joseph Pearce. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2010. 599-613.

- “Theopoetics: Si(g)ns of Copulation,” *CrossCurrents*, 60 (March 2010): 45-59.
- “The Wounded Healer,” *Cresset* 73.2 (2009): 40-43.
- “Text as Test: Reading *The Merchant of Venice*.” *The Ignatius Critical Edition of The Merchant of Venice*. Ed. Joseph Pearce. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2009. 167-82.
- “The Great Unwashed,” *Books and Culture*, 15 (July/Aug 2009): 23.
- “The Social Imaginary of Arcibel’s Game,” *Cresset* 74.3 (2009): 33-37.
- “The Drowned and the Saved,” *Books and Culture*, 15 (Jan/Feb 2009): 24-25.
- “Reading Hamlet.” *The Ignatius Critical Edition of Hamlet*. Ed. Joseph Pearce. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2008. 185-98.
- “God Savor *The Queen*,” *Books and Culture*, 14 (Nov/Dec 2008): 24-25.
- “Unheimliche Heights: The Sources of *Wuthering Heights*.” *The Ignatius Critical Edition of Wuthering Heights*. Ed. Joseph Pearce. San Francisco: Ignatius, 2008. 377-91.
- “The (Il)legality of Love: *Gone Baby Gone*,” *Cresset*, 71.5 (2008): 44-48.
- “Witnessing the Amish: Plain People on Fancy Film,” in *The Amish and the Media*. Ed. David Weaver-Zercher and Diane Z. Umble. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2008. 25-41.
- “Readers of the Lost Ark,” with Sharon Baker, *Books and Culture*, 14 (May/June 2008): 15-17.
- “Feminist Nay-Sayers: *Are Women Human?*” *VII: An Anglo-American Literary Review* 24 (2007): 87-92.

“The Lost Action Hero,” *Cresset*, 71.1 (2007): 28-32.

“Theology is Stranger than Fiction,” with Sharon Baker, *Books and Culture*, 13 (Sept/Oct 2007): 38.

“Romancing the Crone,” *Cresset*, 70.4 (2007): 45-48.

“The Bible as Babel: The Suspicions of Dorothy L. Sayers,” in *From Around the Globe: Secular Authors and Biblical Perspectives*. Ed Seodial Frank H. Deena and Karoline Szatek. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2007. 1-18.

“The Irony of Architexture,” *SEEN* 7.1 (2007): 7-8.

“Everything is Illuminated,” *Cresset*, 70.2 (Dec. 2006): 32-36.

“The Devil Wears Dostoevsky,” *Cresset*, 70.1 (Sept. 2006): 33-34.

“The Ape(x) of Beauty,” *Cresset* 69.5 (June 2006): 25-29.

“No Extra Credit for a Modern Virgin Mary,” in *College Faith 3: 150 Christian Leaders and Educators Share Faith Stories from Their Student Days*, ed. Ronald Alan Knott (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2006), 25-26.

“(C)rafting Redemption,” *Cresset* 69.3 (Feb. 2006): 36-39.

“The Orthodoxology of Dorothy L. Sayers,” *VII: An Anglo-American Literary Review* 22 (2005): 29-44.

**“Cinematic Simony,” *Cresset* 69.1 (Sept 2005): 26-29. {Given “Award of Merit” in the “Best of the Christian Press 2005”}

“Rime of the Ancient Martian,” *Books and Culture* 11(Sept/Oct 2005): 45.

**“Good Bye Lenin!” *Cresset* 68.4 (April 2005): 26-29. {Given “Award of Merit” in the “Best of the Christian Press 2005”}

“The Limits of Perception: How Postmodernism Saved (My) Faith,” *Brethren in Christ History and Life* 27 (Dec. 2004): 282-292.

“A Pearl of Great Price,” *Cresset* 68.1 (Nov. 2004): 26-28.

“Differently Disabled,” *Books and Culture* 10 (May/June 2004): 26-27.

"Imbricating Faith and Learning: The Architectonics of Christian Scholarship." In Douglas Jacobsen and Rhonda H. Jacobsen, *Scholarship and Christian Faith: Enlarging the Conversation*. NY: Oxford University Press, 2004. 33-44.

“Film Tripping,” *Cresset* 67.4 (April 2004): 23-27.

“Amélie in a Glass Darkly,” *Cresset* 67.1 (September 2003): 24-27.

"Tongue in Check: Paralleling the Taliban with the Amish," *CrossCurrents* 53 (2003): 200-08.

"Creating Frida," *Cresset* 66.4 (Apr. 2003): 26-29.

"Driving Lessons," *Cresset* 66.1 (Nov. 2002): 19-21.

"Smoke Signals on Film," *Books and Culture* 8 (July/Aug 2002): 17-18.

"Close(d) Readings of Shakespeare: Re-covering Self-Reflexivity in the Classroom," *College Literature* 29 (Spring 2002): 115-123.

- "The G(l)ossing of Religion: A Victorian Father and Son," *Religion and the Arts* 5 (2001): 155-171.
- "The Sheep, the Goats, and Leo DiCaprio," *Books and Culture* 7 (Nov./Dec. 2001): 11.
- "Looking Backward, Looking Forward," *PMLA* 115 (Dec. 2000): 2045.
- "Misshapen Chaos of Well-Seeming Form: Baz Lurhmann's *Romeo + Juliet*," *Literature / Film Quarterly* 28 (2000): 125-31.
- "Playing the Postmodern Field," *Books and Culture* 6 (May/June 2000): 9-10.
- "Antiseptic Bakhtin: A Dialogic Christian," *Pacific Coast Philology* 34 (1999): 18-31.
- "Richard Rorty for the Silver Screen: *Waking Ned Devine* as Apologetic for Postmodernism," *Books and Culture* 5 (Sept/Oct 1999): 8-10.
- "Unheimliche Heights: The (En)Gendering of Brontë Sources," *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 40 (1998): 347-369.
- "Derrida," "Foucault," and "Rorty," *Philosophic Classics: The Twentieth Century*, (Vol V), ed. Walter Kaufman and Forrest Baird. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- "Dorothy L. Sayers' Last Temptation," *The Canadian C.S. Lewis Journal* 92 (1997): 16-21.
- "Woody Allen's Blindness and Insight: The Palimpsests of *Crimes and Misdemeanors*," *Religion and the Arts* 1 (1997): 73-92.
- "The Visual and the Verbal in *Middlemarch*," *PMLA Forum* 112 (1997): 434-5.

"A Postmodern Proscenium: Breaking Textual Barriers in *Romeo and Juliet*." *Breaking the Barriers*. Ed. Rima Gulshan. Proceedings of the Literature and Emerging Issues International Conference. Princess Anne: University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, 1997.

"Seeking the Mennotaur: The Multicursal Mennonite," *Conrad Grebel Review*, 14 (Fall 1996): 229-240.

"Pos(t)ing Modernism: The Postmodernism of *The Moderns*," *Pacific Coast Philology*, 29 (Sept. 1994): 109-118.

"Face Painting in Early Modern England," *PMLA Forum* 109 (1994): 119-120.

"Hieroglyphics (De)Constructed: Interpreting Brontë Fictions," *LIT* 2 (1991): 261-273.

"Broadway Roses: Woody Allen's Romantic Inheritance," *Literature/Film Quarterly* 17 (1989): 13-17.

"Birthing a Student Publication: Confessions of Four Midwives," *ADE Bulletin* 94 (1989): 40-44. (Collaborative Project)

"Architecture as Synecdoche: A Poetics of Trace," *Pacific Coast Philology* 23 (1988):13-21.

"'The Charmes Backe to Reverse': Deconstructing Architecture in Books II and III of *The Faerie Queene*," *Comitatus* 13 (1982): 64-83.

ONLINE ESSAYS

"Judging *King Kong* by its Cover: The Aping of Beauty": Christian Scholars Review (CSR) Blog, Nov '21

"*Gaudy Night*" in "Want to Crack the Case? These Are the 101 Best Mystery Books of All Time," ed. Michael Giltz, *Parade Magazine Online*, Nov 14, 2021.

“Finding the Word in a Liberal Arts Manger: A Sign for You”: CSR Blog Sept '21

“Theo-Drama and Mise-en-Scene”: CSR Blog July '21

“The Fortress of Christian Higher Education”: CSR Blog June '21

“Academic Freedom: From Ram-skit to Bull-dung”: CSR Blog, May '21

“Dorothy L. Sayers and the Bible,” *Oxford Biblical Studies Online*, ed. Michael D. Coogan, Oxford University Press, posted 2017.

“Religious Drama: From Everyman to Sayers,” *Gale Researcher Online*, ed. Kirilka Stavreva, Thomas Riggs & Co, posted 2017.

“Scapegoating the Atonement,” *Patheos Public Square*, www.patheos.com, posted April 2016.

“Myth, Imagination, and Romantic Poetry,” *Patheos*, www.patheos.com, posted March 2016.

“3-D-Light-ful Hugo,” *Books and Culture* online, Dec 2011.

"After the End of the Monster: Dorothy L. Sayers on Art," *Findings* online, Winter 2002.

"Yolking With Postmodernism," lead article for the *Books and Culture* online, Oct. 2000.

"*Multiplicity: Una Vista de Nada*," *Postmodern Culture* 7, online Sept. 1996.

BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS

Review of *The Mutual Admiration Society: How Dorothy L. Sayers and her Oxford Circle Remade the World for Women*, by Mo Moulton. In *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center* 38 (2021): 119-22.

Review of Michael Shallcross, *Rethinking G. K. Chesterton and Literary Modernism: Parody, Performance, and Popular Culture* (Routledge, 2018). In *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*, online 2020.

“Fighting Prejudice”: Review of *Reforming Hollywood: How American Protestants Fought for Freedom at the Movies*, by William D. Romanowski (Oxford University Press, 2012). In *Christian Scholars’ Review*, XLII:4 (Summer 2013): 437-40.

“The Ghost in the Fall”: Review of *The Fall of Interpretation*, 2nd ed., by James KA Smith. In *The Church and Postmodern Culture* in *theotherjournal.com*, online August 2012.

“A Poetics of Space”: Review of *A Virtual Tour of the Parish Church of Fenchurch St. Paul: From The Nine Tailors by Dorothy L. Sayers*, by David Collins. In *VII: An Anglo-American Literary Review* 29 (2012): 116-17.

“Love and Death”: Review of *Grave Images: San Luis Valley* by Kathy T. Hettinga. In *Books and Culture* 16:3 (May/June 2010): 20.

“Silent Divas,” with Reid Perkins-Buzo: Review of *Diva: Defiance and Passion in Early Italian Cinema* by Angela Dalle Vacche. In *Books and Culture*, 15: 6 (Nov/Dec 2009): 19-20.

“The Heteroglossia of Victorian Religion”: Review of *Victorian Religion: Faith and Life in Britain* by Julie Melnyk. In *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* 61 (March 2009): 57-58.

“Staging Mystery”: Review of *The Altar and the Screen* by S. Brent Plate. In The Religion and Culture Web Forum of the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago Divinity School, <<http://martycenter.uchicago.edu/webforum/index.shtml>>

Review of Susan and Gerald Biesecker-Mast, eds, *Anabaptists and Postmodernity*. In *Brethren in Christ History and Life* 23 (Dec. 2000): 522-25.

"An AnaBender Vision": Review of *Harold S. Bender, 1897-1962* by Albert N. Keim. In *Christian Living* 45 (June 1998): 9-13.

"Revolution and the Kingdom: Review of *Romero*." In *World Christian* (Nov. 1989): 42.

JURIED CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Dreams, Doubt, and Dread: The Spiritual in Film"

--American Academy of Religion, Boston, Nov 2017

"Seeing the Medium: Scorsese and Peirce"

--National Conference on Christianity and Film, Baylor Univ., Oct 2014

"A Certain Tendency in Religion and Film: Gnosticism"

--International Conference on Religion and Film, Univ. of NE, April 2014

"From Versailles to Vernueil: The Shaping of Dorothy L. Sayers"

--CS Lewis & Friends, Taylor University, June 2012

"Betraying Hollywood: Ethics of *The Queen*"

--AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2007

"Deconstructing Herbert: Spielberg's Adaptation of *War of the Worlds*"

--Literature/Film Assn. Annual Conference, Oct. 2005.

"The Beauty of Eastern Orthodox Truth: A New Connection Between C. S. Lewis and D. L. Sayers"

--C.S. Lewis Summer Institute, Oxford, England, July 2005.

"Dorothy L. Sayers and Russian Orthodoxy"

--Frances White Ewbank Colloquium, Taylor Univ, March 2004.

"Bakhtin in the Barbershop: Heteroglossia and Film"

--AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2003

- "Readers of the Lost Ark: Containing the Sacred"
 --AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2003
- "(E)racing *Barbershop*"
 --Literature/Film Assn. Annual Conference, Nov. 2003
- "Tongue in Check: Amish Pacifism versus Taliban Terror"
 --AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2002
- "Finding (a Window on) Forrester: Gus VanSant's Paean on Plagiarism"
 --Literature/Film Assn. Annual Meeting, Oct. 2002
- "Creating Time: The Auto/Biographies of Dorothy L. Sayers"
 --C. S. Lewis Summer Institute, Oxford, UK, July 2002
- "Sept 11th and Its Effects: Bakhtin, Terror, and Anabaptist Pacifism"
 --MELUS Annual Conference, April 2002
- "Redeeming Plagiarism: Finding Forrester in a Glass Darkly"
 --AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2001
- "Consummation or Consumption?: Bakhtin and the Ethics of Intertextuality"
 --AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2001
- "The Black Box of Christian Scholarship," National Conference on Faith & Learning
 --Calvin College, Sept. 2001
- "International Affairs: Sayers, Cournos, and the Ethics of Intertextuality"
 --American Literature Assn., May 2001
- "Abdicating *Thrones, Dominations*: A Contemporary Dorothy L. Sayers"
 --National Meeting of the Popular Culture Assn., April 2001
- "The Building of Love: Sayers' Architectural Imagination"
 --"Romance of Faith: D.L. Sayers," Grove City College, Oct. 2000
- "The Architectonics of Christian Scholarship"
 -- Presidential Lecture Series, Messiah College, Oct. 2000
- "The Shape of the Shore: Mental Landscapes in *Father and Son*"
 -- NEMLA Annual Meeting, April 2000

"Shakespeare in Love With Postmodernism"

--North East Popular Culture Assn, November 1999

"Whose Domination? A Contemporary Re-vision of Sayers' Harriet Vane"

-- NEMLA Annual Meeting, April 1999

"The Scene-Unscene in *Tender Mercies*"

--"Screening Mystery," Sponsored by *Image*, Nov. 1998

"Antiseptic Bakhtin: A Dialogic Christian"

-- PAMLA Annual Meeting, Nov. 1998

"Close(d) Readings of *The Merchant of Venice*: A Feminist Perspective"

-- NEMLA Annual Meeting, April 1998

"This is Not an Autobiography: The Auto-bio-graphy of Edmund Gosse"

-- PAMLA Annual Meeting, November 1997

"A Postmodern Proscenium: Breaking Textual Barriers in *Romeo and Juliet*"

--Emerging Issues International Conference, Univ. of MD, Oct. 1997

"Deformed and Sullied: Architectural and Literary Paradigms of the Eighteenth Century"

-- GEMCS Conference, September 1996

"Skeletons Still in the Closet of *Wuthering Heights*"

-- NEMLA Annual Meeting, April 1996

"Seeking the Mennotaur: The Multicursal Mennonite"

-- AAR Annual Meeting, November 1995

"(En)Gendering Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*" (Voted "*Best of Session*")

-- PAMLA Annual Meeting, November 1995

"A Sly Shrew or a Shrewish Sly: The Politics of Closure in *Taming of the Shrew*"

--PAMLA Annual Meeting, November 1994

"Pos(t)ing Modernism: The Postmodernism of *The Moderns* (Voted "*Best of Session*")

--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1993

"Modernism vs. Postmodernism: From Sacred to Pro-feign" (Voted "*Best of Session*")

--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1992

"Very Tragical Mirth: The Role of Women in Shakespearean Comedies"

--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1991

"Woody Allen's Prophetic Palimpsest: *Crimes and Misdemeanors*"

--CCL Western Regional Conference, April 1990

"Romantic (Re)Formation: Coleridge and the Pantisocratic Ideal"

--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1989

"Arch-Expressed Desire: Architecture and Textual Enclosure in Hugo and the Brontës"

--MLA Convention, December 1988

"Broadway Purple Roses: Woody Allen's Romantic Inheritance" (Voted "*Best of Session*")

--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1988

"The Irony of Architecture: A Poetics of Trace"

--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1987

"In Our Father's House Are Many Deconstructionists "

--CCL Midwest Regional Conference, October 1987

"*Tender Mercies*: A Merciful Tendering of Generic Expectation"

--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1984

Teaching

UCLA: 1991-94

Shakespeare Medieval Drama

Messiah College: 1994-2018

Victorian Lit Romantic Lit Medieval Drama

Intro to Poetry Fiction to Cinema Script to Screen

Intro to Film Studies History of Cinema