

CURRICULUM VITAE

The Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera

Contact Information

Full Name: Nelson Rivera-García

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Education

PhD (Religion), Temple University, 2006

STM (Historical Theology), Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1998

MAR (Philosophy of Religion), Temple University, 1997

M.Div., Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1987

BA (Philosophy) Cum Laude, University of Puerto Rico, 1981

Current Position

Associate Professor of Theology, Moravian College & Theological Seminary, 2017-

Professional Experience

Associate Professor, Systematic Theology and Hispanic Ministry, The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 2008-2017

Assistant Professor, Systematic Theology and Hispanic Ministry, LTSP, 2000-2008

Instructor, Systematic Theology, LTSP 1998-2000

Visiting Professor, Luther and the Lutheran Confessions, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, 1992-1993

Ordained Minister, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1987; pastorates in Puerto Rico, 1987-1993; supply ministry in Pennsylvania, 1996-1998

Disability Determination Examiner, Department of Social Services, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, 1981-1983

Areas of Competence

Systematic Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Theologies of Liberation, Theology and Science, Theological Anthropology, and Lutheran Theology

Professional Membership

American Philosophical Association

Master Level Courses

Christian Ethics
Credo
Introduction to Theology
Learning in Community
The Meaning of Jesus Christ
Theology and the Sciences
Theology in a Broken World
Theology from the Underside
Word, Spirit, and Sacraments

Graduate Courses

Cosmos, Creation, and Theology
Darwin and Divinity
Theological Engagements with Anthropology
Theologies of Liberation

Fellowships/Scholarships

Education Grant Program, Division for Ministry, ELCA, 1994-1998
Doctoral Fellow, The Fund for Theological Education, 1994-1995
Philadelphia Scholar, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, 1993-1998
Lutheran Brotherhood Scholarship, 1983-87
Honor Student (General Studies), University of Puerto Rico, 1977-1978

Languages

Spanish and English
Reading knowledge of Portuguese, French, and German
Classical languages: Latin, Greek, and Hebrew

Current Research Projects

Holy Spirit
Prayer
Theological Anthropology

Publications

Books

The Earth Is Our Home: Mary Midgley's Critique and Reconstruction of Evolution and Its Meanings (Exeter: Imprint Academic, 2010).

Ritos Ocasionales [Editor and additional translator of Occasional Services] (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2000)

Articles

"Darwin and Divinity" in *The Hinge: International Theological Dialog* 24/2 (Spring 2020): 3-15.

"Christian Worship: What Do We Gather for?" in *The Living Pulpit* [Online] (July 2019)
<https://www.pulpit.org/2019/07/christian-worship-what-do-we-gather-for/>

"Reflections on Don Quijote" in *Moravian Manuscript* (2018): 76-79.

"Freedom in Reading the Scripture" in *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* [Online] (January 2018)
<https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/1220>

"Speaking of the Spirit" in *Dialog: Journal of Theology* 56/3 (September 2017): 272-278.

"Liberation Theology and Marxism" in *Dictionary of Luther and the Lutheran Traditions* (Timothy Wengert, ed.; Baker Academic, 2017): 423-424.

"Luther in Spanish" in *Lutheran Quarterly* 30 (Spring 2016): 60-67.

"Spirit in the World: Cry and Comfort – A Lutheran Perspective" in *Seminary Ridge Review* 18/2 (Spring 2016): 51-61.

Three theological commentaries in *Feasting on the Gospels* [Mark 15:42-47, Mark 16:1- 8, and Mark 16:9-20] (Westminster/John Know Press, 2014).

"Evolution" in *The Lutheran Magazine* 26/4 (April 2013): 18-19.

"Faith and Science" in *The Lutheran Magazine* 22/2 (February 2013): 18-19 [with Dr. Gilson Walkoenig].

"The Holy Spirit" in *The Lutheran Magazine*, 25/5 (May 2012): 18-19 [with Dr. Kirsi Stjerna].

Three theological commentaries for *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C* [Proper 27, Proper 28, and Reign of Christ] (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2010).

"On Immigration and the Immigrant Other" in *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* [Online] (December 2008) <https://www.elca.org/JLE/Articles/424>

Introductory essay to “Las buenas obras” de Martín Lutero, in *Lutero al habla* (México: Editorial El Faro, 2005): 347-350.

Twenty-eight articles (entries) in the *Diccionario Ilustrado de Intérpretes de la Fe* (Madrid: Editorial CLIE, 2004).

"Theological Education for Ministry: ELCA Seminaries Reaching Out to Latinos," in *Reaching the Latino Community: Approaches to an Effective Ministry* (Minneapolis: Board of Publications, ELCA, 2003).

“Prayer Alone: Luther’s Key to the Christian Life in the Large Catechism” in *Lutheran Forum: Una Sancta Issue* 34/3 (Fall 2000): 35-37.

“Mestizo Spirituality: Notes from a Latino and Lutheran Perspective” in *Lutheran Partners*, 16/5 (Sept/Oct 2000): 34-38.

Public Lectures

Darwin and Divinity [Chestnut Hill College, Institute for Religion and Science, April 23, 2018]

Luther and the Scripture [New York Theological Seminary, Bible Conference, October 30, 2017]

Para hablar del Espíritu Santo [Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, April 28, 2017]

God Was in Christ [Moravian Theological Seminary, January 31, 2017]

Lutherans in Public Life [Apostles’ Lutheran Church, Turnersville, NJ, October 26, 2016]

Spirit in the World: Cry and Comfort [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Fall Academy, October 28, 2015]

Language in Christology [Andrews University, Department of Religion, March 19, 2014]

Theology Is Complex, But Not Necessarily Complicated [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, December 7, 2011]

Is There a Distinctive Latino/a Pedagogy? [Palmer Theological Seminary, March 27, 2010]

Public Vocation of Scientists and Theologians [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, April 21, 2009]

The Lutheran Vocation in World Christianity [Respondent to Hein-Fry Lectures—Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, February 19, 2008]

In the World of Theology, What Gifts Do Lutherans Bring to the Table? [Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary, February 9, 2008]

Una comunidad fiel—reflexiones sobre el tema [Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Hispanos—Orlando, Florida, July 8, 2004]

Speaking of Evil--In Six (Un)Easy Points [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, April 29, 2003]

In Search of Public Language: Expressions of Mission and Teaching Authority in Science and Theology [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, September 5, 2000]

Committee Work

Tenure, Promotion & Review Committee, MC, 2020-

Diversity Council, MC, 2019-

Arts & Lectures Committee, MC 2018-

Faith Council, MC, 2018-

Dispute Resolution Group, MC, 2017-

Advisory Board, Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College, 2012-

Candidacy Committee, Metropolitan New York Synod, 2012-2017

Working Group on Faculty and Administration, ATS/MSA Reaccreditation, 2010-2012

Candidacy Committee, New Jersey Synod, 2000-2006

Multicultural Initiatives Strategy Team, Office of the Bishop, ELCA, 1999-2000

Other

Liturgical Reviewer for the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Supplement, ELCA, 2020

Director of the Master of Art in Theological Studies, MTS, 2019-

MTS Faculty Secretary, 2018-

Faculty Representative at MTS Board of Trustees, 2018-

Hispanic Theological Initiative Mentoring Program, 2014-

Chair, History of Christianity and Systematic Theology Area, 2014-2016

Seminary Chaplain, 2012-2014

Consultant and Reviewer for the "Message on Immigration" by the ELCA, 2007

Renewing Worship Project, member of 3 Review Teams, 2001-2004

 "Principles of Worship" (section on "Language")

 "Holy Communion and Related Rites"

 "Holy Baptism and Related Rites"

Editorial Group of *Viviendo la fe: llamado al discipulado en toda la IELA: guía para la congregaciones* (Chicago: Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA, 2000)