

CURRICULUM VITAE

The Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera

Contact Information

Full Name: Nelson Rivera-García

Address: Moravian Theological Seminary, 1200 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

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

First Theological Level Courses

Doing Theology in a Fallen World

Ethics and the Examined Life

God and Creation
God-Talk and Public Leadership
Latin American Theology
Lutheran Confessions
The Meaning of Jesus Christ
Theology and the Sciences
Theology of Gustavo Gutiérrez
The Practice of Theology
US Latino/a Theologies
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

Co-writing a book on the Holy Spirit from the Lutheran perspective

Publications

Books

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

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

Articles

“Speaking of the Spirit” in *Dialog: Journal of Theology* (forthcoming September 2017)

“Liberation Theology and Marxism” in *Dictionary of Luther and the Lutheran Traditions* (Baker Academic, 2017)

“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 for *Feasting on the Gospels* [Mark 15:42-47, Mark 16:1- 8, and Mark 16:9-20] (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2014). “Evolution” in *The Lutheran Magazine* vol. 26 no. 4 (April 2013)

“Faith and Science” in *The Lutheran Magazine* vol. 22 no. 2 (February 2013) [with Dr. Gilson Walkoenig].

“The Holy Spirit” in *The Lutheran Magazine*, vol. 25 no. 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 publication, December 2008 <www.archive.elca.org/jle>

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

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)

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

“Prayer Alone: Luther’s Key to the Christian Life in the Large Catechism” in *Lutheran Forum: Una Sancta Issue*, vol. 34, no. 3 (Fall 2000), pp. 35-37

“Mestizo Spirituality: Notes from a Latino and Lutheran Perspective” in *Lutheran Partners*, vol. 16, no. 5 (Sept/Oct 2000), pp. 34-38

“Lutero y su herencia” in *Juntos en misión*, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Hispánicos, no. 8 (February 2000), p.1

Public Lectures

Para hablar del Espíritu Santo [Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, April 28, 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 2015, October 28, 2015]

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

Theology Is Complex, But Not Necessarily Complicated [LTSP Convocation, December 7, 2011]

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

Public Vocation of Scientists and Theologians [LTSP Convocation, April 21, 2009]

The Lutheran Vocation in World Christianity [Respondent to Hein-Fry Lectures—LTSP, 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 Hispánicos—Orlando, Florida, July 8, 2004]

Speaking of Evil--In Six (Un)Easy Points [LTSP Convocation, April 29, 2003]

In Search of Public Language: Expressions of Mission and Teaching Authority in Science and Theology [LTSP Convocation, September 5, 2000]

Presentations

2016 Hispanic Culture, Religious Experience, and Theology

Speaking of the Spirit: Word and Witness

- 2015 Creation and Science
Speaking of the Spirit
- 2014 Darwin's Evolution
Looking at the Lenten Cycle from Liberation and Lutheran Hermeneutics
- 2013 Christianity in a Scientific World and an Ecological Climate
- 2012 Darwin, Evolution, and Faith 2011 Darwin and Divinity
- 2010 Call to Perseverance: Reflections on the Book of Revelation
Visions of the Cross: Understanding Atonement
- 2009 Should evolution and/or creation be taught in public schools?
Evolution and Faith
Darwin's Evolution
- 2008 Five Theology Books that Every Pastor Ought to Read
- 2007 Darwin, Evolution, and the Struggle for Faith Re-Thinking Evolution and Faith
- 2006 Doing Theology from Diverse Cultural Perspectives
Lutero, el sacerdocio de los bautizados y el ministerio ordenado
- 2005 How Big Is the Universe?
Einstein's Legacy: Is God Back into Physical Science?
- 2004 Who Was Martin Luther?
The Language of Christology
- 2003 Hispanic Theology in the U.S.
Reflexiones sobre la misión—la de Dios y la nuestra
- 2002 God and Creation: A Close Reading of Genesis 1
Hispanic/Latino/a Experience
- 2001 What are the Lutheran Confessions?
¿Qué significa vivir por lo que la Biblia dice?
Hispanos: Hispanic Culture and History
- 2000 ¿Qué es fundamental en teología luterana?

Committee Work

Chair, History of Christianity and Systematic Theology Area, 2014-2016
Candidacy Committee, Metropolitan New York Synod, 2012-2017
Worship Committee, Chair, 2012-2014
Working Group on Faculty and Administration, ATS/MSA Reaccreditation, 2010-2012
Curriculum and Assessment Committee, 2007-2014
Writing Team for Approval Essay Questions [Region 7 & LTSP], 2007
Prolog Committee, 2003-2009; Chair, 2005-2007
Globalization Committee, 2004-2012; Chair, 2006-2012
Homiletics Search Committee, 2004-2005
Candidacy Committee, New Jersey Synod, 2000-2006
Financial Aid Committee, 2000-2009
St. John's (Summitt) Professorship Committee, 2000-2004
Advisory Council, Urban Concentration, LTSP, 1999-2002
Education Council, LTSP, 1998-2014
Theological Review Panels, 1998-2017

Other

Advisory Board, Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College, 2012-
Seminary Chaplain, 2012-2014
Congregational Council, University Lutheran Church, 2011-2012
Consultant and Reviewer for the "Message on Immigration" by the ELCA, 2007
"Reconciling in Christ" Team, Christ Ascension Lutheran Church, 2005-2006
Secretary of the Congregational Council, Christ Ascension Lutheran Church, 2003-2005
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"
Faith and Leadership Academy, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, 1999-2002
Latino Academy for Faith and Leadership, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, 1994-2002
Multicultural Initiatives Strategy Team, Office of the Bishop, ELCA, 1999-2000
Hispanic Mission Council, Region 7, ELCA, 1997-2000
Latino Summer Program, Division for Ministry, ELCA, 1998-2002
Consultation on Christian Vocation, Division for Ministry, ELCA, 1998
Strategic Planning Consultation Committee, Division for Church in Society, ELCA, 1997-1998