

GEORGE AICHELE

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EDUCATION:

B.A. University of Illinois, 1965. Philosophy major. Graduation with Honors.
B.D. Garrett Theological Seminary, 1969. Honors study in World Christianity. Graduation with Highest Honors and Distinction.
Ph.D. Northwestern University, 1974. Philosophical Theology, with additional emphases in Literary Theory and New Testament.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

1978-2008 Department of Philosophy/Religion, Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan. Professor since 1990; tenured in 1984; retired in 2008.
1977-78 Upper Iowa University, Mason City campus, Mason City, Iowa. Instructor: Philosophy, Literature.
1976-77 North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City, Iowa. Instructor: Philosophy, Social Sciences.
1974-75 Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. Interim Chaplain (included adjunct teaching, English Dept.).
1970-71 Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois. Teaching assistant: Systematic Theology.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL).
Fellow, International Communicology Institute (ICI).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY:

NEH Summer Seminar, "Rhetorical Readings." Paul de Man, director. Yale University, 1981.
NEH Summer Seminar, "The Question of Postmodernism." Ihab Hassan, director. University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, 1984.
Sabbaticals: Spring, 1986, Spring, 1993, full year, 1999-2000.
Adrian College Teacher-Scholar grant for research on translation and narrative, 1989.
Co-recipient, AAR grants to authors of reference works, 1990, 1991, *The Postmodern Bible*.
Founding Member, The Bible and Culture Collective.
Member, Adrian College Association of Professors (NEA affiliate), President, 1981-82, Negotiating Team, 1989-1991.

Coordinator, Letters and Humanities Collegium, Adrian College, 1979-1983.
Chair, Department of Philosophy/Religion, Adrian College, 1980-1985, 1993-1998.
Session chair, "The Bible in Fantasy/Fantasy in the Bible," IAFA conferences, 1991, 1992.
Session chair, "Fantasy Theory," IAFA Conference, 1995.
Session chair, "Puzzles, Parables, and Revelations," IAFA Conference, 1997.
Chair, Semiotics and Exegesis Section, SBL, 1995-2001.
Semiotics and Exegesis Section, liaison to SBL "Derrida and Religion" program committee, 2000-2002.
Series editor, *Playing the Text*. Continuum Books/T&T Clark International/Sheffield Academic Press.
Book Review Editor, Gospel of Mark, *Religious Studies Review*, 2002-2004.
Book Review Editor, *The Bible and Critical Theory*
<<http://publications.epress.monash.edu/loi/bc/index.html>>.
Editorial Board, *The Bible and Critical Theory*
<<http://publications.epress.monash.edu/loi/bc/index.html>>.

BOOKS:

As author:

Theology as Comedy: Critical and Theoretical Implications. University Press of America, 1980
<<http://home.comcast.net/~gcaichele/writings/comedy.pdf>>.

The Limits of Story. Scholars Press/Fortress Press, 1985
<<http://home.comcast.net/~gcaichele/writings/limits.pdf>>.

Jesus Framed. Routledge Limited, 1996.

Sign, Text, Scripture: Semiotics and the Bible. Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

The Control of Biblical Meaning: Canon as Semiotic Mechanism. Trinity Press International, 2001.

The Phantom Messiah: Postmodern Fantasy and the Gospel of Mark. T&T Clark International, 2006.

Simulating Jesus: Reality Effects in The Gospels. BibleWorld. Equinox Publishing, Ltd., forthcoming.

Co-author (with Fred Burnett, Elizabeth Castelli, Robert Fowler, David Jobling, Stephen Moore, Gary Phillips, Tina Pippin, Regina Schwartz, and Wilhelm Wuellner), *The Postmodern Bible*. Yale University Press, 1995. Portuguese translation: *A Bíblia pós-moderna*. Barbara Theoto Lambert, trans. São Paulo: Edições Loyola, 2000.

As editor:

Culture, Entertainment, and the Bible. Sheffield Academic Press, 2000.

Co-editor (with Tina Pippin), *Semeia 60: Fantasy and the Bible*. Scholars Press, 1992.

Co-editor (with Gary Phillips), *Semeia 69/70: Intertextuality and the Bible*. Scholars Press, 1995.

Co-editor (with Tina Pippin), *The Bible and Fantasy*. *Journal for the Fantastic in the Arts*, volume 8, number 2. International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, 1997.

Co-editor (with Tina Pippin), *The Monstrous and the Unspeakable: the Bible as Fantastic Literature*. Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

Co-editor (with Tina Pippin), *Violence, Utopia, and the Kingdom of God*. Routledge Limited, 1998.

Co-editor (with Richard Walsh), *Screening Scripture: Intertextual Connections Between Scripture and Film*, Trinity Press International, 2002.

Co-editor (with Richard Walsh), *Those Outside: Noncanonical Readings of Canonical Gospels*, Continuum/T&T Clark International, 2005.

ARTICLES:

“The Slaughter of Innocents.” *The Christian Century*, December 27, 1978, pp. 1262-1263.

“Two Forms of Meta-Fantasy.” *Journal for the Fantastic in the Arts*, vol. 1, no. 3, 1988, pp. 55-67.

“Poverty and the Hermeneutics of Repentance.” *Cross Currents*, Winter, 1988-89, pp. 458-467.

“Literary Fantasy and the Composition of the Gospels.” *Forum*, September, 1989, pp. 42-60.

“On Postmodern Biblical Criticism and Exegesis.” *Forum*, September, 1989, pp. 31-35.

“Escape to Home: Anti-Fantasy in a Story by Ursula K. LeGuin.” *Explorations*, Spring, 1990, pp. 81-92.

“The Fantastic in the Parabolic Language of Jesus.” *Neotestamentica*, vol. 24, no. 1, 1990, pp. 93-105.

“Biblical Miracle Narratives as Fantasy.” *Anglican Theological Review*, Winter, 1991, pp. 51-58.

“Translation, Narrative, and Theology.” *Explorations*, Summer, 1991, pp. 61-80.

“Literary Fantasy and Postmodern Theology.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Summer, 1991, pp. 323-337.

“Self-Referentiality in Gene Wolfe’s ‘Seven American Nights.’” *Journal for the Fantastic in the Arts*, vol. 3, no. 2, 1991, pp. 37-47.

“Post-Ecclesiastical Theology.” *Explorations*, Spring, 1992, pp. 5-14.

“Two Theories of Translation, With Examples From the Gospel of Mark.” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, vol. 47, 1992, pp. 95-116.

“Jesus’s Frankness.” *SBL Seminar Papers*, 1992, pp. 695-706. Revised version in *Semeia* 69/70, 1995, pp. 261-280.

“Two Fantasies on the Death of Jesus.” *Neotestamentica*, vol. 26, no. 2, 1992, pp. 485-498.

“Reply to Remarks on ‘Two Fantasies.’” *Neotestamentica*, vol. 26, no. 2, 1992, pp. 503-505.

“The Fantastic in the Discourse of Jesus.” *Semeia* 60, 1993, pp. 53-66.

“Reading Beyond Meaning.” *Postmodern Culture*, May, 1993
<<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/pmc/text-only/issue.593/aichele.593>>.

“Fantasy and Myth in the Death of Jesus.” *Cross Currents*, Spring, 1994, pp. 85-96.

“Fantasy and the Gospels: Theological and Ideological Implications.” *Journal for the Fantastic in the Arts*, vol. 8, no. 2, 1997, pp. 170-184.

“Rewriting Superman.” *The Monstrous and the Unspeakable*. George Aichele and Tina Pippin, eds. Sheffield Academic Press, 1997, pp. 75-101.

“Postmodern Fantasy, Ideology, and the Uncanny.” *Para*doxa*, vol. 3, no. 3-4, 1997, pp. 498-514.

“Jesus’s Violence.” *Violence, Utopia, and the Kingdom of God*. George Aichele and Tina Pippin, eds. Routledge, 1998, pp. 72-91.

“Toward a Semiotics of Canon.” *Australasian Pentecostal Studies*, vol. 1, no. 2, 1998, pp. 73-92.

“Jesus’s Uncanny ‘Family Scene.’” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, issue 74, June, 1999, pp. 29-49.

- “An Apology for the Madman, or the Death and Further Adventures of Jehovah.” *Para*doxa*, volume 5, number 12, 1999, pp.117-131.
- “Deleuze and Guattari.” *Handbook of Postmodern Biblical Interpretation*, A.K.M. Adam, ed., Chalice Publishing, 2000, pp. 62-68.
- “Roland Barthes” and “Umberto Eco.” *The Postmodern Bible Reader*. David Jobling, Tina Pippin, and Ronald Schleifer, eds. Basil Blackwell, 2001, pp. 58-59, 78-79.
- “Translation as De-canonization: Matthew’s Gospel According to Pasolini.” *Cross Currents*, Winter, 2002, pp. 85-95.
- “Introduction.” In Larry J. Kreitzer, *Gospel Images in Fiction and Film*. Sheffield Academic Press, 2002, pp. 7-10.
- “Sitcom Mythology.” *Screening Scripture: Intertextual Connections Between Scripture and Film*. George Aichele and Richard Walsh, eds. Trinity Press International, 2002, pp. 100-119.
- “The Son of Man and the Sons of Men.” *Reading Communities Reading Scripture, Essays in Honor of Daniel Patte*. Gary A. Phillips and Nicole Wilkinson Duran, eds. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 2002, pp. 311-323.
- “Electronic Culture and the Future of the Canon of Scripture.” *Redirected Travel: Alternative Journeys and Places in Biblical Studies*. Roland Boer and Ed Conrad, eds. Continuum/Sheffield Academic Press, 2003, pp. 8-23.
- “Reading Jesus Writing.” *Biblical Interpretation* 12/4, 2004, pp. 353-368.
- “A Letter From a Greek Woman of Tyre to Jairus of Galilee.” *Yours Faithfully: Virtual Letters From the Bible*. Philip Davies, ed. Equinox Publishing, 2004, pp. 131-133.
- “The Politics of Sacrifice.” *The Bible and Critical Theory* 1/2, 2005
<<http://publications.epress.monash.edu/loi/bc/index.html>>.
- “Jesus’s Two Fathers: an Afterlife of the Gospel of Luke.” *Those Outside: Noncanonical Readings of Canonical Gospels*. George Aichele and Richard Walsh, eds. Continuum/T&T Clark International, 2005, pp. 17-41.
- “Kanon als Intertext: Einschränkung oder Befreiung?” Michael Schneider, trans. *Die Bibel im Dialog der Schriften*. Stefan Alkier, ed. Frankfurt: Francke-Verlag, 2005, pp. 159-178. English original, “Canon as Intertext: Restraint or Liberation?” *Reading the Bible Intertextually*. Richard B. Hays, Stefan Alkier, and Leroy A. Huizinga, eds. Baylor University Press, 2009, pp. 139-156.
- “Artificial Bodies: *Blade Runner*, *metanoia*, and the Death of Man.” *Cinéma Divinité: Religion, Theology and the Bible in Film*. Eric Christianson, Peter Francis, and William R. Telford, eds. SCM Press, 2005, pp. 137-148.
- “Dark Conceptions: the Birth of a Messiah in *King Rat* and the Gospel of Luke.” *Foundation* 34/95, Autumn, 2005, pp. 62-70.
- “The Possibility of Error: *Minority Report* and the Gospel of Mark.” *Biblical Interpretation*, 14/1-2, 2006, pp. 143-157 (= *The Bible in Film – the Bible and Film*. J. Cheryl Exum, ed. Leiden: Brill, 2006, pp. 143-157).
- “Recycling the Bible: a Response.” *The Recycled Bible: Autobiography, Culture, and the Space Between*. Fiona Black, ed. Semeia Studies. SBL Press, 2006, pp. 195-201.
- “Postmodernism and the Death of ‘Man.’” *Voyages in Uncharted Waters: Essays on the Theory and Practice of Biblical Interpretation in Honour of David Jobling*. Wes Bergen and Armin Siedlecki, eds. Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2006, pp. 24-36.
- “The Synoptic Gospels.” *Oxford Handbook of English Literature and Theology*. Andrew Hass,

- David Jasper, and Elisabeth Jay, eds. Oxford University Press, 2007, pp. 307-322.
- “Simulating Christ: Luke and John, and the Canonical Control of Meaning.” *The Bible and Critical Theory* 4/1 2008 <<http://publications.epress.monash.edu/loi/bc/index.html>>.
- “Poststructuralism.” *Searching for Meaning: A Practical Guide to New Testament Interpretation*. Paula Gooder, ed., Westminster/John Knox Press and SPCK, 2008, pp. 96-99.
- “Local Heroes.” *Images of the Word: Hollywood’s Bible and Beyond*. David Shepherd, ed. Semeia Studies. SBL Press, 2008, pp. 83-96.
- “Demons of the New Polytheism.” *The Lure of the Dark Side: Satan and Western Demonology in Popular Culture*. Christopher Partridge and Eric Christianson, eds. Equinox Publishing, 2009, pp. 136-151.
- “How the Bible Can be Red: Some Thoughts On Roland Boer’s *Rescuing the Bible*.” *The Bible and Critical Theory* 5/2 2009 <<http://publications.epress.monash.edu/loi/bc/index.html>>.
- “Jesus Simulacrum, or the Gospels vs. ‘the Gospel.’” *Sacred Tropes: Tanakh, New Testament, Qur’an as Literary Works*. Roberta Sabbath, ed. Brill, 2009.
- “Canon, Ideology, and the Emergence of an Imperial Church.” *Canon and Canonicity*. Einar Thomassen, ed. Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum Press, 2010.
- “The Unchrist.” *Second Comings and Strange Goings On*. Jay Twomey, ed. *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds*, 2010.
- “The Signifier’s Body.” *He Who Runs May Read*. Roland Boer, Julie Kelso, and Michael Cardin, eds. Continuum, forthcoming.
- “The Virtual Bible.” *The Future of the Biblical Past*. Roland Boer and Fernando Segovia, eds. Semeia Studies. SBL Press, forthcoming.
- “The Posthumanity of ‘the Son of Man’: Heroes and Apocalyptic Polytheism.” *Small Screen Revelations: Apocalypse and Prophecy in Contemporary Television*. Marcus O’Donnell, ed. Sheffield Phoenix Press, forthcoming.

Book reviews in *The Bible and Critical Theory*, *Cross Currents*, *Biblical Interpretation*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *explor*, *Theology Today*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Review of Biblical Literature*, *Journal for the Fantastic in the Arts*, *Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, and *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*.

As co-author:

- With Tina Pippin, “Why Fantasy and the Bible?” *Semeia* 60, 1993, pp. 1-6.
- With Tina Pippin, “An Annotated Bibliography on Fantasy and the Bible.” *Semeia* 60, 1993, pp. 123-128.
- With Gary Phillips, “Exegesis, Eisegesis, Intergesis.” *Semeia* 69/70, 1995, pp. 7-18.
- With Tina Pippin, “Introduction: Fantasy and the Bible.” *Journal for the Fantastic in the Arts*, vol. 8, no. 2, 1997, pp. 113-115.
- With Tina Pippin, “Introduction: Imagining God.” *The Monstrous and the Unspeakable*, Sheffield Academic Press, 1997, pp. 11-18.
- With Tina Pippin, “Introduction: Fantasy and the Bible.” *Violence, Utopia, and the Kingdom of God*, Routledge, 1998, pp. 1-7.
- With Richard Walsh, “Introduction: Scripture as Precursor.” *Screening Scripture: Intertextual Connections Between Scripture and Film*. Trinity Press International, 2002, pp. vii-xvi.
- With Kevin Hart, “The Word Becomes Text.” *Derrida and Religion: Other Testaments*, Kevin Hart and Yvonne Sherwood, eds. Routledge, 2004, pp. 241-260.

With Richard Walsh, "Preface: Interpretative Thieves." *Those Outside: Noncanonical Readings of Canonical Gospels*. Continuum/T&T Clark International, 2005, pp. vii-xvi.
With Peter Miscall and Richard Walsh, "An Elephant in the Room: Historical Critical and Postmodern Interpretations of the Bible." *Journal of Biblical Literature*, Summer 2009 (128/2), pp.383-404.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

- "Time, Space, and Story," AAR Upper Midwest Region Meeting, 1978.
"Christological Fantasy in Two Novels by Pär Lagerkvist," AAR Midwest Region Meeting, 1980.
"Theology and Deconstruction," AAR Midwest Region Meeting, 1982.
"Fantasy and the Genre of Gospel," IAFA conference, 1984. Also presented to AAR Midwest Region Meeting, 1984.
"Fantasy and Postmodern Theology," AAR National meeting, 1985.
Panel Discussion, Studies in American Biblical Hermeneutics. AAR/SBL National Meeting, 1986.
"Two Forms of Meta-Fantasy," IAFA conference, 1988.
"Literary Fantasy and the Composition of the Gospels," Westar Institute, Fall, 1988.
"On Postmodern Biblical Criticism and Exegesis," Westar Institute, Spring, 1989.
"No Perfect Book." Westar Institute, Fall, 1989.
"The Fantastic in the Parabolic Language of Jesus," SBL National Meeting, 1989.
"Escape to Home: Anti-Fantasy in a Story by Ursula K. LeGuin," IAFA conference, 1990.
"Is Translation Possible?" Public lecture, Adrian College, Spring, 1990
<<http://home.comcast.net/~gcaichele/writings/translationpossible.pdf>>.
"The Fantastic in the Discourse of Jesus," SBL National Meeting, 1990.
Respondent/panelist, Semiotics and Exegesis Section, SBL National Meetings, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991; presider, 1993.
"Two Fantasies on the Death of Jesus," Literary Criticism and New Testament Criticism Section, SBL National Meeting, 1991. Also presented to IAFA Conference, 1992.
"Jesus's Frankness." Semiotics and Exegesis Section, SBL National Meeting, 1992. Special lecture, Department of Religious Studies, College of the Holy Cross, March 31, 1993. Also read at the International Conference on Narrative, Albany, NY, 1993.
"Todorov, Rabkin, and Postmodern Fantasy." IAFA Conference, 1993.
"Myth and Fantasy in the Passion Narratives." Special lecture, Department of Bible and Religion, Agnes Scott College, March 22, 1993.
"Text, Intertext, Ideology." Ideological Criticism Group, SBL National Meeting, 1993. Public lecture, Adrian College, Fall, 1993.
"Fantasy and the Gospels: Theological and Ideological Implications." South Atlantic MLA, 1993.
Panel on Collaborative Authorship and *The Postmodern Bible*. Ideological Criticism Group, SBL National Meeting, 1994.
"Rewriting Superman: *Lois & Clark*, the Monomyth, and the Messianic Secret." IAFA Conference, 1995. Also presented to SBL Biblical Criticism & Literary Criticism Section, 1995.
"Who Possesses Jesus?" IAFA Conference, 1996.

“Jesus’s Violence Against the Kingdom.” IAFA Conference, 1997.
 Panel on Pier Paolo Pasolini’s movie, *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*, Literary Aspects of the Gospels and Acts Section, SBL National Meeting, 1997.
 Keynote address, Bible and Critical Theory Seminar, Australian Association for the Study of Religion, Melbourne, July 2, 1998.
 “The Cut That Confuses” (presented with Tina Pippin). Ideological Criticism Group, SBL National Meeting, 1998.
 Panel on the fantasy writings of James Morrow, IAFA Conference, 1999.
 “The Control of Biblical Meaning: the Birth and Death of the Canon of Scriptures.” Public Lecture, Adrian College, Fall, 2000. Also presented at Siena Heights University, Adrian, MI, Winter, 2001.
 “The Name of the Name.” Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section, SBL National Meeting, 2000.
 “Electronic Culture and the Future of the Canon of Scripture.” 2001: a Bible Odyssey Conference, Melbourne, Australia, Summer, 2001.
 “Sitcom Mythology.” Ideological Criticism Section, SBL National Meeting, 2001.
 “The Word Becomes Text” (presented with Kevin Hart). Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section, SBL National Meeting, 2002.
 “Dark Conceptions: the Birth of a Messiah in *King Rat* and the Gospel of Luke.” IAFA Conference, 2003.
 “The Poetic Function and the Gospel in/of Mark: a Post-Canonical Reading.” Semiotics & Exegesis Section, SBL National Meeting, 2003.
 “Mel’s *Passion*.” Panel presentation, Adrian College, 2004
 <<http://home.comcast.net/~gcaichele/writings/melpassion.pdf>>.
 “Tolkien’s Faërie Stories.” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion meeting, 2004.
 “Canon, Ideology, and the Emergence of an Imperial Church.” Seminar of the Norwegian Institute, Athens Greece.
 “Canon as Intertext: Restraint or Liberation?” Conference on “the Bible as a Dialogue Between the Scriptures,” Evangelical Theological Faculty, Johann Wolfgang University, Frankfurt, Germany, 2004.
 “The Signifier’s Body.” Semiotics and Exegesis Section, SBL National Meeting, 2004.
 “Artificial Bodies: *Blade Runner* and the Death of Man.” The Bible in Ancient and Modern Media Section, SBL National Meeting, 2004.
 “Local Heroes.” The Bible in Ancient and Modern Media Section, SBL National Meeting, 2005.
 “Demons of the New Polytheism.” Conference on “the Lure of the Dark Side,” St. Deiniol’s Library, Hawarden, Wales, 2006.
 “Jesus as Phantasm.” Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section, SBL National Meeting, 2006.
 “The New Polytheism.” The Bible and American Popular Culture Section. SBL National Meeting, 2007.
 “Jesus Simulacrum, or the Gospels vs. ‘the Gospel.’” The Bible and Critical Theory Seminar, International SBL Meeting, 2008.
 “On Roland Boer’s *Rescuing the Bible*.” International SBL Meeting, 2008.
 “The Virtual Bible.” Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section, SBL National Meeting, 2008.
 Respondent. Ideology, Culture, and Translation Section, SBL National Meeting, 2008.
 “Fantasy and the Synoptic Problem: Q and the ‘Minor Agreements’ Against Mark.” Semiotics and Exegesis Section, SBL National Meeting, 2009.
 “The Posthumanity of ‘the Son of Man’: *Heroes* and *Apocalypse*.” The Bible and American

Popular Culture Section, SBL National Meeting, 2009.

SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

My research and publications have focused on problems of meaning and referentiality in texts, and on other metaphysical and theological aspects of semiotic theory. Special interests of mine include problems of writing and fictionality, not only as they appear in “obviously” fictional narratives but also as they operate in any written text, and especially the Bible, both to create illusions of realism and to disrupt those illusions through paradox and self-referentiality. I am also interested in the component units and larger generic forms of the Bible in light of contemporary theories of literary fantasy (the fantastic being the point at which literary realism deconstructs itself), and in theories of translation, which also have associated with them important theological and ideological issues, and which are often ignored or bracketed by literary scholars as well as theologians. Other interests include the phenomenon of intertextuality, in relation both to biblical texts and to the philosophy of language, and the relationship between traditional biblical hermeneutics and postmodern literary theory, and implications of that relationship for contemporary theology.