

Sam Thomas, M.Div., Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Religion



Sam Thomas teaches Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, early Judaism and Christianity, and environmental ethics. He is often invited to speak at ELCA congregations, SoCal Synod programs, and ELCA regional workshops on food, ethics and the Bible. He is a faculty adviser for the SEEd (Sustainable Edible Education) Project at Cal

Lutheran, and is President of the Board of Directors of the Abundant Table, a Lutheran-Episcopal farm-based ministry and Community Supported Agriculture program in Santa Paula, California. Thomas holds a B.A. from St. John's University (Collegeville, Minnesota), an M.Div. from Yale University Divinity School, and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame.

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Colleen Windham-Hughes, M.Div., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Religion



Colleen Windham-Hughes teaches in two primary areas: Religion and Public Life and Practical Theology. In both areas, she leads students in Academic Service Learning in which students prepare academically, engage in service on and off campus, and reflect on deep connections between thinking and doing. Windham-Hughes collaborates with

faculty, staff, and students on projects related to vocation and interfaith. She writes for the Practice Discipleship Initiative of the ELCA and supervises student interns in the Theology and Christian Leadership program. An ordained deacon, Windham-Hughes is involved in faith formation across the lifespan in both Methodist and Lutheran contexts.

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The Religion Department in working with the students of Cal Lutheran seeks to instill knowledge of religion in its social, historical, ethical and theological dimensions, and to prepare students for a variety of careers. Focusing on the Christian tradition in its manifold expressions, the Religion Department also offers courses in Judaism, Islam and South and East Asian religious traditions, as well as Biblical Greek and Hebrew.

MEET THE RELIGION FACULTY



California Lutheran
UNIVERSITY

Rose Aslan, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Religion



Rose Aslan teaches courses on global religions, the Abrahamic traditions, and Islam. She is an interfaith activist as well as a scholar of Islam and religious studies. Her research focuses on the construction of sacred space, ritual, and pilgrimage in different religious traditions. She has participated in numerous international

interfaith conferences and seminars and is a trained facilitator in Scriptural Reasoning. Aslan received her Ph.D. in religious studies from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She lived and studied in Egypt for five years and also lived in Iran, Iraq and Armenia and has travelled extensively throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe.

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Peter P.C. Carlson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Religion



Peter Carlson is a religious historian specializing in medieval and early modern religious identity; he also studies the role of gender in history and theology. His courses include Christian history classes and courses in Gender and Religion and Queer Theology, where he investigates with his students the multiple constructions

of gender in religion, utilizing the historically Lutheran task of re-thinking Christian theology for the present day. Carlson is also Director of the Minor in Gender Studies Program at Cal Lutheran. He speaks at congregations throughout California, presents papers internationally, and is active in interfaith conversations and social justice causes.

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Julia Lambert Fogg, M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Religion
Chair of the Religion Department



Julia Lambert Fogg teaches Biblical Greek, New Testament Writings, Pauline Theology, Global Jesus, Revelation and Liberation Theologies. She was ordained in Samuelson Chapel in 2004 as an expression of shared communion between the ELCA and the PCUSA. She offers retreats, workshops and talks for local

churches, Synod programs, LRCC, and often teaches at Spirit in the Desert, Carefree, Arizona. Her five-year ministry with a bilingual immigrant Lutheran congregation in Pasadena has deepened her interest in undocumented youth, immigration issues, and building the global ethos of the ELCA in Southern California. She writes for Seminariumblog.org and tweets @julia_fogg.

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Rahuldeep Singh Gill, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Religion



Interfaith expert Rahuldeep Singh Gill guides leaders for a global society to more inclusive environments for work, collaboration and cross-cultural understanding. His expertise is in contemporary global religions; in particular, his academic work explores the interactions between Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims in modern South Asia. The *Los Angeles Times*, Oxford University Press, Patheos.com, and the *Washington Post's* On Faith blog have published his writings. Gill directs the Center for Equality and Justice at Cal Lutheran and has twice been voted the University's Diversity Professor of the Year.

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Kapp L. Johnson, M.Div., J.D.
Senior Lecturer, Religion



Kapp Johnson served two congregations in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles for 22 years and is now a faculty member in the Department of Religion and School of Management teaching Theology and Business Ethics. Johnson speaks regularly at churches and local community groups on ethics and faith at work.

He has been a Bible study leader at Synod Assemblies and consults with pastors and churches on strategic direction. He is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the University of La Verne College of Law and is a member of the California Bar Association.

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Victor Thasiah, M.Div., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Religion



Victor Thasiah helps communities engage in local to global justice issues. He teaches courses relating to moral, political and religious thought, practices and interests; and specializes in the areas of religion and politics, Christian theology and ethics, and community organizing theory and practice. He conducts

research in Rwanda on community organizing, development, democracy, human rights, postgenocide recovery, and church-state relations. Before coming to Cal Lutheran, Thasiah was Director of Social Policy for the ELCA and Editor of the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*. He holds degrees from the University of California at Santa Cruz, Princeton Theological Seminary and Oxford University.

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