

Robert W. Lawrence [rlawrence@cc.albertus.edu] is adjunct professor at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT, where he teaches in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. He received his M.Div from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1995, and his Ph.D from the Theology Department at the University of Notre Dame, IN. In January 2006, he defended his dissertation in philosophical theology titled: “John Milbank and the Creation of Truth: Dialectical Readings.” The work engaged the political theology of John Milbank through a critical examination of Milbank’s Augustinian inspired ontology of peace. Dr. Lawrence argued for the inherently religious nature of all political structures and attempted, against Milbank, to reestablish the importance of the dialectical tradition for philosophical theology. His research has continued to focus on the intersection of politics, theology and philosophy. The primary focus was on the continental tradition insofar as it embraced philosophers and theologians from phenomenological (e.g., Karl Barth, Edmund Husserl, Emmanuel Levinas) and (post-) Marxist backgrounds (e.g., Sergei Bulgakov, Georg Lukacs, Theodor Adorno, Fredric Jameson). He has forthcoming articles on political theology focusing on Adorno, Derrida and John Milbank. A second related field of interest has been in aesthetics and culture where Dr. Lawrence examined how aesthetic practices organize and project the human desire for the good in specific political and social contexts. His most recent publication in this area is on “The Makings and Unmakings of the Self in Contemporary Iranian Painting” (Nukta Art, 2007). Finally, the paper that Prof. Lawrence is presenting at this year’s AMSS conference is part of a larger project that studies the interrelation of political and Christological reflection in the early Franciscan movement. As a companion to this paper, Dr. Lawrence presented a paper on “Daughter of the King of Kings: The Political Christology of Clare of Assisi” at the 33rd International Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Conference at Villanova (October, 2008).