

C. Donald Smedley
Curriculum Vitae
Rivendell Institute
291 Edwards Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203.785.0164
c.donald.smedley@yale.edu

TITLE Vice-President, Rivendell Institute
Senior Research Fellow
Director, Center for Track Two Diplomacy & Religious Freedom

EDUCATION

1995 – 1999 Oriel College, University of Oxford
Study toward M.Phil/D.Phil in Philosophical Theology

1984 – 1986 Tufts University
Study toward M.A., Philosophy

1980 – 1981 University of Aberdeen, Scotland
Study toward M.Phil., Philosophy

1980 Th.M., Theology, *cum laude*
Dallas Theological Seminary

1974 B.A., Molecular Biology, *cum laude*
University of California, San Diego

HONORS

2012 – present Fellow, Berkeley College, Yale University

2004 – 2005 Templeton Foundation & American Scientific Affiliation Grant

1980 – 1981 Rotary Graduate Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rivendell Institute, Senior Fellow 1995 – present
Director, Center for Track Two Diplomacy & Religious Freedom 2015 – present
New Haven, Connecticut

National Geographic Channel and Scott Free Productions 2014
Scholar Consultant, *Killing Jesus*

Henry Holt Company, Macmillan Publishers 2013
Scholar Consultant, *Killing Jesus*

Guest Lecturer, History of Christianity Religious Studies Department, Yale University	Summer 2009
Co-Convener, Law and Religion Reading Group, “Justice, Religion, and the Public Square, Yale Law School, Yale University	Spring 2009
Teaching Fellow, Philosophy of Religion Philosophy Department, Yale University	Spring 2005
Teaching Fellow, Metaphysics Philosophy Department, Yale University	Fall 2005
Challenge of Religion in the Public Square, Summer Seminar, School of Leadership, Colorado State University, June 30 th – July 11 th	July 2003
Instructor, Philosophy of Science, July 2 nd – 6 th ; and Engaging Contemporary Culture Project, Lectures on Quine, Kuhn, Philosophy of Mind, July 2 nd – 13 th , School of Leadership Colorado State University	July 2001
International Traveling Speaker Cru	1980 – 1991
Instructor, Ethics, School of Leadership Colorado State University	July 1983
Minister to Single Adults, Northwest Bible Church Dallas, TX	1979 – 1980
Teaching Assistant, Biochemistry Chemistry Department, University of California, San Diego	Spring 1973

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Philosophy – religion and politics, natural law theory, human rights, nature of justice,
role of religion in the public square

Islam and Christianity – religious pluralism and diversity, religious freedom

Philosophy of Science – particularly the nature of the privileged status of scientific knowledge,
scientific realism, religion and science

PUBLICATIONS

“The Evangelical Mind and the University Parachurch,” *The State of the Evangelical Mind*, eds.,
Todd C. Ream, Jerry Pattengale, and Christopher J. Devers, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press,
2019.

“Francis Schaeffer,” *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing
Ltd, 2011.

PAPERS

“Understanding the Role of Evangelicals on Religious Freedom in US Public and Foreign Policy,” Consultation on Islam and Evangelical Christianity, Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego, CA November 2019.

“The Rise of Tolerance in the Middle East,” Conference on Religion and Society, Politics & Religion, University of Granada, Spain, April 2019.

“Religious Freedom for One Means Religious Freedom for All,” Consultation on Islam and Evangelical Christianity, Evangelical Theological Society, Denver, CO November 2018.

“The Evangelical Mind and the University Parachurch,” Symposium on *The State of the Evangelical Mind: Reflections on the Past, Prospects for the Future*, sponsored by Indiana Wesleyan University, Excelsia College, Sagamore Institute, Museum of the Bible, InterVarsity Press, and *Christianity Today*, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 2017.

“Islam & Evangelical Christianity – Is a Productive Dialogue Possible?” Evangelical Theological Society, San Antonio, Texas, November 2016.

“Loving Your Neighbor: Who is My Neighbor in a Globalized World, and What Do I Owe Her?,” San Diego, California, Evangelical Philosophical Society, November 2014.

“Abu al-Maturidi and the Role of Reason in Religious Diversity” Eudaimonism and Divine Command Graduate Seminar,” Yale University, Spring Term 2014.

“Objective Pluralism as a Principle for Track Two Diplomacy,” Evangelical Theological Society, Eastern Regional Meeting, March 2014.

“Is Religious Exclusivism Necessary for a Coherent Concept of Tolerance?” Evangelical Philosophical Society, Baltimore, Maryland, November 2013.

“Objective Pluralism: From Hick to Eck,” Evangelical Philosophical Society, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 2012.

“Religious Pluralism,” 2012 Global Conference of Chaplains in Higher Education, Yale University, June 2012.

“Objective Pluralism: A Response to the New Religious Pluralism,” Society of Christian Philosophers, Little Rock, Arkansas, March 2012.

“A Defense of ‘Loving God and Neighbor Together: A Christian Response to A Common Word Between Us and You,’” (also known as the Yale Response), *Evangelicals and a Common Word*, Evangelical Theological Society, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2009.

“Hare on Divine Command Theory and Natural Law,” Evangelical Philosophical Society, Providence, Rhode Island, November 2008.

“Islam and Science: *Conceptualizing* the Debate,” Critical Islamic Reflections Conference, Yale University, April 2008.

“Is a Christian Concept of Human Rights Coherent?,” Evangelical Philosophical Society, San Diego, California, November 2007.

“Understanding Islam and Christianity,” Yale Forum on Faith and Politics, Yale University, Spring 2007.

“Christianity, Human Rights and Public Policy,” Evangelical Philosophical Society, Washington DC, November 2006.

“Christianity and Science: Some Observations, Opportunities and Obligations,” Redeeming Reason Conference, University of Chicago, November 2006.

“The Role of Religion in Human Rights,” Rivendell Colloquium on Human Flourishing, Yale University, March 2005.

“Christianity and Human Rights,” National Faculty Leadership Conference, Washington DC, June 2004.

“Principles from Jesus’ Treatment of People as Patterns for Business Management: Developing People vs Using Them,” Biola University, 1999.

“Scientific Realism and Eliminative Materialism,” The Joseph Butler Society, University of Oxford, Michaelmas Term, 1997.

“Is the Universal in the Category of Substance Really a Universal? An Inquiry into Aristotle’s Notion of Substance, Form and Universal,” Aristotelian Society, Tufts University, 1985.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Society of Christian Philosophers
Evangelical Philosophical Society
Evangelical Theological Society
American Scientific Affiliation

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Member, Yale Religious Ministries	2001 – present
Director, Board of Directors, Rivendell Institute	1995 – present
Director, Board of Directors, New England District Association, Evangelical Free Church of America	2008 – 2017
Chairman, Steering Committee for Consultation of Islam and Evangelical Christianity, Evangelical Theological Society	2016 – present
Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, <i>Sixth Assembly of the Forum for Promoting Peace</i> , “The Role of Religions in Promoting Tolerance,” Abu Dhabi, UAE, invited participant, December 9 th – 11 th	2019

- Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, State Department, Washington DC, 2019
invited participant, July 16th – 18th
- Council on Foreign Relations, “Two-Day Workshop on Religion & Foreign Policy,” New York City, New York, invited participant, June 25th – 26th 2019
- Tension of Engaging Islam as a Christian and as a Citizen: Competing Responsibilities*, Consultation on Islam & Evangelical Christianity, Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego California. Moderator and Panelist. 2019
Other panelists: Darrell Bock, Dallas Theological Seminary; Tony Maalouf, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Mike Kuhn, Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut; Imad Shehadeh, Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary, Amman; R. Albert Mohler, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; John Hartley, Yale University; Ayman Ibrahim, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Does Religious Freedom for One Mean Religious Freedom for All?*, Consultation on Islam & Evangelical Christianity, Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego California. Moderator and Panelist. Other panelists: Jennifer Bryson, Religious Freedom Institute; R. Albert Mohler, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Darrell Bock, Dallas Theological Seminary; John Hartley, Yale University; Ayman Ibrahim, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary 2018
- NAE Talk: Understanding Islam in America*, National Association of Evangelicals, Wheaton, Illinois, invited participant, March 7th 2018
- Alliance of Virtue for the Common Good*, conference on the Marrakesh Declaration and Religious Freedom, Washington DC, invited participant, February 5th – 7th 2108
- The Gospel, Compassion and Justice and the EFCA*, Evangelical Free Church of America Theology Conference on Islam, Racial and Social Justice, San Antonio, Texas, invited participant, January 31st – February 2nd 2018
- Symposium on *The State of the Evangelical Mind: Reflections on the Past, Prospects for the Future*, sponsored by Indiana Wesleyan University, Excelsia College, Sagamore Institute, Museum of the Bible, InterVarsity Press, and *Christianity Today*, Indianapolis, Indiana, plenary speaker, September 21st – 22nd 2017
- Consultation on North American Evangelical Engagement with Muslims*, sponsored by the Lausanne Movement, Fuller Theological Seminary, and Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan, invited participant, August 24th–26th 2017
- “Islam & Evangelical Christianity – Is a Productive Dialogue Possible?” Evangelical Theological Society, San Antonio Texas. Panel Coordinator, Moderator and Panelist. Other panelists: Darrell Bock, Dallas Theological 2016

Seminary; Dudley Woodberry, Fuller Seminary; Nabeel Qureshi, RZIM & University of Oxford; Robin Hadaway, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Joseph Cumming, International Church at Yale	
Conference on <i>Islamophobia and Religious Freedom</i> , Temple University, sponsored by the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy, Peace Catalyst, the Dialogue Institute, invited participant, October 6 th – 8 th	2015
International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief, <i>Joint Action for the Common Good</i> , invited NGO Participant, One UN Hotel and German Mission to the UN, New York, New York, November 17 th – 19 th	2015
<i>The Future of Religious Pluralism in the Middle East</i> , “Religion and Foreign Initiative,” Council on Foreign Relations, New York, New York, invited participant, June 25 th	2015
<i>A Conversation with Shaykh Abdallah bin Bayyah</i> , “Religion and Foreign Policy Initiative,” Council on Foreign Relations, New York, New York, invited participant, June 4 th	2015
<i>Democracy and Religious Tolerance in Tunisia</i> , “Religion and Foreign Policy Initiative,” Council on Foreign Relations, New York, New York, February 26 th	2015
Director, Islam & Christianity Working Group, Yale University	2005 – 2013
Doha Interfaith Conference, <i>Best Practices in Interfaith Dialogue</i> , invited participant, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Doha, Qatar, April 23 rd – 25 th	2013
<i>Science, Faith, and Truth Project</i> , panelist, a Templeton Foundation funded project of The Trinity Forum, Osprey Point, Maryland; Stanford University; Harvard University	2009/2010/2011
Coordinator of several projects for the Reconciliation Program, Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Yale University	2009 – 2010
<i>Christian Faith in the Muslim World</i> Seminar, Overseas Ministry Study Center [OMSC], New Haven, Connecticut, Certificate Muslim Studies, March 1 st – 5 th	2010
Panel Coordinator, and panelist, <i>Evangelicals and A Common Word</i> , Evangelical Theological Society, discussion with Evangelicals of The Common Word initiative and the Yale Response. Other panelists: Joseph Cumming, Yale University; R. Albert Mohler, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; John Piper, Bethlehem Baptist Church; Joseph Lumbard, Brandeis University; Caner Dagli, Holy Cross University; J. P. Moreland, moderator, Talbot Theological Seminary; New Orleans, Louisiana, November 18 th	2009

- A Common Word Between Us and You: A Global Agenda for Change* Conference, sponsored by Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim–Christian Understanding, Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, and the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought, Amman, Jordan, Washington DC, October 7th – 8th 2009
- Global Leadership Forum, *Evangelicals and Muslims: Conversations on Respect, Reconciliation, and Religious Freedom*, sponsored by the Institute for Global Engagement and Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim–Christian Understanding, Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington DC, June 16th – 17th 2009
- A Common Word: Evangelical Christian – Muslim Dialogue*, Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, California, April 16th – 19th 2009
- A Common Word* Workshop, July 24th – 28th , and Conference July 28th – 31st, *Loving God and Neighbor in Word and Deed: Implications for Christians and Muslims*, invited participant, sponsored by Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Yale University, and the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought, Amman, Jordan 2008
- First Principles Seminar: An Examination of the Natural Law, and its Implications for Political Life, Individual Action, and Legal Institutions*, sponsored by the Witherspoon Institute, Princeton University, July 30th – August 10th 2007
- Opening of the Evangelical Mind*, sponsored by the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, Boston University, invited participant, December 7th – 8th 2007