

Dr. Barry Stephenson (Waterloo)

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Barry Stephenson holds a PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Calgary (2005).

Main research and ongoing projects

Stephenson's field of research lies in ritual studies, especially festivity, celebration, and pilgrimage, and religion and literature.

He is completing a book manuscript and DVD on Protestant sacred space, festivity, and pilgrimage in Wittenberg, Germany. The use of digital video for purposes of data collection, as well as analysis and interpretation is central to this research.

Recent publications in the area of ritual and media include 2008 "Luther's *Thesenportal*: a case study of a 'ritual-architectural event'", *Material Religion* 4(1) and 2007 "Swaggering Savagery and the New Frontier", *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 16. Both articles not only reflect on the intersection of ritual and media but also combine text and image as interpretive, analytical, and critical tools. Dr. Stephenson currently teaches as an instructor in the Religion and Culture Department at Wilfrid Laurier University, in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Major publications

Books

In progress *Performing the Reformation: Public Ritual in Lutherstadt Wittenberg* (with DVD)

Recent Articles

- 2008 'Luther's Thesenportal: a case study of a 'ritual-architectural event'', *Material Religion* 4(1): 54-85.
- 2007 'Swaggering Savagery and the New Frontier', *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 16 (<http://www.usask.ca/relst/jrpc/art16-swaggering.html>)
- 2005 'The Koan as Ritual Performance', *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 73(2): 475-496.