

Raj Nadella

Samuel A. Cartledge Associate Professor of New Testament
and Director of MA(TS) Degree
Columbia Theological Seminary
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. New Testament
 Union Theological Seminary
 Richmond, Virginia, 2010
- M.A.B.L. Biblical Languages
 Graduate Theological Union
 Berkeley, California, 2000
- M.Div/B.D United Theological College
 India, 1995
- B.Th. Serampore College
 India, 1992

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- Samuel A. Cartledge Associate Professor of New Testament, July 2019-
- Assistant Professor of New Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary, July 2012-
- Adjunct Instructor, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Fall 2011-Summer 2012
- Visiting Instructor, Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan, Fall 2008-Spring 2011
- Sabbatical Replacement, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, Chicago, 2007-2008
- Visiting Instructor, The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2004-2007

Courses Taught

Postcolonial Readings of the New Testament; The Bible and Economic Justice; The Letters of Paul; Biblical Greek; Introduction to the New Testament; Jesus and the Gospels; Luke-Acts; Christian Origins; World Christianities; The Historical Jesus

PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

- *Dialogue Not Dogma: Many Voices in the Gospel of Luke*. Continuum/T&T Clark, 2011; paperback, 2012.

Reviewed at the 2011 Annual AAR-SBL Meeting in San Francisco

Reviewed at United Theological College, Bangalore, August 12, 2011

- *Postcolonialism and the Bible*. A textbook in the "Guides for the Perplexed" series that delineates the origins, history, and new directions in postcolonial biblical studies. T& T Clark, forthcoming, 2019. With Steed Davidson.

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

- *The Synoptics and Empire: To Each Its Own Strategy* (projected completion, 2019). A synthetic analysis of disparate portrayals of the Roman empire in Mark, Matthew, Luke. Using insights from postcolonial studies and redaction criticism, I examine how such diverse portrayals illuminate the political and ecclesial contexts of Christian communities that produced these texts and the varied strategies they employed to resist the empire.
- *Christianity and the Law of Migration*, co-edited with Silas Allard and Kristin Heyer, Projected completion in 2020.

ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

- "The Rise of Postcolonial Criticism in biblical Studies and its Current Status" in *Oxford Handbook of Postcolonial Biblical Criticism*, ed. R.S. Sugirtharajah. Oxford University Press (forthcoming 2020).
- "Migration in the New Testament," in *Christianity and the Law of Migration: An Introduction*, eds., Silas Allard, Kristin Heyer, Raj Nadella, forthcoming 2020.
- "Consolidation and Complicity: A Political-Economic Reading of Revelation 18," in *Semeia Studies*, forthcoming in 2019.
- "Privilege and Solidarity in Asian American Context" in *Asian American Handbook on Biblical Hermeneutics*, eds., Seung Ai and Uriah Kim. T & T Clark/Bloomsbury, April 2019.
- "Gemma Augustea, Imperial Paradox, and the Matthean Resistance" in *Scripture and Resistance*, ed., Jione Havea, Fortress/Lexington Books, November 2018.
- "Pentecost as a Challenge to the Roman Empire's Values and Ethos," lead essay for a series on Acts in *Journal For Preachers*, March 2018.
- Three Exegetical Essays on Matthew. *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary* project. Westminster John Knox, 2018.
- "The Two Banquets: Mark's Vision of Anti-Imperial Economics," in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, April 2016.
- "The Motif of Hybridity in the Story of the Canaanite Woman and Its Relevance for Multi-faith Relations" in *Many Yet One? Multiple Religious Belonging*, published by the World Council of Churches, 2015.

- “Writing Personally,” in *Writing Theologically*. Edited by Eric Barreto. Fortress Press, 2015.
- The Ambivalent Pilate: Reverse Mimicry in Matthew’s Gospel,” in *Bangalore Theological Forum*, June 2014.
- Three Exegetical Articles on Luke in *Feasting on the Gospels*, Westminster John Knox, 2013.
- A Response Essay to Wes Avram’s Lead Essay “Faith and Facebook” on @This Point, June 2013.
- “Postcolonialism, Colonial Mimicry and Translation,” *Semeia Studies*, edited by Roland Boer and Scott Elliott. 2012.
- “Ephesians,” in DeYoung and Yamada (eds.), *The People’s Bible*, Fortress Press, 2008.
- “Wicked or Foolish? A Postcolonial Reading of the Parable of Tenants” in *Indian Journal of Theology*, September 2007.
- Book review of *Jesus and Gospel* by Graham N. Stanton (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004) in *Interpretation*, July 2006.
- Book review of *Origins of Christmas* by Joseph F. Kelly (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004) in *Review of Biblical Literature*, April 2005.

SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- Contributor, “American Values Religious Voices,” a national campaign featuring letters from 100 scholars from diverse faith traditions to the new administration reinforcing “core American values that should continue to guide us.” Also in book format: *American Values, Religious Voices. 100 DAYS. 100 LETTERS*, University of Cincinnati Press, 2018.
- "Seeking Wholeness in an Inherently Flawed System (John 5:1-9)," in *The Huffington Post*, May 1, 2016.
- “When War Becomes a Way of Life (2 Samuel 11:1-15),” in *The Huffington Post*, July 20, 2015.
- "From Bondage to Freedom: Discovering our Identity as a Freed People called to free others," in *Presbyterians Today*, January-March Issue, 2016.
- Contributed to AIB (Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters) TV Series on Introduction to Christianity. Gave two interviews--"Christianity in India" and "Early Christianity"--that aired in October 2014.
- “Reorienting Ourselves to the Earth,” an On Scripture essay in *The Huffington Post*, June 21, 2014.
- “Fear and Wisdom in the Immigration Debate,” in *The Huffington Post*, June 23, 2013.

INVITED PANEL AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist, Review of the Festschrift *Bridges in New Testament Interpretation: Interdisciplinary Advances* to celebrate the legacy of Richard Horsley, at the 2018 National Meeting of the SBL in Denver.
- Presider, “Land and the Common Good” session hosted by the “Economics in the Biblical World” section at the 2017 National Meeting of the SBL in Boston.
- Panelist, “Foundations for Sociorhetorical Exploration from a Postcolonial Perspective,” at the 2017 National Meeting of the SBL in Boston.
- “Desiring the Demon: Resistance and Desire in the Gadarene Demoniac Story in Luke 8” at the International Meeting of the SBL in Berlin, August 8, 2017.
- “Paradoxes Galore” at the Council for World Mission Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, May 21, 2017.
- "Luke and Empire: A Synchronic and Synthetic Approach" at the National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Antonio, Texas, November 2016.
- "Solidarity in the Asian-American Theological Guild," Association of Asian North American Theological Educators (AANATE) Conference, Decatur, October 2016.
- “The Mission and Vision of Biblical Criticism in the Global South,” a panel presentation at the International Meeting of the SBL in Seoul, South Korea, July 2016.
- “The Jerusalem Temple and Its Role in Land Consolidation in the First Century” at the 2015 National Meeting of SBL in Atlanta.
- "Hybridity and Identity in the Story of the Canaanite Woman in Matthew 15," at the World Council of Churches Conference in Chennai, October 2014.
- Panelist for the SBL's Annual Session on "Minoritized Readings" at the 2013 National Meeting of the SBL in Baltimore.
- “The Ambivalent Pilate: Reverse Replication in Matthew’s Portrayal of Pontius Pilate” at the 2013 National Meeting of the SBL in Baltimore.
- Respondent at the Review Session on “Dialogue Not Dogma” Many Voices in the Gospel of Luke” at the 2011 National Meeting of the SBL in San Francisco.
- Presider, “Asian and Asian-Hermeneutics” section at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the SBL in Atlanta.
- For the Joy of the Master: An Ideological Reading of the Parable of the Talents,” presented at the 2009 National Meeting of the SBL in New Orleans.
- Postcolonialism, Colonial Mimicry, and Translation, A Panel Presentation on *Exploring the intersection of Translation Studies and Critical Theory in Biblical Studies*, at the 2008 National Meeting of the SBL in Boston.

- “About Dogs and Children: Undermining and Underlining Social Boundaries in Mark 7,” at the 2008 National Meeting of the SBL in Boston.
- “(Un)likely Bedfellows: A Hybrid Reading of the Parable of Lazarus and the Richman,” at the 2008 National Meeting of the SBL in Boston .
- “Special Economic Zones as Latifundialization: A Rereading of the Parable of Tenants in Indian Context,” at the 2007 National Meeting of the SBL in San Diego.
- “Loopholes in dialogue: A Bakhtinian Reading of Luke 10:25-42,” at the 2006 National Meeting of the SBL in Washington, D.C.
- Panelist, Review of *Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*, eds. Sandra Bermann, Michael Wood (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005) at the 2006 National Meeting of the SBL in Washington, D.C.
- “Sizing up the Mighty: A Carnavalesque and Dialogical Reading of Luke 14-16,” at the 2006 Southeastern Regional Meeting of the SBL in Atlanta.
- “Choosing Not to Choose: Negotiating the Tricky Terrain between the Text and the Context,” at the 2005 National Meeting of the SBL in Philadelphia.
- “The Return of the Beloved: Perorative Function of Romans 11:25-26a in the Context of chs. 9-11,” at the 2005 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the SBL in New Brunswick, NJ.
- “A Bakhtinian Reading of the Nazareth Episode,” delivered at the 2004 Southeastern Regional Meeting of the SBL in Atlanta.

SELECTED SERVICE TO THE GUILD

- Area Editor, *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Biblical Studies*. My role is to help expand their coverage of New Testament Studies and define its direction.
- “Reflections from a Pre-tenured Faculty Member,” in the Association of Theological Schools Faculty Blog, September 28, 2017.
- Chair, Working Group of the Bangkok Communique that emerged out of a CWM global consultation in which Sixty Scholars from dozens of countries participated, May 2017.
- ATS Talk on "Surviving and Thriving as Theological Educators" at the Roundtable Seminar for the Newly Appointed Faculty, October 14, 2016, Chicago.
- ATS Panel Presentation on "GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching)" at the Roundtable Seminar for the Newly Appointed Faculty, October 15, 2016, Chicago.
- As part of efforts by SBL's International Cooperative Initiative (ICI), collaborated on a document that characterizes the International Meetings--as well as SBL's growing internationalism--as recognizing and fostering intellectually “contested spaces.”
- Member of SBL's Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession (CUREMP).

- Member of the steering committee of SBL's section on Postcolonial Studies and Biblical Studies, 2017-
- Member of the steering committee of SBL's section on Economics in the Biblical World, 2016-
- Member of the steering committee of SBL's Asian and Asian-American Hermeneutics group, 2009-2012.
- Member of the steering committee of SBL's Ideology, Culture, and Translation group, 2007-2011.
- Co-convener SBL's Bakhtin and Biblical Imagination Group, 2006-2010.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Society of Biblical Literature

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

- Plenary Bible Study Teacher, 223rd General Assembly, June 16-23, 2018, St. Louis.
- Member, National Council of Churches in the USA's Faith and Order Commission (also known as "Theological Dialogue and Matters of Faith and Order Convening Table).
- Moderator, National Council of Churches Sponsored Panel on Migration and Displacement, April 20, 2018, Washington, DC.
- Member, PC(USA)'s General Assembly Committee on Representation.
- Co-author, "Theology of Representation" document. Tabled at the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), June 2018, St. Louis.
- PC(USA) Task Force: served on a PC(USA) study team that drafted a denominational policy paper on human trafficking that was adopted by the General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, in May 2016. Wrote the biblical/theological piece for the policy paper explicating the link between trafficking and neoliberal global economy.
- Residency Committee, Central Presbyterian Church, Fall 2014- Spring 2016.
- Contributed to the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook on behalf of Columbia Theological Seminary, 2014 and 2016.

SERVICE TO THE CTS COMMUNITY

- Co-convening with Silas Allard, Associate Director of the Center for Law and Religion. A Conference on Migration and Border Crossings, scheduled for February 7-9, 2019.
- Co-hosted, with Dr. Jefferey Tribble, NCC's Faith and Order Commission, May 10-12.
- Convened, with Dean Yoder, a faculty panel on Theological Research in Current Political Context, April 2018.
- Co-authored with John Azumah and Marcia Riggs, Wabash Proposal for Consultation on Race, Racism and Multicultural Pedagogies. Grant received in November 2017.
- Co-convened with Brennan Breed, the Bible, Empire, Reception History Conference in Fall 2015.
- Bible Area Chair, Fall 2015-. Planned and co-hosted the Smyth Lectures in Fall 2016 and the O'Connor Lectures in Spring 2016.
- Chair, International Programs Committee, Fall 2013 - Spring 2015. Helped establish new institutional partnerships in several countries and strengthened existing partnerships.
- Served on several task forces, including the Enrollment Management Task Force, September 2014 - January 2015.

SELECTED ACADEMIC LECTURES AND ECCLESIAL TEACHING

- Theologian-in-Residence, White Memorial Church, Raleigh, March 3-4, 2018.
- "Theology for Table Turning: Radical Hospitality as the Essence of God's Kin(g)dom," at the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Mid Council Leaders Gathering, October 6, 2017 in St. Louis.
- "The Parables of Jesus," Decatur Presbyterian Church, July 16 and 23, 2017.
- "The Roman Empire and Early Christianity," a five-lecture series at PC(USA)'s Asian Leadership Study Program, Decatur, August 2016.
- "Emerging Trends in Biblical Interpretation," at Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Hyderabad, India, July 2016.
- Three-part Series on "The Birth Narratives in Luke's Gospel," Central Presbyterian Church, November 29-December 13, 2015.
- "The Politics of the Feeding Narratives in the Synoptics," Emmanuel Church, Challapalli, India. December 2015.
- "Postcolonialism and the Bible," at Pepperdine University, California, November 2014.
- "Gender Debates in the Early Church: Biblical and Historical Perspectives," at First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, November 2014.

- Four-part Series on "The Book of Acts and the Roman Empire," at Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, September 2104.
- "Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith," Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, August 2014.
- A Seven-week Adult Series (April 6 – May 19, 2013) based on *Feasting on the Word* at Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta.
- A Special Lecture on "Biblical Perspectives on Economic Justice," Central Presbyterian Church Summer Lecture Series, June 2013.
- A Lecture on "Resilience in Times of Crisis" at First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta in June 2013.
- "Use of Postcolonial Theory in Biblical Studies," at The College of William & Mary, October 2011.
- "Mikhail Bakhtin and the Bible," at the United Theological College, Bangalore, August, 2011.
- Speaker, Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, Chicago, July 1, 2012.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Teaching Fellow, Union Theological Seminary, 2002-2003
- Samuel Lecter Prize, United Theological College, 1995
- Stanton Morris Prize in New Testament Studies, United Theological College, 1995
- Award for proficiency in Greek, Serampore College, 1992

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Regional Coordinator, The Association for Theological Education by Extension (TAFTEE), Hyderabad, India, April 1995–June 1997: Developed curriculum and designed contextually relevant course modules for lay Theological Education in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- Coordinator of Current Events, Union Theological Seminary, September 2000–May 2002. Current Events is a campus organization that meets twice a month in order to discuss the social, economic, political, and theological issues affecting the church and the society
- Chair, Mozambique Fundraising Committee, San Francisco Theological Seminary, 2000: Together with the committee, I raised more than \$ 15, 000.00 for the flood victims in Mozambique.
- International Student Coordinator and Member of World Christianity Committee, San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA. August 1998–May 2000.
- General Secretary, Carey Society, United Theological College, July 1994–March 1995:

Carey Society, a collective of campus organizations, organizes seminars and lectures on political, economic, and theological issues. Responsibilities included serving as the liaison between different student and faculty organizations and overseeing the planning and execution of programs.