

DAVID M. CSINOS

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CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, NS

EDUCATION

- 2010–present Ph.D. (candidate), Practical Theology, University of St. Michael's College,
Toronto School of Theology, Toronto, ON
Dissertation: *An Exploration of Children and Culture in the United
Church of Canada*
Supervisor: The Rev. Dr. Pamela D. Couture
- 2008–2010 Th.M., Christian Education, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA
Thesis: *“Maîtres Chez Nous”: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of
Roman Catholic Emerging Adults in Québec*
Supervisor: Dr. Pamela Mitchell-Legg
- 2006–2008 M.T.S., Ministry Studies, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON
McMaster Divinity College
Thesis: *Including All Children: A Qualitative Exploration of
Spiritual Personalities and Children's Experiences with
God and Church*
Supervisor: Dr. Joyce E. Bellous
- 2002–2005 B.A., Religion and Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Csinos, David M. *Faith Forward, Volume 3: Further Adventures in Re-Imagining Children's and Youth Ministry* (in process).

Csinos, David M. and Melvin Bray, eds. *Faith Forward, Volume 2: Re-Imagining Children's and Youth Ministry*. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2015. Foreword by Jennifer Knapp.

Csinos, David M. and Ivy Beckwith. *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2013. Foreword by John H. Westerhoff III.

Csinos, David M. and Melvin Bray, eds. *Faith Forward: A Dialogue on Children, Youth, and a New Kind of Christianity*. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2013. Foreword by Shane Claiborne.

Csinos, David M. *Children's Ministry that Fits: Beyond One-Size-Fits-All Approaches to Nurturing Children's Spirituality*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011. Foreword by Joyce E. Bellous. Afterword by Brian D. McLaren.

Chapters in books

Csinos, David M. "Falling Leaf Catcher: Awe and Wonder." In *Re-Envisioning Children's Ministry: A Guide for Churches*. Edited by Sally Nash, Carolyn Edwards, and Sian Hancock. London: Jessica Kingsley (in process).

Csinos, David M. and Melvin Bray. "Food, Fire, and Folk Songs." In *Faith Forward, Volume 2: Re-Imagining Children's and Youth Ministry*, edited by David M. Csinos and Melvin Bray. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2015.

Beckwith, Ivy, and David M. Csinos. "Megachurches, Dark Nights, and Wonder Bread Communion." In *Faith Forward, Volume 2: Re-Imagining Children's and Youth Ministry*, edited by David M. Csinos and Melvin Bray. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2015.

Csinos, David M. "In the Adventure: Nurturing a Spirit of Interculturalism through Ministry with Children." In *Exploring and Engaging Spirituality for Today's Children: A Holistic Approach*, edited by La Verne Tolbert, 307-19. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2014.

DAVID M. CSINOS

- Csinos, David M. and Melvin Bray. "Many Paths, One Journey." In *Faith Forward: A Dialogue on Children, Youth, and a New Kind of Christianity*, edited by David M. Csinos and Melvin Bray, 15-19. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2013.
- Csinos, David M. "Yours, Mine, and Ours." In *Faith Forward: A Dialogue on Children, Youth, and a New Kind of Christianity*, edited by David M. Csinos and Melvin Bray, 229-40. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2013.
- Csinos, David M. "What's in a Name? Forming the Identity of Children through Christian Naming Ceremonies." In *Understanding Children's Spirituality: Theology, Research, and Practice*, edited by Kevin E. Lawson, 264-82. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2012.
- Csinos, David M. "Questioning the 'Right' Answers: Faith Formation in the Postmodern Matrix." In *Shaped by God: Twelve Essentials for Nurturing Faith in Children, Youth, and Adults*, edited by Robert J. Keeley, 153-64. Grand Rapids: Faith Alive, 2010.

Refereed articles

- Csinos, David M. "The Cultural Gap: Acknowledging Culture and Cultural Diversity in Childhood Studies and Religion" (in process).
- Csinos, David M. and Ivy Beckwith. "Better Together: The Formative Power of Intergenerational Community." *Journal of Family and Community Ministries* 28 (2015): 32-47.
- Csinos, David M. and Ivy Beckwith. "Raising Thomas: Questions and Doubts as Catalysts for Faith Formation in Children and Youth." *Journal of Family and Community Ministries* 27 (2014): 87-101.
- Csinos, David M. and Ivy Beckwith. "Doing Children's Ministry Differently." *Lifelong Faith* 7, no. 4 (2013): 42-6.
- Csinos, David M. "'What can I say to them?' Messages about War and Peace in a Mennonite Children's Periodical during World War II." *Journal of Mennonite Studies* 31 (2013): 11-30.
- Csinos, David M. "Four Ways of Knowing God: Exploring Children's Spiritual Styles." *Journal of Childhood and Religion* 1, no. 8 (2010): 1-32.
- Csinos, David M. "Saturated Spirituality: Creating Environments that Nurture All Children." *Lifelong Faith* 4, no. 3 (2010): 3-15.

Csinos, David M., Daniel L. Jennings, Brian D. McLaren, and Karen Marie Yust. "Where are the Children? Keeping Sight of Young Disciples in the Emerging Church Movement." *Family and Community Ministries* 23, no. 4 (2010): 10-21.

Csinos, David M. "Will Boys be Boys and Girls be Girls? Correcting Gender Stereotypes through Ministry with Children." *Priscilla Papers* 24, no. 2 (2010): 23-8.

Csinos, David M. "'Come, Follow Me': Apprenticeship in Jesus' Approach to Education." *Religious Education* 105, no. 1 (2010): 45-62.

Bellous, Joyce E. and David M. Csinos. "Spiritual Styles: Creating an Environment to Nurture Spiritual Wholeness." *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* 14, no. 3 (2009): 213-24.

Csinos, David. "The Biblical Theme of Welcoming Children." *McMaster Journal of Theology and Ministry* 8 (2007): 97-117.

Book reviews

The Power of Children: The Construction of Christian Families in the Greco-Roman World, by Margaret Y. MacDonald. Waco: Baylor University Press, 204. *Toronto Journal of Theology* (in process).

The Encounters: Retelling the Bible from Migration and Intercultural Perspectives, by HyeRan Kim-Cragg and EunYoung Choi. Daejeon, South Korea: Daejanggan, 2013. *Toronto Journal of Theology* 30, no. 2 (2015): 329-30.

The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Practical Theology, edited by Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. *Religious Education* 109, no. 1 (2014): 100-102.

Ethics in Light of Childhood, by John Wall. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2010. *Journal of Childhood and Religion* 4, no. 1 (2013): 1-8.

Children's Voices: Children's Perspectives in Ethics, Theology, and Religious Education, edited by Annemie Dillen and Dieder Pollefeyt. Leuven: Peeters, 2010. *Toronto Journal of Theology* 28, no. 2 (2012): 343-5.

Drinking from the Same Well: Cross-Cultural Concerns in Pastoral Care and Counseling, by Lydia F. Johnson. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2011. *Toronto Journal of Theology* 28, no. 1 (2012): 175-6.

DAVID M. CSINOS

- God's Big Table: Nurturing Children in a Diverse World*, by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. Cleveland: Pilgrim, 2011. *Religious Education* 107, no. 1 (2012): 97-100.
- Teaching that Transforms: Why Anabaptist-Mennonite Education Matters*, by John D. Roth. Scottdale, PA/Waterloo, ON: Herald, 2011. *Conrad Grebel Review* 29, no. 3 (2011): 105-7.
- Just Hospitality: God's Welcome in a World of Difference*, by Letty M. Russell. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2009. *Toronto Journal of Theology* 27, no. 2 (2011): 300-301.
- Children and Childhood in World Religions: Primary Sources and Texts*, edited by Don S. Browning and Marcia J. Bunge. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2009. *Religious Education* 106, no. 4 (2011): 440-42.
- Women's Faith Development: Patterns and Processes*, by Nicola Slee. Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2004. *Religious Education* 106, no. 3 (2011): 350-52.
- Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Cultural Approach*, fourth edition, by Jeffrey Jensen Arnett. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2010. *Religious Education* 105, no. 4 (2010): 463-5.
- Children and Childhood in American Religions*, edited by Don S. Browning and Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2009. *Religious Education* 105, no. 1 (2010): 118-20.
- Reasons for Living: Education and Young People's Search for Meaning, Identity, and Spirituality: A Handbook*, by Marisa Crawford and Graham Rossiter. Camberwell, Australia: ACER, 2006. *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* 14, no. 4 (2009): 396-8.
- Children, Youth, and Spirituality in a Troubling World*, edited by Mary Elizabeth Moore and Almeda M. Wright. St. Louis: Chalice, 2008. *Religious Education* 104, no. 4 (2009): 453-6.
- Nurturing Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives and Best Practices*, edited by Holly Catterton Allen. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2008. *Religious Education* 104, no. 2 (2009): 217-20.
- Child Poverty: Love, Justice, and Social Responsibility*, by Pamela D. Couture. St. Louis: Chalice, 2007. *Religious Education* 103, no. 5 (2008): 587-9.

Additional articles, chapters, and resources

- Csinos, David M. "A Little Child Shall Lead Them." *Sojourners* 45, no. 5 (2016): 26-9.
- Csinos, David M. "Wired that Way." *Advocate: The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators* (29 February, 2016).
- Csinos, David M. "Small but Mighty." *Childrenswork* 1, no. 20 (2015): 18-20.
- Csinos, David M. "Launching a Revolution: How Faith Forward is Blazing a New Path in Children's and Youth Ministry." *Childrenswork* 1, no. 19 (2015): 39.
- Csinos, David M. "Calling All the People of God: On Not Leaving Children's Ministry to Professionals." *Leader* 11, no. 4 (2014): 2-4.
- Csinos, David M. "Why Passing on the Faith Isn't Good Enough." *Patheos.com* Symposium, "Passing on the Faith: Teaching the Next Generation" (2013).
- Beckwith, Ivy and David M. Csinos. "Formational Discipleship." *Childrenswork* 1, no. 7 (2013): 28-30.
- Csinos, David M. "Spiritual Styles," year-long series of six feature articles in *Roots: Adults and All Ages* and *Roots: Children and Young People*, no. 63-68 (2013).
- Csinos, David M. "Spirituality with Style." *Childrenswork* 1, no. 6 (2013): 20-23.
- Csinos, David M. and Brian D. McLaren. "Breaking the Bubble Wrap." *Sojourners* 41, no. 7 (2012): 16-22.
- Csinos, David M. "Presence." In *What Matters Now in Children's Ministry—Early Childhood Edition: 21 Perspectives on Influencing Faith from Birth to Age 4*, edited by Jill Crew and Amy Dolan, 32-3. Chicago: WMNCM, 2011.
- Csinos, David M. "Children in the Church: How Do We Welcome Them?" *Faith Today* (Jan/Feb 2011): 18-22.
- Csinos, David M. "But Why? The Vital Role of Asking Questions When God Speaks to Us." *In Part: The Magazine for the Brethren in Christ Community in North America* 123, no. 4 (2010): 6-9.
- Csinos, David M. "What to do with Postmodernism?" *Canadian Mennonite* 14, no. 9 (2010): 14.

DAVID M. CSINOS

Bellous, Joyce E., David M. Csinos, and Denise A. Peltomaki. *Spiritual Styles: Assessing What Really Matters*. Edmonton: Tall Pine, 2009.

Bellous, Joyce E., David M. Csinos, Denise A. Peltomaki, and Karen Bellous. *Spiritual Styles—Children's Version: Assessing What Really Matters*. Edmonton: Tall Pine, 2009.

Csinos, David M. "Building a Strong Foundation: Biblical Equality and Ministry with Children." *Mutuality* 15, no. 3 (2008): 7-9.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONOURS

- 2015 *Faith Forward* and *Faith Forward, Volume 2* nominated for the Grawemeyer Award in Religion
- 2013–2014 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, \$15,000
- 2013–2014 Order of St. Lazarus Bursary in Ecumenism, Toronto School of Theology, \$1,500
- 2013 Blanche Hume Advanced Degree Bursary, Emmanuel College, \$1,500
- 2012–2014 Teaching for Ministry Fellowship, Emmanuel College, \$11,500
- 2012–2013 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, \$15,000
- 2011–2013 Billes Advanced Degree Bursary, Emmanuel College, \$7,500
- 2011–2012 Ontario Graduate Scholarship \$15,000
- 2011 A. James Reimer Award, Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, \$9,000
- 2011 Higher Goals in Christian Journalism, Student Writer of the Year (second place) for "Will Boys be Boys and Girls be Girls?" published in *Priscilla Papers*
- 2008–2010 Graduate Fellowship, Union Presbyterian Seminary, \$29,250
- 2007 Muriel Israel Prize, McMaster Divinity College, \$600

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL

"Dynamics of Children's Ministry," January 2015

Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, NS

"Faith Formation in a Postmodern World," October 2013

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Emmanuel College of Victoria University

"Ministry Integration Seminar" (teaching fellow), Fall 2013

"Contextual Education" (teaching fellow), Fall 2013 - Winter 2014

DAVID M. CSINOS

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

St. Andrew's College

"Introduction to Christian Education" (online course), Winter 2012

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

"World Religions and Childhood" (teaching assistant), Winter 2009

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Society for Children's Spirituality Conference, Nashville, TN

Plenary presentation, "A Faith Worth Making: Understanding the Cultural Nature of Children's Theology—and Why It Matters," 13 June 2016

Toronto School of Theology Advanced Degree Student Conference, Toronto, ON

"Successes and Slip-Ups: Teaching in the Current Theological Education Landscape," with Erin Green and Moses Kang, 14 March 2014

Religious Education Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA

"Power Struggle: The Challenge of Mutual Learning in a Seminary Classroom," 9 November 2013

Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, Toronto, ON

"Re-Imagining the Spiritual Formation of Children in Intercultural Contexts," 7 March 2013

Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Chicago, IL

"Jesus Loves Which Little Children? A (Canadian) Proposal for Nurturing a Spirit of Interculturalism in Children," 12 June 2012

Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, Toronto, ON

"'What Shall I Say to Them?' Messages about War and Peace in a Mennonite Children's Periodical During World War II," 11 October 2011

Religious Education Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO

"'Maîtres Chez Nous': The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Roman Catholic Emerging Adults in Québec," 7 November 2010

Christians for Biblical Equality Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO

"Will Boys be Boys and Girls be Girls? Subverting Gender Stereotypes through Ministry with Children," 25 July 2009

Children's Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Chicago, IL
"What's in a Name? Forming the Identity of Children through Christian Naming Ceremonies," 16 June 2009

SELECTED WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, AND ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Faith Forward 2016, Chicago, IL

Keynote presentation, "Launching a Revolution in Ministry with Children and Youth" 18 April 2016

Halton Presbytery Network Day, United Church of Canada, Mississauga, ON

Keynote presentation, "Preaching and Living the Mission of the Church," 27 February, 2016

ConNEXT Conference, Minneapolis, MN

Keynote presentation, "Re-Imagining Faith Formation: (Un)Learning What Really Matters," 11 October 2015

Ignite Conference, Nazarene Children's Leadership Network, Kansas City, KS

Plenary presentation, "Yours, Mine, and Ours: Nurturing a Spirit of Interculturalism in Ministry with Children," 6 October 2015

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms Annual General Meeting, Falmouth, NS

Plenary presentation, "Faith Formation: All Ages, All the Time," 2 October 2015

Skylight Festival, Paris, ON

Presentation, "Re-Imagining Faith Formation," 1 August 2015

Merge Family Ministry Conference, United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN

Plenary presentation, "Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus," 30 May 2015

Centre for Theology and Ministry, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

Workshop series, "Re-Imagining Faith Formation," 4-7 May 2015

Leaders to Go, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Plenary presentation, "Empowering Household Faith," 29 April 2015

Plenary presentation: "Solidarity Down Under: Reflections on Leaders to Go," 1 May 2015

Faith Forward 2015, Chicago, IL

Plenary presentation, "Re-Imagining Children's and Youth Ministry through Theology, Relationship, and Practice," 20 April 2015

Synod of Southwestern Ontario, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Goderich, ON

Keynote presentation, “Re-Imagining Faith Formation: (Un)Learning What Really Matters,” 28 October 2014

Youth Forum, Newfoundland and Labrador Conference of the United Church of Canada, St. John’s, NL

Keynote presentation series, “Ambassadors of Faith,” 17-19 October 2014

Episcopal Diocese of Washington, Washington, DC

Keynote presentation series for Formation Leaders Retreat, “Re-Imagining Faith Formation,” 2-4 October 2014

Wild Goose Festival, Hot Springs, NC

Presentation, “Small but Mighty: The (Untapped) Formational Potential of Small Churches,” 27 June 2014

Faith Forward 2014, Nashville, TN

Plenary presentation, “Megachurches, Dark Nights, and Wonder Bread Communion: Our Stories of Doubt, Disillusionment, and Hope on the Journey of Re-Imagination,” with Ivy Beckwith, 19 May 2014

Knox College, Toronto, ON

Ada Adams Lecture, “Children’s Ministry in the Way of Jesus: Nurturing Young Disciples in a Changing Church,” 13 November 2013

Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche, NS

Workshop, “Children’s Ministry in the Way of Jesus,” 28 October 2013

Behold! An Intercultural Conference, United Church of Canada, Halifax, NS

Workshop, “Yours, Mine, and Ours: Nurturing a Spirit of Interculturalism with Children and Youth,” 24 October 2013

Camp Kintail Speaker Series, Goderich, ON

Keynote presentation, “12 Practices for Nurturing Faith in Children,” 7 May 2013.

Diocese of Toronto, Anglican Church of Canada, Toronto, ON

Workshop, “Children’s Ministry that Fits: Nurturing Faith through Spiritual Styles,” 21 February 2013.

The Centre for Excellence in Christian Education, Toronto, ON

Keynote presentation, “Children’s Ministry that Fits: Nurturing Faith through Spiritual Styles,” 3 November 2012.

DAVID M. CSINOS

Children, Youth, and a New Kind of Christianity, Washington, DC

Plenary presentation, “Yours, Mine, and Ours: Imagining Intercultural Ministry with Children,” 8 May 2012

Elmira Mennonite Church, Elmira, ON

Sunday school series, “Spiritual Styles: Assessing What Matters,” November—December 2011

Religious Education Association Annual Conference, Toronto, ON

Workshop, “Northern Reflections: Religious Education in Canada’s Multicultural Matrix,” 5 November 2011

Mennonite Church Canada National Assembly, Waterloo, ON

Workshop, “God’s Story, My Story: Grandparents and Children Learning God’s Story Together,” with Elsie Rempel, 8 July 2011

Children’s Spirituality Conference: Christian Perspectives, Chicago, IL

Research Methods Panelist, 16 June 2009

Religious Education Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

Workshop, “A Slice of Life: Responsibly Using Fictive Accounts of the Biblical Meta-Narrative,” 8 November 2008

SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS

Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering, Vancouver, BC

Presentation, “Revitalizing Christian Formation: Global Perspectives and Local Contexts,” 5 July 2016

Carey Baptist College, Auckland, New Zealand

Seminary course, “Children’s Ministry in the Way of Jesus,” 5-9 September 2016

SERMONS

First Baptist Church Halifax, Halifax, NS

“A Spirit that Spreads,” 27 September 2015

“Here I am. Send me,” 31 May 2015

United Memorial Church, Halifax, NS

“Children’s Ministry in the Way of Jesus,” 20 October 2013

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, ON

"These Stones," 16 June 2013

Erb Street Mennonite Church, Waterloo, ON

"Reason for Shame," 17 March 2013

Jubilee Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB

"Emotional Rollercoasters," 2 August 2012

Richmond Mennonite Fellowship, Richmond, VA

"...and God was There," 13 May 2012

"God's Problems," 18 July 2010

"Missing the Point," 18 October 2009

"I Choo-Choo-Choose You," 17 May 2009

Elmira Mennonite Church, Elmira, ON

"The Necessity of Children's Christian Education?" 26 June 2011

"A Pivotal Moment," 1 August 2010

Immanuel Pentecostal Church, Kitchener, ON

"Children Matter: Re-Imagining Children in the Faith Community," 13 July 2008

Camp Kahquah, Magnetawan, ON

Sermon series, "Children are Important to the Church," 1-6 July 2007

Westheights Community Church, Kitchener, ON

"Partnering: Children, Family, Church" with Charlene Neuman, 19 October 2006

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Founder and Executive Director, Faith Forward, 2010-present

Since 2010, I have been providing primary leadership to the development of an international network of progressive leaders in ministry with children and youth. Using the methods of practical theology and experiential pedagogical practices, I oversee the planning of international and ecumenical gatherings (participants have come from seven countries and over 30 denominations/traditions). These gatherings bring together forward-leaning practitioners and congregational leaders in order to engage one another in deep thinking surrounding the theological and pedagogical underpinnings of innovative approaches to faith formation with young people.

DAVID M. CSINOS

Steering Team member for Family Project Work Team, an organization of the Global Children's Forum, an international and denominationally-diverse network of leaders in ministry with children. 2015-present.

Editorial board member and co-editor of "Children, Adolescents, and Families" section, *Journal of Family and Community Ministries* (Baylor University). 2011-present.

Principal designer and collaborator for "Re-Imagining Children's and Youth Ministry," a four-part online course created by Faith Forward in partnership with ChurchNext. 2014.

Participant of "Narrativity, Identity, and Diversity" consultation seminars in preparation of the 11th conference of the International Academy of Practical Theology, Toronto, 11-14 April 2013. Consultation sessions held in Toronto, 13-14 March 2011, and Montreal, 30-31 October 2011.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

Religious Education Association/Association of Professors, Practitioners, and
Researchers in Religious Education

Canadian Theological Society

Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms