

CURRICULUM VITAE

JAMES GORDON SMOKER

8429 Hudson St
Vancouver, BC, V6T-4M3
Canada

jamesgsmoker@gmail.com
jsmoker@regent-college.edu

EDUCATION

- 2024 *PhD*
Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts
School of Divinity
University of St. Andrews, United Kingdom

Dissertation: “Where Darkness is as Light: Approaching the Divine in the Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge”
Supervisors: Professor Judith Wolfe and Dr Gavin Hopps
- 2018 *Master of Theology*
Interdisciplinary Studies
Regent College, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Major Paper: “‘Our Endeavors to Recollect a Forgotten Name’: Samuel Taylor Coleridge and the Relationship Between Science and Theology”
Supervisor: Professor W. Ross Hastings
- 2014 *Master of Arts in Theological Studies*
History of Christianity
Regent College, Vancouver, BC, Canada
Comprehensive Exams Supervised by Professor Donald M. Lewis
- 2008 *Diploma*
Radio, Television, Broadcast News
Concentration in Television Production
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Calgary, AB, Canada

2006 *Bachelor of Arts*
Major in Creative Writing, Minor in English Literature
Malaspina University College (now Vancouver Island University),
Nanaimo, BC

WORK EXPERIENCE

Current Employment

2021– *Registrar*
Regent College
Duties include:

- Course planning and scheduling for the fall and winter semesters.
- Maintaining the Academic Catalogue and overall academic policies and pathways.
- Overseeing accreditation and assessment with the Association of Theological Schools and British Columbia Education Quality Assurance.
- Overseeing the budgets, planning, and administration of Summer Programs and Distance Education.
- Managing student records and related policies.
- Participating in or chairing committees for the Senate, faculty, senior administrative leadership, academic policies, academic standards, admissions, financial aid, and course syllabi.

2025– *Sessional Instructor*
Regent College
Duties include:

- Designing, teaching, and grading courses on a contractual basis.
- Teaching areas include theology and the arts, literature, interdisciplinary studies, research methods, and academic writing.
- High scores in course and instructor satisfaction.
- Further details on courses below, under “Teaching.”

Previous Employment

2020–2022 *Associate Editor (Volunteer Position)*
Transpositions, Online Journal
The Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts
St Mary’s College, University of St Andrews
Duties included:

- Editing received articles and reviews.
- Soliciting articles from past and new contributors.
- Participating in monthly editorial meetings.

- 2020–2021 *Website Editor*
 The Institute for Theology, Imagination and the Arts
 St Mary's College, University of St Andrews
 Duties included:
- Obtaining, editing, and posting student profile pages.
 - Updating the research seminar schedule.
 - Maintaining accurate and up-to-date information across the entire website, conforming to the University's online standards and design.
- 2019–2020 *Personal Assistant*
 Brendan Wolfe
 St Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology
 University of St Andrews
 Duties included:
- Proofreading citations for a book-length manuscript.
 - Researching and proofreading a grant proposal.
 - Honorarium processing for Encyclopaedia articles.
 - Drafting copy for Encyclopaedia brochure which advertised job positions.
 - Miscellaneous research tasks, including searching for contact information and restaurant reservations.
- 2015–2019 *Assistant to the Academic Dean*
 Professor Paul Spilsbury
 Regent College
 Duties included:
- Managing the Dean's calendar and appointments.
 - Drafting the Dean's annual budget, tracking spending, and processing reimbursement requests for faculty personal development, travel, instructional supplies, event catering, and other expenses as needed.
 - Drafting written materials from the Dean's office, including reports to the Regent College Board of Governors, job postings, invitation letters, and reports.
 - Secretary for faculty meetings, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors, and Senate, along with various sub-committees and ad-hoc faculty taskforces.
 - Drafting faculty committee membership and committee schedules each year.
 - Managing syllabi from creating templates, gathering drafts, editing, and publishing.
 - Hiring of all fall and winter teaching assistants, training, and supporting throughout the academic year.

- Website editing for faculty pages, course descriptions, and special events managed by the Dean's office.
- Support and troubleshooting for Regent's learning management system, Moodle, throughout the academic year.
- Event planning, including co-organizing the May 2015 Pastor's Conference *Holy Ground: Answering God's Call to Creation Care*, the installation of Dr. Ross Hastings into the Sangwoo Youtong Chee Chair of Theology in April 2016, and various public lectures, including a three-part series with Dr. Mark Noll in September 2018 entitled *Christians & Politics: What Can We Learn by Comparing Canada, America & Britain?*

2013–2015 *Academic Secretary*
Regent College
Duties included:

- Work on syllabi, TAs, and Regent College website as described above.

TEACHING

2026 ARTS 510: Close Readings in Literature & Film
Regent College, Fall 2026

- General elective and directed elective for Theology & the Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies students.

2025– INDS 725: Advanced Research Methods & Writing
Regent College, Winter 2025 & Winter 2026

- Required course for MA and ThM thesis students, in which they assemble thesis proposals, gain skills in academic research and methods, and prepare for long-form academic writing.

2025 ARTS/INDS 617: Imagining Being Human – The Theology and Poetry of Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Regent College, Fall 2025

- General elective and directed elective for Theology & the Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies students.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2027 *Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Approaching the Divine: "Where Darkness is as Light."* Routledge Studies in Theology, Imagination and the Arts (Routledge, contracted).

Academic Articles

2026 "Chain Disruptions: Uncanny Nature and Uncanny Humans in Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Helen Macdonald." *Journal of Religious Studies and Theology*. Forthcoming.

2024 "Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834) and Nature's Divine Participation: Reverence for the One and the Many in the Scientific and Poetic Imagination." *Religions* (May 23, 2024). <https://www.mdpi.com/2800070>

2023 "'We Do Not Know the Laws of that Country': Lamb and Coleridge at the Threshold of Faerie." *The Coleridge Bulletin* 61 (Summer 2023). https://www.friendsofcoleridge.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6&Itemid=29

Book Reviews

2025 "Editors' Picks: *The Fox Wife*. By Yangsze Choo." *Plough*. July 22, 2025. <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/literature/the-revenge-of-the-fox-spirit>

2025 "Editors' Picks: *The Magician's Daughter*. By H. G. Parry." *Plough*. January 23, 2025. <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/literature/life-without-magic>

2023 "Editors' Picks: *Dinosaurs*. By Lydia Millet." *Plough*. July 18, 2023. <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/literature/editors-picks-dinosaurs>

2021 "*Coleridge's Contemplative Philosophy*. By Peter Cheyne." *Literature and Theology*. March 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1093/litthe/fraa032>

2020 "Rattelle and Collister, eds.: *The Slumbering Host*." *Transpositions*. April 24, 2020.

Popular Articles

2026 Honorable Mention Write-Up for *Little Amélie or the Character of Rain*. *Arts & Faith*. January 6, 2026. <https://artsandfaith.com/the-arts-faith-ecumenical-jury-2025/>

2021 "Sara Coleridge's *Phantasmion*." *Plough*. July 12, 2021. <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/literature/sara-coleridges-phantasmion>

2020 “*Dark and Longing for the End of the World.*” *Christ and Pop Culture*. October 16, 2020. <https://christandpopculture.com/dark-and-longing-for-the-end-of-the-world/>

PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 “Superstition as the Beginning of Participation in Samuel Taylor Coleridge,” American Academy of Religion (November 2026)
- 2026 “Nature and Imagination at War: A Comparison between Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Helen Macdonald,” Pacific Northwest Regional Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (May 2026)
- 2025 “A Theological Reading of Sara Coleridge’s *Phantasmion* (1837).” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 2025).
- 2025 “Sudden Turns Towards Freedom: Eucatastrophes in Sara Coleridge’s *Phantasmion*.” Pacific Northwest Regional Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (May 2025).
- 2022 “‘We Do Not Know the Laws of that Country’: Lamb and Coleridge at the Threshold of Faerie.” Friends of Coleridge Summer Conference (July 2022).
- 2021 “Sara Coleridge (1802-1852): A Dialogic Theologian in Monologue.” Logia Theology Women and God Conference (May 2021).
- 2020 “Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s (1772-1834) Platonism, Relational Nature, and the Unsettled Mind.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (December 2020).
- 2020 “Shared Tables, Shared Meals: Meals as a Space for Academic Hospitality.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (December 2020).
- 2019 “Mechanized Persons in a Clockwork Universe: Samuel Taylor Coleridge and the Language of Dehumanization in the Early Nineteenth Century.” Pacific Northwest Regional Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (May 2019).
- 2012 “The First Nations Are Speaking, Why the Church Must Listen.” Regent College Academic Symposium (March 2012).

HONOURS & AWARDS

- 2021 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, CAD \$60,000
- 2019 Rafferty Scholarship, University of St. Andrews, £9,000
2019 Accommodation Award, University of St. Andrews, £4,500
- 2015 George Hill Bursary Award, Regent College, CAD \$2,000
Regent Bursary Award, Regent College, CAD \$2,000
- 2014 History of Christianity Prize, Regent College, CAD \$100
Awarded to the top graduating student in the History of Christianity concentration of the MA in Theological Studies.
- 2013 Mabel L. Taylor Scholarship Fund, Regent College, CAD \$1,500
Regent Bursary Award, Regent College, CAD \$1,350

COMMUNITY, COMMITTEE SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Professional Memberships

- American Academy of Religion (2019–)
- The Friends of Coleridge (2019–)

Organizational Participation

- Arts & Faith Ecumenical Jury (2025–)
- Trinity Forum Europe, St Andrews, UK (Scriptorium Organizer, 2020–2021)
- Abbey Summer School, Edinburgh, UK (Board member, 2019–2021)

Academic Committees, Regent College

- Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors
- Academic Policy Committee
- Academic Standards Committee
- Admissions Committee
- Course Syllabus Committee
- Faculty Meetings
- Faculty Promotion and Search Committees
- Financial Aid Committee
- Master of Arts in Leadership, Theology, and Society Launch Committee
- Senior Administrative Leadership Team
- Senate
- Summer Programs Committee

OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATES

Digital Visa Programme, University of St Andrews (2020)

- Introduction to the Digital Pattern Library
- Writing for the Web
- Advanced Writing for the Web
- Usability Testing: Understand How Your Website Works
- Developing a Social Media Strategy

Microsoft Office Training, University of St Andrews

- Microsoft Excel: Creating Charts and Pivot Tables
- Microsoft Word: Advanced Document Management
- Microsoft Access: Introduction

Tutor Training, University of St Andrews

- Introduction to Tutoring in the Arts
- Assessment and Academic Misconduct

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Nationality: Canadian
- Born April 16, 1984, in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada
- Married (May 2010) to Siobhan Marie Krahn Marrin. We have three children named Eilidh Lily (born 2013), Ian James (born 2015), and Sadie Grace (born 2017)