Jonathan Bieler

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Education

University of Zürich
Dr. theol., 2017 (*summa cum laude*)
Dissertation title (translated): *The Concept of Unity as a Principle of Coherence in the Theology of Maximus Confessor. A Study of the Reception of Ps-Dionysius, the Triplex Via and the Analogical World View in Maximus the Confessor.*
Examination Board: Prof. Dr. Silke-Petra Bergjan (director), PD Dr. Benjamin Gleede, Prof. Dr. Franz Mali, Prof. Dr. Matthias D. Wüthrich

University of Zürich
Master of Theology, 2012
Thesis title (translated): *Unity in Difference: The Immanent and the Economic Trinity in Karl Barth.*
Thesis director: Prof. Dr. em. Pierre Bühler

Dominican House of Studies,
M.A., Thomistic Theology, 2011 (*summa cum laude*)
Thesis: *The Obedience of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane as a Revelation of His Divinity*
Directed by Prof. Dr. Thomas Joseph White (OP). Board: Prof. Dr. John Baptist Ku (OP), Prof. Dr. Andrew Hofer (OP)

University of Zürich
Propädeutikum in Theology, (B.A. equivalent), 2007

Gymnasium KZU, Zürcher Unterland, Bülach (CH)
Diploma, 2001
Classical language profile (Latin, Greek, English and French).
Diploma paper (Maturarbeit) title: *Thomas Aquinas' Concept of Truth.*

Areas of Specialization

Patrology (Maximus the Confessor, Dionysius the Areopagite, Gregory of Nyssa, Origen of Alexandria, Boethius)
Systematic Theology: Intersection between Christology, Trinitarian Theology and Metaphysics (Erich Przywara, Hans Urs von Balthasar, Ferdinand Ulrich)
Eastern and Western Paradigms of Interpreting the Greek Fathers
Thomistic Philosophy and Theology in Dialogue with Patristic Sources

Areas of Competence

Ecclesiology
Sacramental Theology
Theological Anthropology

Employment History

The John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family at the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.
Assistant Professor of Patrology and Systematic Theology, 2019-present

University of Zürich
Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Associate, 2017-2019
Part-time Collaborator in the Research Project funded by the Swiss National Fund entitled (transl.): *Contested Orthodoxy. A Critical Edition of Theodoret of Cyrus'* Haereticarum fabularum *with an Extended Introduction* (Direction: Prof. Dr. S.-P. Bergjan, PD Dr. Benjamin Gleede), 2014-2018
Doctoral Assistant and Research Associate, 2012-2017
Student Assistant for Ancient Church History (Patristics), 2010-2012.

Awards, Prizes, Fellowships

Graduate Stipend, *The Dominican House of Studies*, Washington D.C., 2009-2010
Swiss National Fund Stipendiate (part time), 2014-2018

Publications

1. Books

Der Einheitsbegriff als Kohärenzprinzip in der Theologie des Maximus Confessor. Eine Studie zu Ps-Dionysius-Rezeption, triplex via und analogem Weltbild bei Maximus Confessor, Brill 2019.

Theodoret von Kyros, *Unterscheidung von Lüge und Wahrheit. Abriss über die üblen Märchen der Häretiker. Zusammenfassung der göttlichen Lehrsätze*, hrsg. von Benjamin Gleede, unter Mitwirkung von Jonathan Bieler, Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten Jahrhunderte, Neue Folge, vol. 26, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020.

Ida F. Görres, *What Binds Marriage Forever: Covenant, Law, and Grace*, translated by Jennifer S. Bryson, introduction by Jonathan Bieler (Washington, D.C.: CUA Press, 2025).

2. Articles and Book Chapters

"The transformation of the *Imago Dei* in the Antiochene Tradition: Literal Exegesis and Trinitarian Debates," in *The Creator as Educator: The Book of Genesis in Antiochene Exegesis*, ed. by B. Gleede (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2027).

"Maximus and Boethius" in *Maximus the Confessor and the Latin West*, ed. by T. Cattoi and K. Clarke, Brill's Studies in Catholic Theology 15 (Leiden: Brill, 2026).

Forthcoming: "The Christocentric Eschatology of Maximus the Confessor," in a volume on Predestination, ed. by Margaret Harper McCarthy and Nicholas Healy.

In progress: "Maximus vs. Aquinas? Towards a Thicker Retrieval of Thomas Aquinas's Participatory Metaphysics in Maximian Studies." Ecumenical Conference: "From Dionysius and Maximus to Aquinas and Palamas" at Mundelein Seminary, IL, organized by Jonathan Bieler and Matthew Levering, September 3-5, 2026.

In progress: "Maximus the Confessor's Theology of Nature and Grace." Conference held by the John Paul II Institute in Washington, D.C., February 27-28, 2026.

"The Father Brings About the Order: *Blade Runner* (1982) and Ferdinand Ulrich on the Theological *Apriori* of Atheism," *Humanum Review* 1/2026.

"St. Bonaventure On Order," *Humanum Review* 1/2026.

"Atonement in Maximus the Confessor," in *The Mystery of Atonement*, ed. Margaret Turek (Washington, DC: Humanum Press, 2025).

Under review: "Erich Przywara and Ferdinand Ulrich." 2025.

Accepted for publication: "The Dionysian Principles of the One and the Good in Maximus the Confessor's Christology," Conference Proceedings for the XIX International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, GB, August 5-9, 2024.

Accepted: "Maximus the Confessor on the Gnomic Will: A Late Reply to Raymund Schwager," Conference Proceedings, Belgrade, 2024.

"Creation as Incarnation? Critical Observations on a Recent Thesis on Maximus the Confessor," *Modern Theology* 39:3 (2023).

"Contemplating the Depth of Things: Maximus the Confessor on the Church," *Humanum: Quarterly Review of the John Paul II Institute* 2/2022.

"The Significance of Trinitarian Connotations in Bonaventure's Epistemology for a Trinitarian Ontology," *AUC Theologica* 11.2 (2021), 11-31.

"The Upward Pursuit of Happiness in Bonaventure's *Itinerarium mentis in Deum*," in *Communio* 47.2 (2020).

"Maximus the Confessor on Christ's Human Will," in *Communio* 43.1 (2016), 55-82.

"Body and Soul Immovably Related: Considering an Aspect of Maximus the Confessor's Concept of Analogy," in: *Studia Patristica* LXXV, Leuven 2017.

"Origen on the Goodness of the Body," in: *Sacrality and Materiality: Locating Intersections*, ed. by Giselbrecht, Rebecca and Kunz, Ralph, Göttingen 2016, 91-100.

"What Kind of 'Proofs' are Aquinas's Demonstrations of God's Existence?" In A*nalecta Hermeneutica* 2 (2010), 1-14.

Presentations (selection) **and Book Reviews**

Humanum Lecture: "What Binds Marriage Forever", Washington DC, April 22, 2026.

Ida Friederike Görres' *What Binds Marriage Forever*, Catholic Information Center, Washington, DC, February 13, 2026.

Respondent to papers by John Betz and Jonathan Ciraulo at a Theology Symposium following the 700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, hosted by St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California, October 14-19, 2025.

Review of Andrew Summerson, *Divine Scripture and Human Emotion in Maximus the Confessor: Exegesis of the Human Heart* (Leiden: Brill, 2021), in: *Review of Biblical Literature*, September 2025.

"The Book of Creation: Towards a Ressourcement of Scriptural Ontology." Sacra Doctrina Conference, Theological College, Washington, DC, June 13, 2025.

Maximus the Confessor's *Mystagogy*: The Liturgy as Sacramental Imagination." University of Notre Dame, de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, Fall Conference, October 31, 2024.

Respondent in Roundtable discussion on Torstein Tollefsen's *The Christian Metaphysics of Maximus the Confessor*, hosted by the Dionysius Circle, January 27, 2024.

Languages

Languages (modern):
- German (native speaker)
- English (near native / fluent)
- French (very good command: B2)
- Italian (Basic communication skills: A2)

Languages (classical):
- Latin (very good command)
- Greek (very good command)
- Ancient Hebrew (working knowledge)

Courses Taught (in alphabetical order)

Boethius: Mediator between Antiquity & the Middle Ages (PhD Seminar)
Boethius and the History of the Notion of the Human Person (PhD Seminar)
Bonaventure's *Itinerarium mentis in Deum* (Masters Seminar)
Bonaventure: Wisdom and Trinitarian Theology (Licentiate Seminar)

Introduction to Scholarly Work in Church History (Introductory Course)
Jesus Christ: Revealer of God, Revealer of Man (Masters Course)
Maximus the Confessor: God and Man as Mutual Paradigms (PhD Seminar)
Origen: Theologian of the Logos (PhD Seminar)
Sacramentality in the Fathers (Masters Course)
The Desire to See God in Gregory of Nyssa (Licentiate Seminar)
The Church Fathers on Education: Finding Christ the Logos in Letter and Spirit (Masters Course)
The Mystery of the Church (Masters Course)
Trinitarian Theology in the Ancient Church (Masters Seminar)