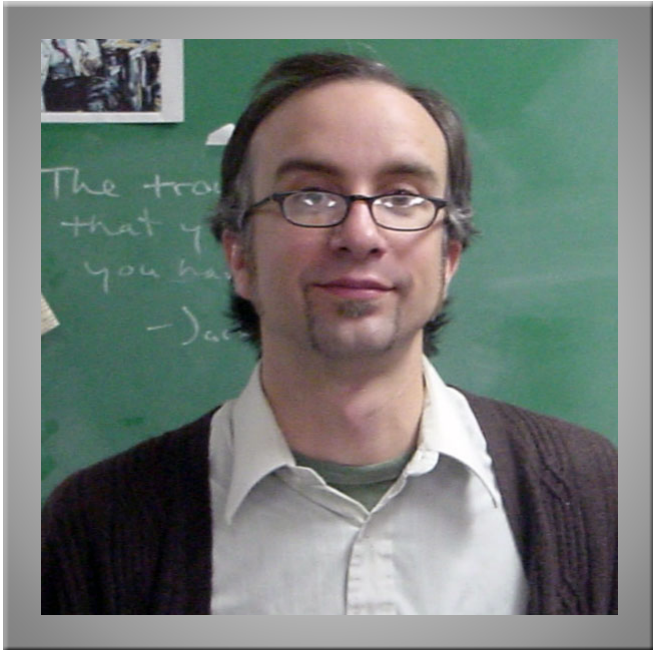


Graduate Student Spotlight



Nathan Dickman

PhD - Religious Studies

BA, Philosophy and Religion - The University of Dubuque

Winner of 1st Place in the Humanities Division at the 2007 James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference

Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.

I am examining the speech acts of religious authorities depicted in dramatic literature held sacred by specific traditions in order to determine whether they are capable of posing open questions and to explicate any philosophical, political and religious implications of my findings.

How did you decide to go to graduate school?

I have always found intense conversation about existential issues to be one of the most fulfilling practices around, and graduate school, especially the humanities, is the institution where such conversation is encouraged and facilitated. So it seemed that graduate school would allow me to continue speaking with others.

What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?

Iowa is a nationally recognized Big Ten institution with strengths in both the sciences and the humanities, and Iowa's religious studies program possesses strong interdisciplinary components as well as a comprehensive survey of religions in various parts of the world. Plus, I wanted to study hermeneutics with David E. Klemm.

You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?

I valued collaboration and critical feedback from graduate colleagues as well as faculty. I enjoyed most listening to and watching other presentations – the University is packed with serious scholarship and artistic talent.

What are some of your interests outside of school?

Socializing with friends and family, playing a little guitar, and see-sawing when I get a chance.

Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?

David E. Klemm has been a great advisor and role-model of intellectual integrity and teaching excellence. Morten Schlütter, Ralph Keen, and Jay Holstein have had tremendous impact on my training in religious studies as well.

Please note any significant honors you've received .

Louis P. Penningroth Scholarship, in recognition for teaching and mentoring excellence, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa (2007)

Hometown: *Lost Nation, Iowa*

Advisor: *David E. Klemm*