

MICHAEL C. BARROS

mbarros@nu.edu | Lynchburg, Virginia

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Cognitive Science of Religion | Dreams | Theology of Culture | Religion and Culture | Grounded Cognition | Media Theory

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology, ABD - In Progress

National University

- Dissertation: The Relationship Between Sensorimotor Dream Content and Waking Spiritual Experience: A Grounded Cognition Approach
- Chair: Patrick McNamara, Ph.D.

Master of Arts in Biblical & Theological Studies

Trevecca Nazarene University

2021

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics

Southern New Hampshire University

2018

Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering Technology

ECPI University

2015

Associate of Applied Science in Air & Space Operations Technology

Community College of the Air Force

2013

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Harmony Academy, Sanford Learning Lab, National University

June 2026 - Present

Research Assistant

- Conduct quantitative analyses of survey and program data for research, evaluation, and reporting.
- Prepare statistical summaries, tables, and written interpretations for internal reports and research deliverables.

Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)

June 2015 - March 2017

Field Investigator

- Conducted field investigations and case documentation involving reports of anomalous aerial phenomena.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of the People

October 2023 - Present

Adjunct Instructor

- Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1402)
- Introduction to Global Ethics (PHIL 1404)
- AY 2026 curriculum refresh: Human Diseases (HS 3210)

Boise Classical Academy

August 2020 - May 2024

Humanities Teacher

- Designed and taught high school literature, history, and psychology courses (Grades 9-12).
- Led the Capstone course, guiding Junior Theses and Senior Projects.
- Taught concurrent-credit courses through Northwest University: Christian Thought (THEO 1213) and Early Modern Literature (ENGL 2843).

460th Operations Support Squadron, U.S. Air Force

July 2014 - May 2016

Staff Instructor - Telemetry, Tracking & Commanding

- Selected as one of 13 TT&C subject-matter expert graduates for next-generation Space-Based Infrared Systems satellite operations.
- Taught 45 students across three cadre cohorts, resulting in operational certification.
- Developed plans of instruction, lesson plans, exams, and measurement tools for the INC2-Block 10 TT&C Certification Course.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING & MENTORING

Left Coast MMA

2018 - 2019; 2022 - 2025

Coach / Assistant Coach

- Served on the coaching staff of Left Coast MMA's 2018 Budo Fights Team of the Year.

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes

Barros, M. C., & Sieg, G. (Eds.). *The Esoteric Theology of Philip K. Dick*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2026.

Barros, M. C., & Hook, T. (Eds.). *The Legend of Zelda and Religion*. Bloomsbury Academic. Under contract, 2027.

Monographs

Barros, M. C. *The Omega Point of Philip K. Dick*. Anti-Oedipus Press. Under contract, 2028.

Journal Articles - Science

Barros, M., Uma, O., & McNamara, P. *Daily Spiritual Experience Predicts Objectively Measured Sleep Efficiency: Evidence from Ambulatory EEG Monitoring*. Under review, *Behavioral Sleep Medicine*.

Barros, M., & Schultz, L. (2023). The transformative potential of religious, spiritual, and mystical experiences. *Social Science and Humanities Journal*, 7(2), 3035-3043.

Barros, M. (2021). On the claims of Jordan Peterson's complexity management theory. *Social Science and Humanities Journal*, 5(10), 2364-2374.

Journal Articles - Humanities

Barros, M., Smith, J. *How Philip K. Dick Used the Unreliable Narrator to Transport Unwitting Acolytes*. Under review, *Dialogue*.

Barros, M. (2024). The Matrix Resurrections as Baudrillardian metacommentary. *The Classical Connection*, 2(1), 10-21.
<https://doi.org/10.21428/3c891a13.410d8f38>

Barros, M. (2023). Unwrapping Christmas: Barthes, Baudrillard, and Disney holiday specials. *The Classical Connection*, 1(2), 12-23.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10428656>

Barros, M. (2023). Spooky spiritual spaces subverting secularity. *The Classical Connection*, 1(1), 14-26.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10065627>

Barros, M. (2021). Skull Kid from *The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask* as archetypal image of the trickster. *Academia Letters*.
<https://doi.org/10.20935/AL3139>

Barros, M. (2021). Fantasy video games and archetypal criticism. *Academia Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.20935/AL1346>

Book Chapters

Barros, M., & McGrew, B. (2022). Is Sam Harris right about the miracles of Jesus? In S. Woien (Ed.), *Sam Harris: Critical Responses* (pp. 261-274). Carus Books.

Barros, M. (Forthcoming 2027). The Abolished Man. In C. Peralta (Ed.), *No Lost Causes*. Peter Lang.

Book Reviews

Barros, M. C. (2025). Review of *Playing as Others: Theology and Ethical Responsibility in Video Games* by Benjamin J. Chicka. *Theology*, 128(6), 443-444. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0040571X251388893>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Barros, M. (2026, June). "Mapping Philip K. Dick's Exegesis." Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Summer Salon, Virtual.

Barros, M. (2024, June). "Baudrillard Didn't Know Dick." Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Summer Salon, Virtual.

Barros, M. (2023, August). "The Planes of Oblivion: Hell for the New Age." Fantasy Goes to Hell: Depictions of Hell in Modern Fantasy Texts, Online Midsummer Seminar, Virtual.

Barros, M. (2023, June). "Countdown to Cataclysm: Exploring the Apocalypse in Majora's Mask." The Middle Ages in Modern Games 2023 Twitter Conference, Virtual.

Barros, M. (2023, February). "Philip K. Dick: A Postmodern Dante." Southwest Popular/American Culture Association 44th Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

EDITORIAL & PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

Editor

Eclogue Press

2025 - Present

Managing Editor

The Classical Connection

2023 - 2024

ARCHIVAL & DIGITAL HUMANITIES

FromThePage

Transcription Contributor

2025 - Present

- Transcribed 58 pages of Philip K. Dick's unpublished notebook material (Exegesis II).
- Transcribed 5 pages of Northrop Frye's unpublished notebook material for the Victoria University Library (Toronto).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Business Affairs <i>OYD Live Management</i>	2025 - Present
Owner / Operations Consultant <i>Barros Consulting</i>	2024 - 2025
Operations Engineer Systems Engineer <i>Raytheon</i>	2016 - 2018
Satellite Systems Operator <i>United States Air Force</i>	2011 - 2014
Test Engineering Intern <i>Johnson Controls</i>	2011

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Discussion Group Leader <i>Word on Fire Institute</i>	2025 - Present
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CERTIFICATIONS

Researchers - Social and Behavioral Focus <i>CITI Program</i>	2025
Six Sigma Black Belt <i>The Council for Six Sigma Certification</i>	2025
Basic Instructor Course (BIC) <i>U.S. Air Force</i>	2014

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certificate in Evangelization: Evangelism 101 <i>Word on Fire Institute</i>	July 2026
Certificate in Evangelization: The Advanced Evangelical Ethos of Bishop Barron <i>Word on Fire Institute</i>	June 2026
Gnosticism: A Word on Fire Response Intensive <i>Word on Fire Institute</i>	May 2026
Certificate in Evangelization: The Evangelical Ethos of Bishop Barron <i>Word on Fire Institute</i>	January 2026

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

National Silver Medal Educator Award - Scholastic Art & Writing Awards	2021
Air Force Commendation Medal - U.S. Air Force	2016
Airman of the Quarter - 460th Operations Support Squadron, U.S. Air Force	2014
Satellite Systems Operator of the Year - 2nd Space Warning Squadron, U.S. Air Force	2013
Panther Challenge Winner: Best Satellite Systems Operator - 460th Operations Group, U.S. Air Force	2013