

## Theologizing Across Psychology: Experiences of Depression, Trauma, and Moral Injury

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THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES BY STEPHANIE C. EDWARDS and Catherine Yanko expand upon research originally presented at the 2024 College Theology Society (CTS) conference in Denver, Colorado in the context of a panel titled: “Hearing and Healing Psychological Hurt: Trauma, Moral Injury, and *Dust in the Blood* (CTS 2023 Best Book).” Their work constituted a panel engaging Jessica Coblentz’s book, *Dust in the Blood: A Theology of Life with Depression* (Liturgical Press Academic, 2022). Both authors present arguments shaped by Coblentz’s methodology and her assessment of theology’s intersection with depression. Yanko’s and Edwards’s articles model a book discussion where the respondents, as such, offer research developments inspired and informed by the author, rather than presenting a more traditional direct critique of the work itself. Their engagements are followed by Coblentz’s own response to their expansions of her research.

First, Yanko extends Coblentz’s impulse to narrative and phenomenology by applying the theological framework presented in *Dust in the Blood* to the experience of moral injury. Coblentz’s inductive and highly contextualized theology inspires Yanko to study conscience through the experience of moral injury. Yanko argues that these insights about conscience can aid theologians in overcoming points of impasse in contemporary debates about conscience in Catholic moral theology. Second, Edwards engages Coblentz’s concept of “wilderness” through her work in trauma. Following an initial assessment of the connections between depression (as read by Coblentz) and trauma studies, Edwards moves into ethical construction. Viewing mental health disorders as alive in the social realm, as well as distinctly individual, Edwards offers a Christian social ethic she names “enfleshed counter-memory.” Coblentz responds to both authors.

Both Edwards and Yanko utilize Coblentz as foundational to their own research and theological “next steps.” When read together, the

authors intend to inspire scholars to rethink their own work through Coblenz's lens, recognizing the tendrils of issues such as mental health, disability, and embodiment that entwine themselves in every facet of theology. The trio of papers is intended to represent one iteration of an ongoing conversation in theology regarding anthropology, mental health, and ethics. **M**