

Diversity in the Structure of Christian Reasoning examines the effect of Christian commitments on rationality. When Christians read scripture, traditions supply concepts that shape what counts as normal, good, and true. This book offers an account of how different communities produce divergent readings of the Bible. It considers two examples from World Christianity, first a Bakongo community in central Africa, and then a Tamil bishop in southern India. Each case displays a relation between tradition and reason that reconfigures the hermeneutical picture developed by Martin Heidegger and Hans-Georg Gadamer. To see what transpires when readers decide about a correct interpretation, this book offers theologians and scholars of religion a fresh strategy that keeps in view the global character of modern Christianity.

Joshua D. Broggi completed his PhD at the University of Edinburgh in 2013. At the University of Oxford he is a member of The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities.

“As the study of World Christianities continues to grow, and increasingly Christian theology, dominated still by Western traditions, needs to recognise its diversity, then so the need for methodological approaches to this study becomes absolutely necessary. Broggi's book is a landmark here for any future development in how we examine the various forms of global Christianity. Philosophically, hermeneutically, and theologically, it is one of the first sophisticated methodologies, and greatly needed.”

– Graham Ward, Regius Professor of Divinity, University of Oxford

“Biblical interpretation is very influential and controversial, affecting hundreds of millions of people. Broggi sensitively analyses how disagreements develop in different settings and how modern hermeneutics can help to shape a strategy that responds constructively to this diversity. He contributes persuasively to the sort of thinking that a global scriptural religion requires in the twenty-first century.”

– David F. Ford, Regius Professor of Divinity, University of Cambridge