Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Theological research on the theologian Thomas Boston

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Data Manager: Elisa Rodenburg

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Template: VU DMP template 2021 (NWO & ZonMW certified)

Project abstract:

This research focuses on the theology of desire in Thomas Boston's spirituality. Boston is an influential and renowned Reformed theologian of the 18th century. His works contain one of Scotland's best-known spiritual classics: Human Nature in its Fourfold State.[1] This underlines the significant influence that Boston's theology had, not only in his own country but also abroad.

This research focuses on all his works, both his writings and his sermons. The spirituality of desire has ancient roots and is present in the great Christian tradition with Augustine, Bernard of Clairvaux, Calvin, John Owen, etc. The Scottish Reformed theologian Boston also had a place in this great tradition. The main question is how Boston uses desire in his theology and the consequences of his spirituality.

Although Boston is not usually seen as a theologian of desire, desire appears to have an essential place in his thinking. The word 'desire' alone appears 1733 times in his oeuvre, not counting other terms and concepts. It is an indication that it is worthwhile to consult Boston in this regard. Philip Ryken claims in his thesis that the Fourfold State is like a window to Boston's theology.[2] Thus it becomes clear that Boston clearly qualifies desire and treats it differently depending on the state in which the person finds himself. This is where Boston could make an essential contribution to the current Christian debate. Therefore, the problem definition for this research is: What place does Boston's qualification of desire have in contemporary Christian writings, and what can his contribution be?

[1] Ryken, P. *Thomas Boston (1676-1732) as Preacher of the Fourfold State*. Ph.D. (Thesis, University of Oxford, 1995), iv.
[2] Ryken, P. *Thomas Boston (1676-1732) as Preacher of the Fourfold State*. (Oxford: University, 1995), 65.

ID: 87239

Start date: 05-07-2021

End date: 20-07-2026

Last modified: 22-02-2022

Grant number / URL: n.v.t

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Theological research on the theologian Thomas Boston

0. General information

Document version & date

Version 1.0
Date: 7-12-2021

Project title

Which is the role of desire in the theology of Thomas Boston?

Project summary

This research focuses on the theology of desire in Thomas Boston's spirituality. Boston is an influential and renowned Reformed theologian of the 18th century. His works contain one of Scotland's best-known spiritual classics: Human Nature in its Fourfold State.[1] This underlines the significant influence that Boston's theology had, not only in his own country but also abroad.
This research focuses on all his works, both his writings and his sermons. The spirituality of desire has ancient roots and is present in the great Christian tradition with Augustine, Bernard of Clairvaux, Calvin, John Owen, etc. The Scottish Reformed theologian Boston also had a place in this great tradition. The main question is how Boston uses desire in his theology and the consequences of his spirituality.

[1] Ryken, P. *Thomas Boston (1676-1732) as Preacher of the Fourfold State.* Ph.D. (Thesis, University of Oxford, 1995), iv.

Your contact details

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Faculty: Theology / Religion

Please list the other people involved in this project

n.v.t.

Funding organisation & grant number (if applicable)

Funding organisation:
Grant number:

Project code (if applicable)

n.v.t.

Consulted data management expert(s)

Name: RDM Support Desk
Address: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, VU University Library, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Telephone:+31 (0)59 85367
Email: rdm@vu.nl
University: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

1. Data description

Will you collect and/or process personal data in this project?

- No

N.v.t.

Will you use existing data? If yes, what is their source?

Yes. Their source is: The (Complete) Works of Thomas Boston.

Will you collect or produce new data? If yes, please describe how.

Collect data: All the Works of Thomas Boston.
I collect all the data from the books written by Boston himself and written about him that touch my subject. I collect a lot digitally, but if that doesn't work I buy or borrow the books. Digital is my preference so I can do easier searches for words.
URL: http://digitalpuritan.net/thomas-boston/
I also have these works on my bookshelf and have also downloaded the digital version so that if the website is discontinued, I still have everything digitally.

What kinds of outputs will you produce in this project? Please describe these data assets.

Raw data:
Data asset: All the works of Thomas Boston
Description: digital, harddrive, onedrive and USB-stick.
Format: pdf

Processed data:
Data asset: ZOTERO
Description: Here are all my notes and footnotes for my research.
Format: digital, textual

Analyzed data:
Data asset: Wordwebs
Description: summary of about themes by Boston for an overview
Format: pdf, textual

Other:
Analysis software: Raw data:
Literature analysis
Analysis of the Complete Works of Thomas Boston
Twelve volumes of 550 pages on average (520.000 KB = 0,55 GB)

How much digital data storage will your project require?

- 0 - 50 GB

Will you collect physical data? If yes, please describe these.

N.v.t.

Will you take measures to ensure data quality? Please describe these, if applicable.

N.v.t. by this project

2. Legal and ethical requirements, codes of conduct

What legislation applies to your research project? Please tick the relevant boxes for your project.

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)/ Algemene Verordening Gegevensbescherming (AVG)

I am only doing literature reviews and do not think this is applicable as I will not be processing data from individuals. All I am doing is using literature of persons who have already died and are still alive. This literature is not secret and accessible to anyone. Therefore, data protection is not needed here.

Do you require approval of an ethical committee for this project? If yes, please indicate which ethical committee and whether you have obtained approval for this project.

- No

Will you work with data for which intellectual property and/ or confidentiality are an issue? If yes, please describe.

- Yes

I will work with existing material. The copyright of All the works of Boston rests with the publishers. Thus, the research is on already published work. With proper references, my research is likely to be reproducible.

Do you plan on generating a marketable product from your research project? if yes, please describe

- No

3. Storage and back-up during the research process

What measures will you take to secure and protect data during the research process? Please describe, for each separate data asset you described for question 1.5, how you will ensure data security, where the data assets are stored & backed up, and who has authorization to access the asset.

Raw data:
Data asset: literature analysis
Storage: one-drive pdf and ZOTERO (online cloud)
Backup: USB-stick. I backup to my USB drive every month. I keep track of this in my digital diary on my mobile. I keep my USB stick

in my glasses case which also holds my lenses. This glasses case is in a safe compartment of my school bag and I always have it with me.

Access: My two supervisors have access to the analysis of all the works of Thomas Boston. 1. Prof. dr. W. van Vlastuin. 2: Prof. dr. A.T.B. McGowan

Security measures: passwords: For myself and I give my supervisors access to it by sharing one-drive with them in a read-only file. I don't use two-step authentication for one-drive, just my own password.

Processed data:

Data asset: Collecting Concepts of desire (collecting data among different concepts at Boston about desire)

Storage: one-drive pdf and ZOTERO (online cloud)

Backup: USB-stick. I backup to my USB drive every month. I keep track of this in my digital diary on my mobile. I keep my USB stick in my glasses case which also holds my lenses. This glasses case is in a safe compartment of my school bag and I always have it with me.

Access: My two supervisors have access to the analysis of all the works of Thomas Boston. 1. Prof. dr. W. van Vlastuin. 2: Prof. dr. A.T.B. McGowan

Security measures: passwords: For myself and I give my supervisors access to it by sharing one-drive with them in a read-only file. I don't use two-step authentication for one-drive, just my own password.

Analyzed data:

Data asset: Concept Analysis (of the various concepts and description of how and why the concepts are important)

Storage: one-drive pdf and ZOTERO (online cloud)

Backup: USB-stick. I backup to my USB drive every month. I keep track of this in my digital diary on my mobile. I keep my USB stick in my glasses case which also holds my lenses. This glasses case is in a safe compartment of my school bag and I always have it with me.

Access: My two supervisors have access to the analysis of all the works of Thomas Boston. 1. Prof. dr. W. van Vlastuin. 2: Prof. dr. A.T.B. McGowan

Security measures: passwords: For myself and I give my supervisors access to it by sharing one-drive with them in a read-only file. I don't use two-step authentication for one-drive, just my own password.

Is it necessary to transfer the (physical or digital) data assets to other locations or research partners? If yes, please describe how you secure the file transfer.

- No

4. Data archiving and publishing

Which data assets will be archived and which will be published?

Raw data:
Data asset: Summary of my wordswebs and notes
Description: digital, harddrive, onedrive and USB-stick.
Format: pdf

Processed data:
Data asset: ZOTERO
Description: Here are all my notes and footnotes for my research.
Format: digital, textual, texts (onedrive, USB stick)

Analyzed data:
Data asset: Wordwebs
Description: summary of about themes by Boston for an overview
Format: pdf, textual

Where will you archive your data assets?

For me, archiving would probably look like putting the data on a(n encrypted) USB or hard drive.

I'm not sure if I could publish all of my notes, because they contained a lot of text fragments and I might get in trouble with the publisher of the works. I archive those notes on my USB-stick and I print them so they are in my desk drawer. These notes are still available (in my desk drawer) and the notes may be accessed for verification when they asked me.

For how long will the data be available in the archive?

At least 10 years

Where will you publish your data assets?

I would look like depositing the data in a repository that I can use without VU credentials: dataverse.nl.
I would probably publish my word webs and list of places where I found something about desire in the works of Thomas Boston on dataverse.nl. These webs and lists didn't contain a lot of text fragments, thus I didn't get in trouble with the publishing of the works of Thomas Boston.

How will you ensure your data assets get a persistent identifier (e.g. a DOI-code)?

I am awaiting feedback from the RDM Support Desk on this matter.

Will you register your datasets in an online registry other than PURE? If yes, where?

No.

Are there restrictions to data publishing? If yes, please specify the reasons and list the data assets you do not wish to share publicly.

No.

When will you share the data? If not immediately after completion of the project, please specify the reasons.

I share my data immediately after completion.

Please indicate the license and/ or terms of use under which you share your data.

I would publish my data as open data. So that the they can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone. For help with drawing up license agreements, I could contact the IXA office.

5. Documentation

How will you document your project?

I woudl documented my dataset in PURE. I fill in some fields that ask about characteristics of my dataset. E.g. when it was compiled, what the topics and keywords are, and if it is connected to a publication (my dissertation). These fields follow the metadata standard called CERIF. I also create a file that explains what data I collected, what I did to my data, and how I did it. This document is called a README file and is part of my dataset as well.

What metadata and documentation will accompany the data assets?

In my research this is not applicable because the materials I will produce myself (notes, summaries of wordwebs) are already a kind of documentation.

What methods, software or hardware are needed to access and use your data?

Access to The VU Research Portal PURE

6. Data management responsibilities and resources

Who will be responsible for management of the data assets during the project? Please specify their name, position, role in the project, and faculty/ institution/ group.

Name: Kees Buijs
Role: Phd student
Email: cbs@vanlodenstein.nl
Phonenumber: 0623925686
ORCID: yes
University: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Faculty: Theology / Religion

Who will be responsible for management of the data assets after completion of the project (e.g. the project lead/ dedicated data manager/ department head)? Please specify their name, position, role in the project, and faculty/ institution/ group.

Name: Kees Buijs
Role: Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Validation, Visualization, Writing – original draft
Email: cbs@vanlodenstein.nl
Phonenumber: 06-23925686
ORCID: yes
University: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Faculty: Theology / Religion

For data that are only available upon request, what methods will be used to handle requests for access and how will data be made available to those requesting access?

n.v.t.

What resources (for example financial and time) will be dedicated to research data management? Please estimate their cost.

n.v.t.