The Human Ontology Project seeks to understand the self in ancient near eastern anthropologies. It utilises various disciplines, including anthropology, history, philosophy, chemistry, physics & others to understand the relationship between the divine & nondivine within the space of the human self.

It explores ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Hittite, Canaanite, Israelite, Persian, Greek, Roman, Jewish & Christian ideas on the nature of the self—its divine & nondivine ontological state—in the present life.

The project will comprise four volumes. The first volume discusses the ontology of the self in early Judaism & is currently in print with Brill.

The second volume discusses the divine self in the Ancient Near East from the third millennium BCE to the turn of the Common Era. This book will be in print in 2018.

The third volume discusses Paul's conception of the self from within a spatial framework. This book will be completed by Summer 2018.

The fourth volume discusses Jesus’ conception of himself as the physical embodiment of Israel’s God. This book will be completed by early 2019.
In this **first volume**, I explore early Jewish beliefs about how the human self reacts ontologically in **God’s presence**. Combining contemporary **theory** with sound **exegesis**, I demonstrate that early Jews widely considered the self to be **intrinsically malleable**—its condition is such that it **mimics the ontological state of the space it inhabits**. In divine space, they believed, the self therefore **shares in the ontological state of God himself**.

The book is critical for **students & scholars** alike. In putting forth a new **framework for conceptualising** early Jewish anthropology, it **challenges scholars** to rethink not only what early Jews **believed** about the self but how we **approach** the subject in the first place.

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**Book Contents:**

1. Introduction: The Self and the Mystical Experience
2. Aseneth the Anti-Eve: The Re-Created Self in an Egyptian Jewish Tale
3. Philo’s Bridge to Perfection: *De opificio mundi and the End of the Self*
4. God’s Anthropomorphic House: The Self-Constructed Temple at Qumran
5. When Disciples Enter Heavenly Space: Self-Transformation in Bavli *Sotah 49a*
6. Transformed by His Glory: Self-Glorification in *Hekhalot Zutarti*
7. Conclusion: Towards a Mimetic Anthropology of Early Judaism

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**Available Now:**

- Visit [Brill.com](http://Brill.com) for ordering information
- Check out this book’s place in the larger project at [humanontology.com](http://humanontology.com)

_tyson.putthoff@dunelm.org.uk_
In this second volume, I investigate ontological aspects of ancient Near Eastern conceptions of the human creature, from the third millennium BCE to the turn of the Common Era.

Here I argue that Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Canaanite, Hittite, Canaanite, Israelite, Persian, Greek & Roman conceptions of the self provide a foundation for post-biblical Jewish anthropologies, which understand the human self to be intrinsically malleable such that it mimics or participates in the ontology of the space with which it is contact.

This book is the prequel to Ontological Aspects of Early Jewish Anthropology.

The book is critical for students & scholars of the Ancient Near East. It offers an innovative analysis of texts & artifacts in languages otherwise out of reach for most students of the Bible, early Judaism & ancient Christianity. This volume will be in print in 2018.

Book Contents:

1. Introduction: Self, Space and the Divine Embodiment Model
2. Golden Flesh and Deific Souls: Divine Embodiment and the Human Self in Ancient Egypt
3. Created Beings and Sexy God-Kings: The Divinity of Humanity in Mesopotamia
4. Stones, Statues and Deified Self-space: Divine Representation in Hittite Anatolia
5. Houses, Poles and the Tselem Elohim: Material Embodiment and the Self in Canaan-Israel
6. Fiery Self-space: The Heterotopian Creature in Persian Anthropology
7. Divine Within, Without and Sometimes Throughout: The Deific Self in Graeco-Roman Anthropology
8. Conclusion: Conceptualising the Divine Self in the Ancient Near East

For More Information:

- This book will be in print in 2018
- Check out its place in the larger project at humanontology.com

tyson.putthoff@dunelm.org.uk
This **third volume** examines ontological aspects of **Pauline anthropology** in the light of ancient near eastern conceptions of the human creature.

Here I argue that Paul believed the human self to have **mimetic** properties, such that upon entering into Christ and being filled with the Spirit, the self takes on the ontological state of Christ, the Spirit & even heaven itself. This book is the next to last installment in my three-volume **Ontology of the Self** project that analyses ancient near eastern and early Jewish & Christian conceptions of the ontological state of the self.

The book is critical for anyone interested in what Paul & other New Testament writers have to say about the state of those “in Christ”. It dialogues with scholars of Paul & ancient Christianity & challenges scholars to rethink these matters in a whole new light. This book will be completed by Summer 2018.

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**Book Contents:**

1. Introduction: Paul, Christ and the Self
2. Christ the Chronotope and the Christian Self: Divine and Human Space in Romans 5–8
3. Beholding God in his Throne Space: The Inner Encounter with Christ in 2 Corinthians 3–5
5. Sex in Temple Space: Idols, Bodies and the Divine Presence
6. Conclusion: Towards a Spatial Reading of Pauline Anthropology

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**For more information:**

- This book will be completed by Summer 2018
- Check out its place in the larger project at [humanontology.com](http://humanontology.com)

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#humanontologyproject
In this fourth & final volume, I explore Jesus' self-conception in the light of the framework that the previous volumes have set forth. I suggest that Jesus' words & actions elucidate the way he conceives himself, namely, to be the physical space in which Israel's god resides. As a shaman with a deep, critical understanding of ancient near eastern anthropologies, Jesus asserts himself to be none other than Yahweh's body—Yahweh having entered human ranks to bring peace & justice to the earth.

The book is critical for students & scholars alike as it challenges scholars to rethink not only what Jesus does & says but what he believes about himself—his physical self—in relation both to God & humankind.

Book Contents:

1. Introduction: Self, Space and the Divine Embodiment Model
2. Life on Earth: Jesus as Human
3. John, Qumran and the Ancient Near East: Jesus as Student
4. Life in the Otherworld: Jesus as Shaman
5. Associating with Others: Jesus as Revolutionary
6. The Space where Yahweh Lives: Jesus as Temple
7. Conclusion: Jesus as Yahweh's Body

For more information:

- This book will be completed by early 2019
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Who will enjoy this project?

If you’re a scholar, student or theologian interested in ancient biblical & near eastern conceptions of the self, this project has something for you.

You’ll explore ancient near eastern answers to questions about:

- What it means to have been created by God or the gods
- What the human creature is made of—i.e. the ontological state of things like flesh, spirit, soul & body
- How the space around us influences our state of being
- What happens to us when we enter God’s immediate presence
- Why the human creature changes in divine space

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I hold degrees in various areas of religious, biblical, Jewish & theological studies from Missouri State University (MA) & Durham University (MA, PhD). I am currently an Associate of the Trinity Centre for Biblical Studies, Trinity Centre Dublin & an Academic Counselor in the Department of Anthropology, College of Arts & Sciences, at the University of Oklahoma.