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## Japan, Anime, and Theology

Kaz Hayashi  
kah54922@bethel.edu

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# Japan, Anime, and Theology

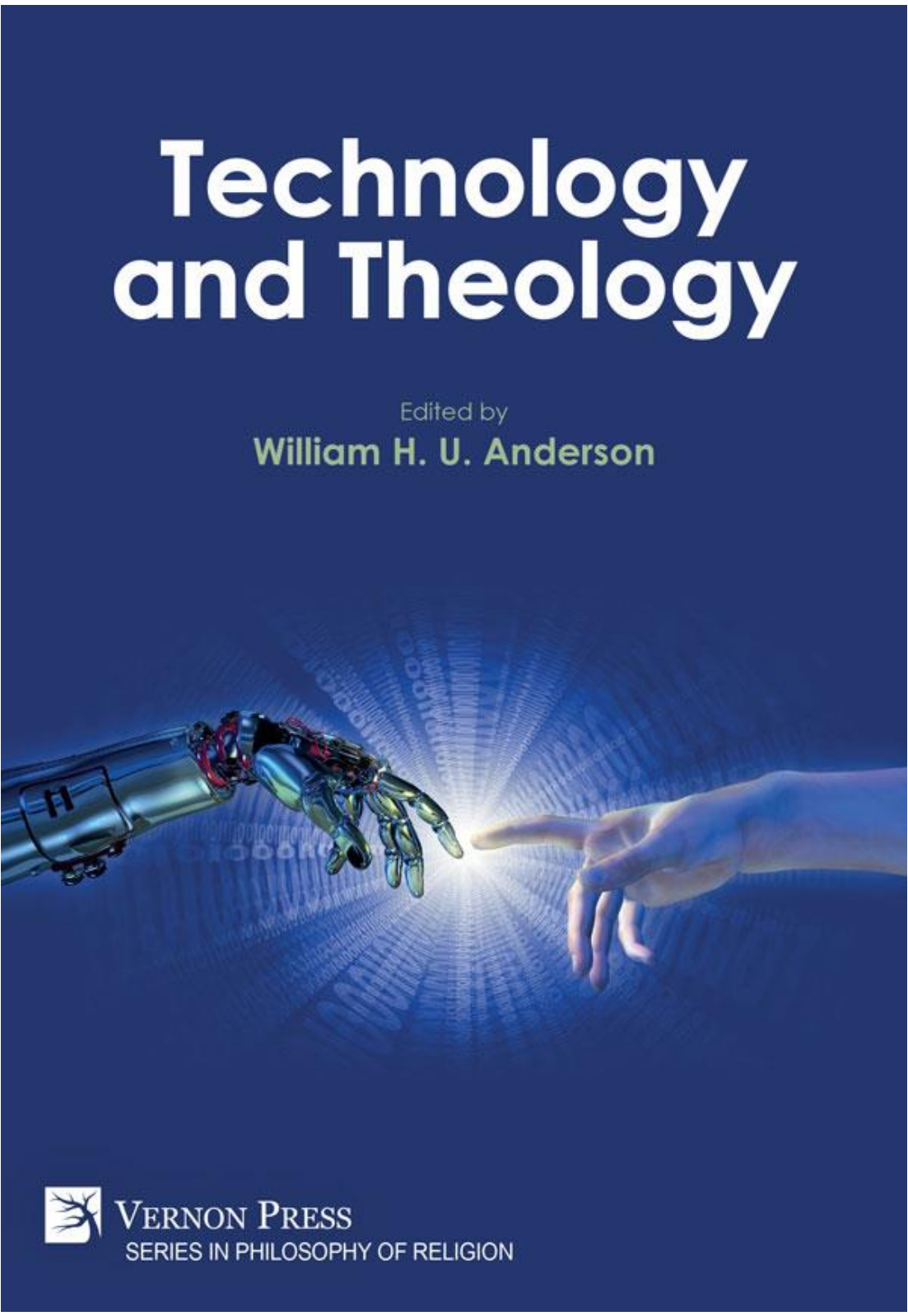
Kaz Hayashi (林 和行)

Associate Professor of Old Testament, Bethel Seminary



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## BOOK COVER & CHAPTER



## INTRODUCTION

Who is Hatsune Miku?

- 16 years old Japanese girl
- Virtual character.
- She has the world’s largest song catalog (100,000 songs)
- 2.3 million Facebook followers.
- Worldwide concerts (collaborations with Lady Gaga and Pharrell Williams)



## RESEARCH QUESTION & THESIS

**Question:** Why is Hatsune so popular, and what values does she reflect?

| Hatsune’s Popularity                                   | Relational Nature of the Image of God                  |
|--|--|
| Collaboration of fans in the creative process          | Human design for human relationship and collaboration. |
| Fan’s desire for (romantic) interpersonal relationship | Relationship with the opposite sex.                    |
| Hatsune’s transcendent quality                         | Human desire for fellowship with God                   |

**Thesis:** Hatsune Miku’s popularity reflects the relational aspect of humanity’s Image of God—people’s design for community with others and with God—which at times, leads to idolatry.

## ABSTRACT

Anime is exotic to Western eyes and culture. This strange aesthetic draws the audience in only to find it is deeper and more sophisticated than its surface appearance. The themes, characters, stories, plotlines, and development are often complex. Anime provides a platform to discuss "universal" problems facing human beings. This makes anime a deep well of philosophical, metaphysical, and religious ideas for analysis.

International scholars are represented in this book. There is a diversity of perspectives on a range of anime, themes, content, and analysis. It hopes to delve deeper into the complex world of anime and demonstrate why it deserves the respect of scholars and the public alike.



Email:

[kah54922@bethel.edu](mailto:kah54922@bethel.edu)



X/Twitter:

[https://twitter.com/KazHayashi\\_OT](https://twitter.com/KazHayashi_OT)

## BOOK COVER

