

JASON G. CATHER

CURRICULUM VITAE

5709 S. Kimbark Ave
Chicago, IL 60637
T 773.366.0661
jason.cather@gmail.com
JasonCather.com

EDUCATION

- PHD | Philosophy of Religions, University of Chicago. August, 2017
Dissertation: *The Ontological Argument, its Criticisms and Consequences*
Kevin Hector, adviser; Franklin Gamwell, Meghan Sullivan (Notre Dame), readers
- Qualifying Exams:
Philosophy of Religions: The Modern Background (with Dan Arnold)
Philosophy of Religions: 20th Century Anglo-American (with Kevin W. Hector)
Constructive Studies: Metaphysics (with Franklin Gamwell, adviser)
Religion and Literature: Aesthetics & Critical Theory (with Richard Rosengarten)
- AM | Philosophy of Religions, University of Chicago. 2009
- AB | Independent Study in Philosophy & Sociology of Religions, Maryville College. 2005

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- AOS | Philosophy of Religions (Early Modern and Contemporary, Neoclassical Metaphysics), Aesthetics.
- AOC | In Religious Studies: Theology, New Religious Movements, World religions.
In Philosophy: Ethics, Political Philosophy, Logic, Pragmatism.

COURSES TAUGHT

SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY	Religion in the Media; 2019 First Year Seminar; 2019 Christian Theology: God; 2018 The Examined Life; 2014-2018 <i>Justice</i> ; 2017-2018 (multiple sections) <i>Knowledge and Truth</i> ; 2016 (multiple sections) <i>Mortality</i> ; 2014 - 2015 (multiple sections) Logic and Argument; 2014
AURORA UNIVERSITY	Business Ethics; 2018
NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE	Introduction to World Religions; 2018
SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO	New Religious Movements; 2017
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	The Power of Creativity; 2016 Open course at the Graham School of General Studies. Creativity in the Headlines; 2016 Open course at the Graham School of General Studies. Introduction to Philosophical Ethics; 2015 Teaching assistant for F. Gamwell (graduate course at the Divinity School). Introduction to the Study of Religions; 2013 Teaching assistant for R. Rosengarten (graduate course at the Divinity School). Whitehead's Metaphysics and Ethics; 2012 Teaching assistant for F. Gamwell (graduate course at the Divinity School).

PUBLICATIONS

3. REVIEWER: *On Metaphysical Necessity: Essays on God, The World, Morality, and Democracy* by Franklin I. Gamwell (SUNY Press, 2020). *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy*. Vol. 44: January, 2023.
2. DISSERTATION SUMMARY: Modal ontological arguments must demonstrate the metaphysical possibility of their objects by a priori means. In my dissertation I use the neoclassical metaphysics of Charles Hartshorne and Alfred North Whitehead to respond to concerns about the relation of conceivability to possibility. In the first main section, I argue that there are licit ontological arguments which are not susceptible to parody. In the second section, I defend the premises and logical framework of the argument. In the third section, I propose limits to and further ontological consequences of this line of reasoning. (Abstract and sample chapters available upon request)

1. CONTRIBUTOR: *A Dictionary of Philosophy of Religion, Second Edition*. Bloomsbury: January, 2018. Entries: John Cobb, Schubert Ogden.

INVITED TALKS AND PAPERS

6. "Is it Rational to Believe in Miracles?" Lumen Christi Institute's *Great Books and the Christian Tradition* seminar series, Chicago, IL. February, 2020
5. "The Rational Discussion of Religious Questions," Martin Marty Center Public Panel Series, University of Chicago. May, 2015
4. "Anselm and the Existential Fallacy," Philosophy of Religions Workshop, University of Chicago Divinity School. December, 2015
3. "Freedom, God, and Identity - or - How to Worry about the Ontological Argument," Paul Hazard Colloquium Series, St. Xavier University, Chicago, IL. November, 2015
2. Respondent to Erik Dreff, *The Intellectual Love of God in Spinoza*, Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago Divinity School. November, 2014
1. "Determining Possibility in Ontological Arguments," Philosophy of Religions Workshop, University of Chicago Divinity School. January, 2014

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

2014-2015 | University of Chicago Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, Junior Fellow

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

GERMAN	Academic reading and conversational fluency; Projekt Deutsch Lernen at the Technische Universität Dortmund: DSH-Vorbereitungskurs, High Pass on the Divinity School language exam
FRENCH	Academic reading with dictionary; High Pass on the University of Chicago language exam

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

2015	Certificate in University Teaching, University of Chicago Center for Teaching
2014	Craft of Teaching Certificate, University of Chicago Divinity School

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
American Philosophical Association

RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICE

THE
UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Grants and Contracts Analyst at the Physical Sciences Division (2021 - Present): Communicate requirements to faculty and students to elicit compliance with federal regulations and university accounting policies. Prepare monthly financial reports, correcting errors and monitoring for compliance with federal regulations. Work with other administrators on procurement, allocating expenditures, and communicating with funding agencies and subcontractors.

Area Assistant for the Dean of Students Office at the Divinity School (2015-2016 Academic Year): Advised graduate students, organized and administered qualifying examinations for doctoral students, organized dissertation proposal colloquia.

AMERICORPS
VISTA

Grant Writer and Community Service Learning Coordinator for Jill Kinmont Boothe School in Bishop, CA (2005-2006 academic year): Co-directed community service program in which socioeconomically disadvantaged and at risk youth participate in service learning projects. Secured service learning grant of (\$30,000 per annum, renewable for three years) and multiple environmental stewardship micro-grants for the school.

REFERENCES

- KEVIN W. HECTOR Associate Professor of Theology and of the Philosophy of Religions in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. (Ph.D. adviser)
- Swift Hall 300D
1025 E. 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
(773)702-8235
khector@uchicago.edu
- FRANKLIN I. GAMWELL Shailer Mathews Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Religious Ethics, the Philosophy of Religions, and Theology in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago – *research and teaching* (dissertation reader, exam adviser, graduate teaching)
- Swift Hall 234
1025 E. 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
(773)702-8225
figamwel@uchicago.edu
- MEGHAN SULLIVAN Rev. John A. O'Brien Collegiate Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. (Dissertation reader)
- Malloy Hall 109
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574)631-4590
sullivan.meghan@gmail.com
- RICHARD A. ROSENGARTEN Associate Professor of Religion and Literature in the Divinity School; also in the College at the University of Chicago
- Swift Hall 405
1025 E. 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
(773)702-8277
raroseng@uchicago.edu