

# JASON G. CATHER

## CURRICULUM VITAE

5401 S. Hyde Park Blvd, #902  
Chicago, IL 60615  
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: 20<sup>th</sup> 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 | Philosophical Ethics, Logic, Pragmatism, Skepticism, Religious Studies.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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

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	<b>Area Assistant for the Divinity School Dean of Students Office:</b> Advised graduate students, organized and administered qualifying examinations for doctoral students, organized dissertation proposal colloquia.
AMERICORPS VISTA	<b>Grant Writer and Community Service Learning Coordinator</b> 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 – <i>research and teaching</i> (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