

## MICHAEL TOFTE

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### AREAS OF INTEREST

Loneliness, Friendship, Social Epistemology, Medieval Islamic Philosophy, Medieval Catholic Philosophy, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophical Ecclesiology, Pentecostal/Charismatic Philosophy & Theology

### EDUCATION

University of Missouri--St. Louis (UMSL), St. Louis, MO

**Master of Arts: Philosophy**

*In-Progress (Expected 2021)*

Evangel University, Springfield, MO

**Bachelor of Arts: Philosophy & Government (Double-Major)**

2019

*Summa Cum Laude*

### AWARDS, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

2020 Ronald Munson Essay Prize for Best Graduate Philosophy Paper

2020

*Hannah Arendt and the Lonely Prophet: Religious Loneliness in Christianity*

Research Assistantship for Christian West and Islamic East: Theology, Science, and Knowledge

2019—Present

Evangel University W.I. Evans Outstanding Graduate

(Outstanding Graduate from the Department of Bible and Global Church Ministries)

2019

Evangel University Outstanding Philosophy Graduate

2019

Evangel University Outstanding Government Graduate

2019

Evangel University Founders Scholar

(Academic & Leadership Scholarship \$15,000 annually, totaling \$45,000)

2016—2019

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Missouri—St. Louis (UMSL)

**Research Assistant—The Christian West & Islamic East: Theology, Science, and Knowledge Project**

2019—Present

Funded by The John Templeton Foundation | PIs: Drs. Jon McGinnis & Billy Dunaway

- Indexing & editing for Dr. Dunaway's *Reality and Morality*
- Administrative and technical support for virtual reading groups & a monthly speaker series in partnership with the Aquinas and "the Arabs" International Working Group (AAIWG)
- Administrative support for project workshops & summer research grants
- Research support for developing papers
- Administering a feasibility study for continuing the research initiative
- Intensive Summer Classical Arabic Program at Qasid (via Zoom 2020)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Evangel University, Springfield, MO

**Teaching Assistant—Dr. Robert Berg**

2017—2019

For the following courses:

- HUMN 240: Culture
- THEO 320: Pentecost
- BIBL 115: Essential Christianity

**Philosophy Tutor & Academic Support Coach—EU Center for Student Success**

2018—2019

Weekly tutoring for students meeting university academic probation conditions and provided individual tutoring sessions for Deductive Logic upon request

## CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

**Presenter:**

“Avicenna and the Extended Mind: Framing Avicenna’s Account  
of the Theoretical Intellect Alongside Contemporary Cognitive Science”  
2021 International Congress on Medieval Studies  
Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI (Online) *Expected May 2021*

**Conference Organizer:**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gateway Graduate Conference: Living in Quarantine  
University of Missouri—St. Louis, St. Louis, MO (Online) *Expected March 2021*

**Commentator:**

Jay Carlson’s “The Epistemology of Political Disagreement: Legitimacy and Compromise”  
14<sup>th</sup> Annual Gateway Graduate Conference: Philosophy in a Social World  
University of Missouri—St. Louis, St. Louis, MO November 2019

**Workshop Host:**

2019 Theology, Science, and Knowledge Workshop  
Hosted by The Theology, Science, and Knowledge Project  
University of Missouri—St. Louis, St. Louis, MO August 2019

**Colloquium Participant:**

AEI Values & Capitalism Summer Honors Program: *Confident Pluralism*  
Hosted by Dr. John Inzau (Washington University of St. Louis)  
American Enterprise Institute, Washington DC June 2018

## PUBLICATIONS

Review of “Pragmatic Encroachment in Epistemology (Routledge Studies in Epistemology”,  
Brian Kim and Matthew McGrath (eds.) in *Reading Religion* (AAR) *In-Progress (Expected 2021)*

Review of “C.S. Lewis on the Christian Life: Becoming Truly Human in the Presence of God”,  
Joe Rigney in *VII: Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center*, Vol. 36.2 2020

## UMSL PHILOSOPHER’S FORUM PRESIDENT

UMSL *Philosophy Off the Reels: The Good Place* Virtual Event  
Invited Presenter: Jill Delston (University of Missouri—St. Louis)  
**Event Organizer and Moderator** November 2020

UMSL *Philosophy Off the Reels: Avatar: The Last Airbender* Virtual Event  
Invited Presenter: Helen De Cruz (Saint Louis University)  
**Event Organizer and Moderator** October 2020

UMSL *Philosophy Off the Reels: Memento* Virtual Event  
**Presenter and Event Organizer** September 2020

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

**Value Theory:**

- \* Classical Ethical Theory (Eric Wiland)
- \* Social and Political Philosophy (William Dunaway)
- \* Proseminar on Loneliness & Boredom (Lauren Olin)

**Historical:**

- \* Aquinas and Avicenna Seminar (SLU) (Eleonore Stump & Jon McGinnis)
- \* Directed Readings in Medieval [Islamicate] Ethics and Social Philosophy (Jon McGinnis)

**Metaphysics/Epistemology:**

- \* Metaphysics (Gualtiero Piccinini)
- \* Epistemology (Lauren Olin)

**Philosophy of Science/Logic:**

- \* Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Lauren Olin)
- \* Graduate Formal Logic (Waldemar Rohloff)

## READING GROUPS &amp; LECTURE SERIES

The Christian West and Islamic East Lecture Series	2020—Present
Christian West and Islamic East: Theology, Science, and Knowledge Reading Group	2019—Present

## MISCELLANEOUS

<b>Private Philosophy Tutor</b> Private tutoring for a student in epistemology, logic, and political philosophy	Summer 2020—Present
<i>“Rediscovering the Elephant in the Room: The Virtue of Epistemic Confidence”</i> AEI Values & Capitalism Blog	2018
“Social Media Policy and Internet Standards” (Author & ESGA Senate bill sponsor) Evangel University Student Handbook (p. 62-63, 2019-2020 ed.)	2017

## MEMBERSHIPS

UMSL Philosopher’s Forum Philosopher’s Forum President	June 2020—Present
Society of Christian Philosophers Phi Sigma Tau (Evangel Chapter) Chapter Vice-President	May 2018—May 2019
Sigma Alpha Sigma (Evangel Chapter) Pi Gamma Mu (Evangel Chapter)	

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

Evangel University Student Government Association <b>Senate President   Student Body Vice-President</b> Chaired the Senate Executive Board & the ESGA Senate’s biweekly legislative sessions; oversaw financial accounts totaling \$45,000; managed student-led Homecoming events	2018 – 2019
Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) <b>Michael J. Curry Intern   DoIT Communications Division Intern</b> Copyedited internal and external communications; created Personal Information Management (PIM) databases; managed social media accounts; designed IL Bicentennial State Fair booth	2018
Evangel University Student Government Association <b>Senate Parliamentarian   Policy Review Committee Chair</b> Adjudicated parliamentary procedure for biweekly Senate meetings; chaired biweekly committee meetings for constitutional, policy, and handbook amendment bills; supervised student elections; drafted or co-drafted nine bills including funding improvements to campus, student handbook amendments & policies, and constitution amendments	2017—2018