

Alexander Jech

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Employment

Associate Professor of the Practice <i>Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame</i>	July 2019–Present
Assistant Professor of the Practice <i>Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame</i>	May 2014–June 2019
Visiting Assistant Professor <i>Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	July 2012–May 2014
Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer <i>Program in Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law, University of Virginia</i>	Aug. 2009–May 2012

Administrative Appointments

<i>Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Philosophy</i>	July 2016–Present
<i>Assistant to the Chair, Department of Philosophy</i>	May 2014–June 2016

Research Interests

AOS: Moral Philosophy, Political Philosophy, Philosophical Theology, Kierkegaard, Tocqueville

AOC: Ancient Philosophy, Environmental Philosophy, Philosophy and Literature

Education

University of Notre Dame (2003–2009): Ph.D. May 2009, M.A., January 2007. Dissertation:
“Wholehearted Love” (Advisor: David O’Connor)

University of Washington (1998–2002): B.A. with College Honors in Philosophy, June 2002

Publications—Books

The Hurricane Notebook: Three Dialogues on the Human Condition, ed. and contributor
(Wilmington, NC: Wisdom/Works, 2019)

Kierkegaard’s Fear and Trembling, translated, with an introduction, notes, and glossary
(under contract with Hackett Publishing for 2021 release)

Publications—Refereed Articles

“Narrative Variation and the Mood of Freedom in Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*,” forthcoming in *Kierkegaard Studies Yearbook* 2020

“Kierkegaard on the Dancers of Faith and of Infinitude,” *Kierkegaard Studies Yearbook* 2019: 29–58

“What Has Athens to Do with Rome? Tocqueville and the New Republicanism,” *American Political Thought* 6:4 (2017): 550–573

“Tocqueville, Pascal, and the Transcendent Horizon,” *American Political Thought* 5:1 (2016): 109–131

“The Mountain of the Self: Comments on Self-Love and Moral Agency,” *Southwestern Philosophy Review* 31:2 (2015): 49–52

“The Twofold Task of Union,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 17:5 (2014): 987–1000

“To Will One Thing,” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 50:2 (2013): 153–165

“‘Man Simply’: Excavating Tocqueville’s Conception of Human Nature,” *Perspectives on Political Science* 42:2 (2013): 84–93

“Affinity and Reason to Love,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 87:1 (2013): 117–136

“Open Duties,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 14:5 (2011): 503–516

“Are Intuitions of Supererogation Redoubtable?” *Southwest Philosophy Review* 24:1 (2008): 79–86

Publications—Invited & Anthologized Contributions

“Tocqueville, Pascal, and the Transcendent Horizon,” *The Spirit of Religion and the Spirit of Liberty: The Tocqueville Thesis Revisited*, ed. Michael Zuckert (University of Chicago Press, 2017): 99–122

“Pascal and the Voicelessness of Despair,” *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 8:2 (2016): 6–17 (contribution to book symposium on Thaddeus Metz’s *Meaning in Life*)

Publications—Book Reviews

Review of *The Mighty and the Almighty: An Essay in Political Theology* by Nicholas Wolterstorff. *Christian Scholar’s Review* 43:4 (2014)

Review of *Education and Human Values: Reconciling Talent with an Ethics of Care* by Michael Slote, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (6/27/2013)

Publications—Contributions to Books

Lexicon VIII: Stobaeus, ed. Gretchen Reydam-Schils, electronic edition by Roberto Bombacigno, 2 vols., Milan: Biblia, 2013

Presentations

“Platonic Friendship”

- Colloquium presentation at Indiana University South Bend, September 2017

“Platonic Friendship”

- Meeting of the Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September 2017

“The Cross of the Self: A Reading of *Fear and Trembling*”

- Meeting of the Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, September–October 2016

“The Practice of Love: Between Freedom and Authority”

- Midwest Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, September 2016

“Pascal and the Voiceless Inarticulacy of Despair”

- Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, September 2015

Comments on Robyn R. Gaier’s “Self-love and Moral Agency”

- Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, Lawrence, Kansas, November 2014

“What Has Athens to do with Rome? Tocqueville and the New Republicanism”

- Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society, February 2014
- Chapel Hill Visitors’ Workshop, August 2013

“To Will One Thing”

- Chapel Hill Visitors’ Workshop, August 2012

“Affinity and Reason to Love”

- APA Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle, April 2012
- Reasons of Love Conference, Katholieke Universteit Leuven, Belgium, May 2011

Comments on Steven Lukes’s “Markets and Morals”

- Work and Worth Conference, University of Virginia, April 2012

“A Critique of Deep Ecology on Humanity and Nature”

- Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Annual Ethics Conference, November 2011

“Loving Awareness and the Direction-of-Fit of Love”

- Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Annual Ethics Conference, November 2010

Comments on Martin J. Henn’s “An Aristotelian Solution to the Problem of Moral Luck”

- APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, February 2009

“The Tragic Character of Frankfurt’s Moral Theory”

- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado at Boulder, August 2008
- Ohio State University Graduate Conference in Ethics, Columbus, May 2008

Comments on Erin E. Flynn’s “On the Impertinence of Frankfurt-Style Arguments”

- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado at Boulder, August 2008

Presentations (continued)

“Are Intentions of Supererogation Redoubtable?”

- Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, San Antonio, November 2007

“Open Duties”

- APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, April 2007

“Tocqueville’s Phenomenology of Freedom”

- Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, March 2007

“Human Liberty and Human Nature: Tocqueville, a Case Study”

- Humane Studies Research Colloquium, Washington, D.C., May 2006

“Dead and Deadly: Pornography and the *Imago Dei*”

- Edith Stein Conference on the Dignity of Women, Notre Dame, February 2006

“Explaining the Organism: A Conceptual Problem with Genetic Priority”

- Egenis Conference on Genomics in Context, Exeter, U.K., September 2005

Competitive Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

- FRSP Initiation Grant for Kierkegaard Glossary, 2019
- ISLA Large Grant for Kierkegaard Glossary, 2019
- ISLA Small Grants for 2018 and again for 2019 for Kierkegaard Glossary
- Templeton / IHS grant for discussion colloquium, 2019
- Center for Social Concerns Course Development Grant, 2018
- Templeton / IHS grant for discussion colloquia in Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
- Templeton / IHS grant for film screening of “Poverty, Inc.” with Director Q&A, Spring 2017
- Templeton Foundation / IHS grant for discussion colloquium, Spring 2017
- ISLA Small Grants for *The Hurricane Notebook*, 2015, 2016, 2017
- Templeton Foundation / IHS grant for student reading groups, 2016–2017
- Humane Studies Fellowship, 2006-2007
- Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Grant, University of Notre Dame, 2006
- Olive W. Garvey Essay Competition, “Equality and the Struggle for Liberty,” 2005

Teaching Experience

Introductory Classes

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| • Introduction to Philosophy | Four times (last in 2019) |
| • Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics and Politics | Eight times (last in 2019) |
| • Gilgamesh to Lucretius | Spring 2013 |

Second Level Classes

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| • Environmental Philosophy | Spring 2012 |
| • Philosophy of Work | Five times (last in 2013) |
| • Existentialist Themes | Twice (last in 2014) |
| • Philosophy of Religion | Summer 2015 |
| • Dostoevsky and Philosophy | Summer 2016 |

- Love & Death Three times (last in 2020)
- College Seminars
- Knights and Dancers Twice (last in 2020)
- Majors Seminars
- Classical Political Philosophy Three times (last in 2017)
 - Modern Political Philosophy Three times (last in 2014)
 - Freedom and the Good Spring 2010
 - Kierkegaard Spring 2016
 - Moral Psychology Fall 2010
 - Existentialism: Philosophy & Literature Spring 2017
 - Joint Seminar: Kierkegaard & Dostoevsky Spring 2019
- Reading Groups and Colloquia
- PPE Reading Group: Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* Spring 2013
 - PPE Reading Group: *Democracy in America* Three times (last in 2016)
 - PPE Colloquium: Tocqueville and the French Revolution Fall 2015
 - PPE Colloquium: Alasdair MacIntyre Fall 2018
 - Political Philosophy Reading Group: State of Nature Theory Spring 2017
 - Political Philosophy Reading Group: Hannah Arendt Spring 2017
- Directed Readings
- Metaethics Fall 2011
 - Religious Epistemology Spring 2012
 - Kierkegaard Twice (last in 2015)
 - Dostoevsky Fall 2016
 - Nietzsche & Sartre Spring 2017
 - The Ethics of Abortion Fall 2017
 - John McDowell on Kant Spring 2018
 - Robert Pippin on Hegel Spring 2018
 - Kierkegaard on Love Spring 2019
 - Plato's Socratic Dialogues Spring 2019
- Notre Dame International:
- Bridging Theory and Practice: Philosophical Questions of Economic Development: Ethiopia, Summer 2020. *Received Course Development Grant from the Center for Social Concerns and traveled to Ethiopia in Summer 2018 in order lay groundwork for the program. Made connections with professors and administrators at Addis Ababa University, Hope College, and the Evangelical Theological College, establishing preliminary agreements for Summer 2020 and beyond.*

Advising

- 2019–20: Senior Thesis Advisor, Keenan Bross: “In Quest of the Common Good: International Development After MacIntyre”
- 2019–20: Senior Thesis Advisor, Jessica Sacli: “Eros and Personality: An analysis of Nikolai Berdyaev's philosophy of love through an original translation of his autobiography”
- 2018–19: Senior Thesis Advisor, Colin Rahill: “Rest in Faith: The Religious Experience in

- Kierkegaard and Shelley”
- 2018–19: Senior Thesis Advisor, Claire Wolford: “Getting out of the Given: A Modern Solution to a Contemporary Problem”
- 2018–19: Senior Thesis Advisor, Marcus Haworth: “Catholic Ecclesiology and the Social Imagination: An Analysis of Church, State, and the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda” (Joint Major)
- 2016–17: Senior Thesis Advisor, Michelle Kim: “The Development of “Will to Power” in Nietzsche and his Predecessors”
- 2016–17: Senior Thesis Advisor, John Lee: “*Angest Originale*: A Kierkegaardian Response to Issues of Original Sin”
- 2015: Joshua Dawson, Grad School Summer Research Program: “Two Expositions of the Self”

Professional Service

Referee: *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *American Political Thought*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Review of Politics*, Polity Press, Oxford University Press

Academic Service

Department of Philosophy Undergraduate Committee, 2016–Present
Department of Philosophy Climate Committee, 2016–Present
Arts & Letters Scheduling Committee, 2015–2017
Arts & Letters PIN Committee, 2016–17
PPE Speaker Series Organizer, “Liberty & Revolution” Speaker Series, UNC 2013–2014
Secured grants and organized speaker series for UNC PPE Program

Foreign Languages

Advanced Languages: Danish, Ancient Greek
Intermediate Languages: Italian, Latin
Beginning Languages: Amharic, French, German, Japanese