

# JASON MARSH

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY | St. Olaf College  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Philosophy, St. Olaf College, MN, USA, Fall 2018-present.  
(Note: I am a permanent resident, green card holder, in the USA).

Assistant Professor, Philosophy, St. Olaf College, MN, USA, Fall 2012-2018

Lecturer, King's University College, Ontario, Canada, 2010-12

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Western Ontario (Awarded distinction), 2012.

(Visiting Graduate Student, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, Fall 2006).

MA in Philosophy, University of Western Ontario, 2005.

BA in Phil & English (First Class Honours) 2003; BEd, 2004, University of New Brunswick.

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## AREAS OF RESEARCH

Biomedical Ethics, including population ethics | Philosophy of Religion, esp. Science and Religion.

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Normative Ethics, Disability, Wellbeing

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## PUBLICATIONS

### *Ethics*

2014a 'Quality of Life Assessments, Cognitive Reliability, and Procreative Responsibility.'  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 89: 436–466.

2014b 'Conscientious Refusal and Reason-Giving.' *Bioethics* 28: 313–319, 2014.

- 2015 'Procreative Ethics and the Problem of Evil', in *Permissible Progeny? The Morality of Procreation and Parenting*. Edited by Sarah Hannan, Richard Vernon, and Samantha Brennan. Oxford University Press.
- 2017 Book note for *Debating Procreation: Is it wrong to reproduce?* David Benatar, David Wasserman, Oxford University Press 2015 in *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. Vol 95, no 2, pg. 413.
- 2019 Review of *One Child: Do We Have a Right to More?* Sarah Conly, Oxford University Press. *Journal of Moral Philosophy*.
- 2020 'What's Wrong With "You Say You're Happy, But..." Reasoning?' forthcoming in *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Disability*. Edited by Adam Cureton and David Wasserman, Oxford University Press.

### ***Philosophy of Religion***

- 2013 'Darwin and the Problem of Natural Nonbelief.' *The Monist* 96: 349-376, 2013.
- 2015 'Procreative Ethics and the Problem of Evil', in *Permissible Progeny? The Morality of Procreation and Parenting*. Edited by Sarah Hannan, Richard Vernon, and Samantha Brennan. Oxford University Press.
- 2016a 'Assessing the Third Way.' *Roots of Religion: Exploring the Cognitive Science of Religion*, edited by Justin Barrett and Roger Trigg. Routledge. (Originally published for the Ashgate Science and Religion Series in 2014).
- 2016b 'The Explanatory Challenge of Religious Diversity', in Helen De Cruz & Ryan Nichols (eds.), *Advances in Religion, Cognitive Science, and Experimental Philosophy*. Bloomsbury Academic. 61-83 (with Jon Marsh).
- 2017 'On the Socratic Injunction to Follow the Argument Where it Leads.' Forthcoming in *Renewing Philosophy of Religion*. Edited by Paul Draper and John Schellenberg, Oxford University Press.
- 2021 'Cognitive Science and Natural Theological Arguments' in preparation for *Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*. Edited by Stewart Goetz and Charles Taliaferro. (5000 words)

### ***Graduate Student Work***

- 2008 'Do the demographics of theistic belief disconfirm theism? A Reply to Maitzen.' *Religious Studies* 44:465-47.

### ***Edited Journal Issue***

- 2016 Edited special issue on Cognitive Science of Religion for *Open Theology* (De Gruyter)

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

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- 2022 Invited to give talk on at Rutgers University for a workshop “Cognitive Science of Religion and Philosophy: an Interdisciplinary Workshop”, March 24-25.
- 2020 “The Problem of Understated Risks in Medicine” at the 2020 Carfang Nursing & Healthcare Ethics Conference” paper given in Clearwater Beach, Florida.
- 2019 “Is No Platforming at Odds with Liberalism?” paper given at “Freedom, Speech, and Society,” Florida Gulf Coast University, March 15-16.
- 2018 ‘Why Skepticism Defeats Pessimism.’ *Anti-Natalism Under Fire*. Organized by members of the Institute state and Law (Prague) and also the University of Ostrava (Ostrava), May 30. (Invited),
- 2017 ‘What’s Wrong With “You Say You’re Happy, But...” Reasoning?’ *Philosophy of Disability: Perspectives, Challenges and Aspirations*. The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Oct 27. (Invited) The paper was also presented at the *Annual Meeting for the Canadian Philosophical Association*, Toronto, Canada, on May 29.
- 2016 ‘Moore vs. Socrates in the Philosophy of Religion.’ *Theology and the Philosophy of Science: Analytic, Scholastic, and Historical Perspectives*, Concordia University of Edmonton, Canada, October 14-15. (Invited)
- 2015 ‘Wellbeing and time: Are we happier than we were ten thousand years ago? *Moral Progress: Concept, Measurement, and Application*. VU University, Amsterdam, June 23-25.
- 2013 ‘Procreative Ethics and the Problem of Evil.’ *Permissible Progeny*, University of Western Ontario, Canada, June.
- 2012 ‘Why the Locked-in Patient Case is Hard.’ *Persons and their Brains*. St Anne’s College, University of Oxford, UK, July.
- 2012 ‘Quality of Life Assessments, Cognitive Reliability, and Procreative Responsibility.’ First alumnus lecture in philosophy, University of New Brunswick, Canada, February.
- 2011 ‘Possible Persons and the Value of Life.’ *Valuing Lives: A Conference on Ethics in Health & the Environment*. Bioethics Center, New York University, March 2011.
- 2010 ‘When Are Cognitive Science Explanations Debunking Explanations?’ Merton College, University of Oxford, UK, June 2010.
- 2009 ‘Darwinism and Divine Hiddenness.’ *150 Years after Origin of a Species: Biological, Historical, and Philosophical Perspectives*. University of Toronto, Canada, November.
- 2009 ‘Possible Persons and the Value of Life.’ *Darwin in the 21st century*. University of Notre Dame, (with Jon Marsh), November.
- 2009 ‘Posthumans and Present Evidence: Exploring Future Enhancement.’ *Canadian Bioethics Society Conference*, Hamilton, Canada, June 2009.
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## AWARDS AND GRANTS

### *Research*

- 2011-14 Selected Researcher for Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR):  
Project: "Conscientious Refusals in Reproductive Health Care", \$8,000.
- 2009-10 Junior Scholar's Grant, University of Oxford (competitive) \$15,500 .  
Project title: 'When Are Cognitive Science Explanations Debunking Explanations?'  
(For the *Cognition, Religion & Theology Project* at the Institute of Cognitive and  
Evolutionary Anthropology).
- 2010 Conference Travel Grant, NYU Bioethics Center (competitive) \$750.
- 2009-10 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2009-10 (competitive) \$15,000.
- 2009-10 SEED grant, Rotman Institute of Philosophy (competitive) 2009, \$4,500.

### *Teaching*

- 2021-2022 Co-PI/PD for NEH grant "Reflecting on How to Create a Just World: Ethical  
Engagement with Community through the Humanities" - a 200,000 dollar grant that  
was part of NEH's American Rescue Plan: Humanities Organizations.
- 2018-19 'Addressing Race in Bioethics' with Dan Groll (Carleton College), and extension  
from our prior Broadening the Bridge Grant Award. Supported by the Andrew W.  
Mellon Foundation. \$2270 (competitive).
- 2016-17 'Teaching Medical Ethics Collaboratively' Broadening the Bridge Grant Award,  
with Dan Groll (Carleton College). Supported by the Andrew W. Mellon  
Foundation. \$10,100. (competitive) 2015-16. A version of this grant was also awarded  
in 2015-16 for \$5,000.
- 2016 FaCE 3 grant ACM, 'Using Cognitive Science to Bridge the Gaps Between  
Disciplines', with Jeremy Loebach, Jessi Petok, Christopher Chapp, David Castro,  
and Louis Epstein), (competitive) \$13,020.
- 2011 Dean's Honours Roll for Teaching Excellence, King's UCollege (Also in 2010).
- 2008 Graduate Student Teaching Award, 2008, Western Ontario, \$500 (Awarded to less  
than 1% of roughly 4000 graduate students each year; also nominated prior year).

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## SUMMER WORKSHOPS

- 2009 'Cognition, Religion, and Theology Workshop' Christ Church College, University of  
Oxford, UK, August 10- 22. (Gave a talk)

2012-14 'Analytic Theology Workshop' (invited) with participants from Cambridge, Notre Dame, and SMU; Dallas, Texas, August. (A branch of the *Analytic Theology Project* at Notre Dame).

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#### DISSERTATION (*Awarded Distinction*)

*Creating and Raising Humans: Essays on the Morality of Procreation and Parenting.*

(Advisors) Samantha Brennan, John Thorp. (Readers) Carolyn McLeod, Anthony Skelton. (External) David Velleman, NYU.

Abstract. It used to be widely held that procreation does not need a justification, that its moral permissibility is simply obvious. But a number of arguments from Benatar, Shiffrin and Velleman have challenged common sense on this score. In response to this background, my dissertation offers the beginnings of the first systematic defense of procreation, one that consists in four articles. Along the way implications are drawn for parenting, bioethics, happiness research, normative ethics, and the non-identity problem.

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#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Courses taught at St. Olaf College* - Biomedical Ethics; Ethics and the Good Life; Science, Ethics, and Religion; Ethics and Value Theory; Death and the Meaning of Life; Making of the Modern Mind; Axiology/Happiness; Epistemology; Should We Follow the Argument? Peter Singer and his Critics; Advanced Bioethics, Public Affairs Conversation (Foundational Debates).

*Courses taught at King's University College* - Business Ethics in a Global Context; Intro to Business Ethics; Philosophy of Religion (full year course).

*Courses taught University of Western Ontario* - Intro Philosophy (full year course); Gender and Sexuality.

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#### SERVICE TO PROFESSION

I have refereed for the following journals.

*American Philosophical Quarterly, Bioethics, Bloomsbury Press, Faith and Philosophy, Journal of Medical Ethics, Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophy Compass, Philosophical Psychology, Religious Studies, The Journal of Applied Philosophy, The Journal of Moral Education, The New England Journal of Medicine.*

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#### SERVICE TO COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY

### College committees and task forces

Director of Public Affairs Conversation, 2021-present.  
Co-Director of Fellowships, 2019-present  
Institute for Freedom and Community, Director's council, May 2016-present (several subcommittees since).  
Direct of EIN, 2019-2020.  
Institutional Review Board (IRB), Sept 2014-2018  
GE taskforce member 2016-2018.  
CURI, Sept 2015-2018.  
Holland Hall Design Committee, April 2015-August 2017.  
Secretary of the Faculty, Sept 2013-May 2015 (two consecutive years).

### Contributions of service and leadership to the department

Graduate school advisor for philosophy majors, 2014-present.  
Led 'Pizza Thursday' discussions on different occasions from 2014-present.  
Managed departmental Facebook page, 2015-2016.  
Library representative for Department of Philosophy, 2012-2014.  
Helped Charles Taliaferro with book review editing tasks for the journal *Faith and Philosophy* 2012-13.

### Other contributions of service and leadership to the college

Assisted with Fulbright Evening Help Sessions, Fall 2016.  
Co-led faculty reading group on Jonathan Haidt's *The Righteous Mind* in 2016.  
Gave talk for St. Olaf Union on 'Animal Ethics', March 2013.  
Participated in panel, 'Goodness Without God?' with Jamie Schillinger, Mike Fuerstein, May 2013.  
Participated in panel, 'Faith and Science: The Conflict Myth', with Doug Casson and Arthur Cunningham, St. Olaf College, Nov 2012.  
Assisted with Buntrock Scholars' Day interviews in 2012.

### Contributions to the wider community

Led a session on philosophy of religion for a local Meetup group in Oct 2013 and did six more in 2022.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Internal Professional development grant called "Planning a Public Health Concentration Rooted in the Liberal Arts." (2021). Used this to help to design the Public Health Concentration.  
Participated in 'Science and Religion' reading group in summer of 2021  
NAFA conferences to learn about fellowship advising 2019, 2021.  
Participated in 'Exploring Identity' workshop and follow up meetings, 2013-2014.  
Attended 'Vocation of a Lutheran College Conference', Augsburg College, July 2014.  
Several IFC faculty reading groups