

Alexander Jech

*Department of Philosophy, 100 Malloy Hall, University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556*

E-mail: ajech@nd.edu Phone: (574) 631-7534
ORCID: 0000-0002-4101-1756

Employment

Professor of the Practice <i>Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame</i>	July 2024–Present
Associate Professor of the Practice <i>Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame</i>	July 2019–June 2024
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, Philosophy of Literature

Education

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

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

Publications—Books

Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*, translated, with an introduction, notes, and historical glossary
(Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett Publishing, 2024)

The Hurricane Notebook: Three Dialogues on the Human Condition (Wilmington, North Carolina:
Wisdom/Works, 2019)

- Book symposium in *Syndicate Philosophy* (including Sr. Ann Astell, John Davenport, J. Aaron Simmons, and Sylwia Wilczewska)
- Reviewed in *Wilmington Star-News* (Wilmington is the setting of the dialogue)
- Book interview on “Two Philosophers One Conversation” with J. Aaron Simmons

Publications—Refereed Articles

“Pascalian Faith,” *Australasian Philosophical Review* 5:1 (2021): 73–79

“Narrative Variation and the Mood of Freedom in Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*,” *Kierkegaard Studies Yearbook* 2020: 27–56

“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, and Other Contributions

“Mediated Recollection and the Relational Self: Responses to Astell, Davenport, Simmons, and Wilczewska on *The Hurricane Notebook*,” *Syndicate Symposium on The Hurricane Notebook* (2021)

“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*)

Lexical assistant (ancient Greek): *Lexicon VIII: Stobaeus*, ed. Gretchen Reydams-Schils, electronic edition by Roberto Bombacigno, 2 vols., Milan: Biblia, 2013

Publications—Book Reviews

The Mighty and the Almighty by Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Christian Scholar's Review* 43:4 (2014)

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

Presentations

“Philosophy and the Crowd: Indirect Communication and Kierkegaardian Public Philosophy”

- Invited speaker: Kierkegaard Society, American Academy of Religion, November 2021

“Platonic Friendship”

- Colloquium presentation at Indiana University South Bend, September 2017
- 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

Presentations (continued)

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

"Are Intuitions 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

- ISLA Small Grants for 2018, 2019, 2022, and 2023 for Historical Kierkegaardian Glossary
- Teaching Beyond the Classroom Small Grant, 2022
- FRSP Initiation Grant for Historical Kierkegaardian Glossary, 2019
- ISLA Large Grant for Historical Kierkegaardian Glossary, 2019
- 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

- Introduction to Philosophy Four times (last in 2019)
- Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics and Politics Eight times (last in 2019)
- Intro to Phil: The Beautiful, the Sublime, & the Human Twice (Summer Scholars 2021)
- University Sem: The True, the Good, & the White Whale Five times (last in 2023)
- Gilgamesh to Lucretius Spring 2013

Second Level Classes

- Dostoevsky and Philosophy Summer 2016
- Environmental Philosophy Spring 2012
- Existentialist Themes Twice (last in 2014)
- Love & Death Four times (last in 2020)
- Philosophy of Religion Summer 2015
- Philosophy of Work Five times (last in 2013)

College Seminars

- Knights and Dancers Four times (last in 2024)

Majors Seminars

- Aristotle, Machiavelli, and the Modern Republic Twice (last in 2022)
- Classical Political Philosophy Three times (last in 2017)
- Existentialism: Philosophy & Literature Spring 2017
- Freedom and the Good Spring 2010
- Joint Seminar: Kierkegaard & Dostoevsky Spring 2019
- Joint Seminar: Simone Weil & Edith Stein Spring 2022
- Kierkegaard Two times (last in 2023)
- Love and Selfhood Spring 2021
- Modern Political Philosophy Three times (last in 2014)
- Moral Psychology Fall 2010
- Virtues and Vices Fall 2021

Reading Groups and Colloquia

- PPE Reading Group Four times (last in 2016)
- PPE Colloquium Three times (last in 2021)
- Political Philosophy Reading Group Two times (last in 2017)

Directed Readings

- Dostoevsky Fall 2016
- The Ethics of Abortion Fall 2017
- John McDowell Spring 2018
- Kierkegaard Five times (last in 2022)
- Metaethics Fall 2011
- Nietzsche & Sartre Spring 2017
- Plato's Socratic Dialogues Spring 2019, Spring 2024
- Religious Epistemology Spring 2012
- Robert Pippin Spring 2018

Teaching Experience, Continued

Notre Dame International:

- Bridging Theory and Practice: Philosophical Questions of Economic Development: Ethiopia; was scheduled for Summer 2020, now postponed due to the pandemic and civil strife caused by the pandemic in Ethiopia. *Received Course Development Grant from the Center for Social Concerns, traveled to Ethiopia in Summer 2018, and made connections with professors and administrators at Addis Ababa University, Hope College, and the Evangelical Theological College, establishing preliminary agreements for ongoing partnership.*

Advising

- 2023–24: Senior Thesis Advisor, Ryan Palmer, on the rationality of decision, commitment, and regret
2023–24: Sustainability Capstone Advisor, Anita Feng, on the topic of Danish sustainability practice and the ethics of K. E. Løgstrup
2022–23: Senior Thesis Advisor, William Geoffroy: “Worldview Formation and the History of Medicine: Applying Thomas Kuhn's Philosophy to the Medical Sciences”
2021–22: Graduate Qualifying Paper Advisor, Dar Triffon Reshef: “Loving as Yourself”
2020–21: Senior Thesis Advisor, Abu Mian: “Love as a Transformative Experience”
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; Todd Whitmore advised for Theology)
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*, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, *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

University Committee on the Honor Code, 2021–Present
Department of Philosophy Undergraduate Committee, *ex officio* 2016–Present
Department of Philosophy Climate Committee, *ex officio* 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

Foreign Languages

Advanced Languages: Danish, Ancient Greek

Intermediate Languages: Latin, Classical Chinese, Italian

Beginning Languages: Amharic, French, German, Japanese, Old English