



EDUCATION

ABD, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
Ph. D Expected Spring 2025

MA, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, DECEMBER 2023

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

BA PHILOSOPHY (HONORS), 2019

Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY
Minor: History and Latino Studies

AA IN LIBERAL ARTS, 2013

Kingsborough College, Brooklyn, NY

EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Philosophy, University of South Florida (2020-present)

Teacher Assistant, Department of Education, PS102 Brooklyn NY (2015-2020)

Teacher Assistant, Department of Education, MS136 Brooklyn NY (2013-2015)

PUBLICATION

- Joel Alvarez, “*Native American Epistemology Through Dreams*”, – in Andrea Sullivan-Clarke (ed.), *Ways of Being in the World: An Introduction to Indigenous Philosophies of Turtle Island*, Broadview Press (In Press)
- Joel Alvarez, “*Spinozism and Native Americans on Pantheism and Panentheism*,” – in Luca Valera (ed.), *Pantheism and Ecology. Cosmological, Philosophical, and Theological Perspectives*, Springer Series Ecology and Ethics (In Press)
- Joel Alvarez, “*Leibnizian Response to Being Born This Way*,” – Anne Wagner and Angela Condello (ed.), *(In)Visible Signs of Gender-Based Violence*, Springer Series Gender, Justice, and Legal Feminism (In Contract)
- Joel Alvarez, “*Empedocles’s Ethics On The Daimones and Their Purification: A Reinterpretation of the Broken Oath and its Relation with Love and Strife*” – Heather L. Reid (ed.), *Empedocles in Sicily*, Jstor Parnassos Press Series The Heritage of Western Greece, (In Contract)

WORK IN PROGRESS

- “*Leibniz on The Damnation of the Innocent Interpretation Revisited*” (Under 2nd round of Revision)
- “*Leibniz Trinitarian System and God’s Understanding*” (Under 1st round of Revision)

- *“Adam’s Trauma and Original Sin’s Compatibility with Evolution Through Epigenetics”* (Under Review)
- *“Leibniz on Divine Revelation and Love of God in Chinese Philosophy”*
- *“Leibniz’s Ethics”*
- *“Nietzsche and Luther and the Way to Salvation”*
- *“Are Native American Epistemology of Dreams Cartesian? A Hawaiian and Zuni Take on Dream Epistemology”*
- *“Native Americans on Free Will and Determinism”*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

- *“Native American Dream Epistemology, Dream Verification, and Dream Experience Through the Senses and the Soul,”* upcoming presentation, APA Central Division (2024)
- *“Christian Materialism, Logic, and The Spiritual Realm,”* Tyndale Cambridge Fellowship Study Group in Philosophy of Religion Conference, Tyndale House Cambridge (2023)
- *“Leibnizian Response to Being Born This Way,”* International Congress: Combating Gender-Based Violence, University of Lille (2023)
- *“The Daimones and Their Purification: A Reinterpretation of The Broken Oath and Its Relation with Love and Strife,”* Cambridge 12th Graduate Conference in Ancient Philosophy, Cambridge University (2023)
- *“Native American Epistemology Through Dreams,”* 114th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference (2023)
- *“Spinozism and Native American on Pantheism,”* APA Central Division, Relations, Land, and Knowledge Session (2023)
- *“Nietzsche and Luther and The Way to Salvation,”* Australian Society for Continental Philosophy, University of Melbourne (2022)
- *“Leibniz, Concepts, and Gender Identity,”* Living Feminisms Conference, University of South Florida (2022)
- *“Native American Epistemology,”* III Unifesp Philosophy Graduate Conference, Federal University of São Paulo (2022)
- *“Galileo on Faith and Reason: Apostolic and Church Fathers, Thomas Aquinas, and Contemporary Theologians Supporting Galileo,”* Hypothesis in Science On the 550th Anniversary of The Birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, Nicolaus Copernicus University (2022)
- *“Leibnizian Response to Being Born This Way,”* Gender, Disability and Violence Conference, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (2022)

- “*Leibniz and Counterpart Theory*,” Western Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Manitoba Winnipeg (2022)
- “*Interpreting Mozi on The Betterment of Society: Radical View or Partial View*,” BIPPA Conference on the History of Hindu, South Asian, and Chinese Philosophy, Kings College (2022)
- “*Galileo on Faith and Reason: Apostolic and Church Fathers, Thomas Aquinas, and Contemporary Theologians Supporting Galileo*,” American Scientific Affiliation Conference, Point Loma Nazarene University (2022)
- “*Interpreting Leibniz: Counterpart Theory or Transworld Identity*,” Australian Association of Philosophy, Australian Association of Philosophy (2022)
- “*Native American Epistemology Through Dreams*,” Perspective About Truth Conference, Politehnica University of Bucharest (2022)
- “*Interpreting Leibniz: Counterpart Theory or Transworld Identity*,” The Long Island Philosophical Society, Molloy College (2022)
- “*Society and its Effect on Hispanic Freedom*,” Brooklyn College Mellon’s Program Conference meeting (2017)

OTHER PUBLICATION

- Devotional published, American Scientific Association (2022)

AWARDS

- Paul Copan Scholarship Award, Palm Beach Atlantic University Philosophy of Religion Department (2023)
Awarded \$6,500 as funds for the Certificate of Cultural Apologetics Program
- International Travel Grant Competition Award, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida (2023)
Awarded \$1500 for my travel to present my paper “*Christian Materialism, Logic, and The Spiritual Realm*”, Tyndale Cambridge Fellowship Study Group in Philosophy of Religion Conference, Tyndale House Cambridge (2023)
- International Travel Grant Competition Award, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida (2023)
Awarded \$1500 for my travel to present my paper “*The Daimones and Their Purification: A Reinterpretation of The Broken Oath and Its Relation with Love and Strife*,” at Cambridge University
- Graduate Student Stipend, APA Central Division, (2023)
Awarded \$500 for my stay to present my paper “*Spinozism and Native American on Pantheism*,” at the APA Central Division Meeting
- IVP Prize for Early-Career Philosophers of Religion 2022, Tyndale House Cambridge and Intervarsity Press (2022)
My paper “*Christian Materialism, Logic, and The Spiritual Realm*” won third place for The Early Career Philosophers of Religion Competition

- Graduate Student Stipend, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida (2022)
Awarded \$500 for my travel to present my paper “*Galileo on Faith and Reason: Apostolic and Church Fathers, Thomas Aquinas, and Contemporary Theologians Supporting Galileo,*” at the American Scientific Association Annual Meeting
- American Scientific Affiliation Scholarship Award (2022) Awarded \$450 for my stay to present my paper “*Galileo on Faith and Reason: Apostolic and Church Fathers, Thomas Aquinas, and Contemporary Theologians Supporting Galileo,*” at the American Scientific Association Annual Meeting
- Mellon Transfer Research Program Award, Humanities and Social Science Department, Brooklyn College (2017)
Awarded \$500 for completing the research program

HONORS AND PROGRAMS

- Departmental Honors in Philosophy Award, Brooklyn College Philosophy Department (2019)
- Dean’s List Honors, Brooklyn College (2017-2018)
- KAPPA DELTA PI Education Honors Society, Brooklyn College (2019)
- PHI SIGMA TAU Philosophy Honors Society, Brooklyn College (2017)
- Mellon Transfer Research Program, Brooklyn College (2017)
- New York City Men Teach Program, Brooklyn College Education Department (2017)

TEACHING

University of South Florida, Philosophy

PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy (5 times)

PHI 2021: Introduction to Ethics (2 times)

PHI 3633: Biomedical Ethics (2 times)

PHI 4320: Philosophy of Mind

Hum 2593: Science in Cultural Context (2 times)

OTHER TEACHING AND SERVICES

Vice President (PGSO), University of South Florida, June 2023 to Present

- Established and executed strategic initiatives to enhance departmental excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement.

- Cultivated strong partnerships with external organizations and donors to secure funding for departmental projects and scholarships.
- Orchestrated annual departmental conferences, bringing together prominent philosophers, scholars, and students to explore cutting-edge topics and advance academic discourse.

**Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida, Jan 2023 to Present
Mentor**

- Advised and mentored undergraduate students in their goals of pursuing graduate school in philosophy. Provided workshops for students on how to apply to conferences, write abstracts, and apply for programs.
- Informed undergraduate minority students about available opportunities and scholarships.
- Recruited and retained students from underrepresented groups in philosophy. Offer mediation and conflict resolution for issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**NYC Department of Education, Brooklyn, NY, January 2014 to August 2020
Teacher's Assistant**

- Monitored students' understanding of different areas of subjects to provide more effective modeling and instructions.
- Evaluated and documented 10+ students' progress throughout the school year to create targeted plans that directly benefit special needs students' academic goals.
- Maximized student learning by organizing healthy group discussions, supporting students that need assistance, and implementing distinctive teaching skills.

**Theological Studies Host, Zion Brooklyn, NY, 2017-2020
Teacher**

- Designed and delivered engaging lesson materials, bulletin board displays, and demonstrations to enhance learning on theological/philosophical topics.
- Conducted book club meetings to examine a range of philosophical implications portrayed by authors.
- Facilitated group discussion on God, freedom of the will, the problem of evil, etc.

**World Compassion Fellowship, Overseas, 2013-2016
Teacher**

- Created engaging curriculum on English vocabulary and theological/philosophical topics about Christianity for Taiwanese and Indian adults.
- Implemented strategic lesson plans for 30+ students, ultimately boosting the performance of each student.

- Connected to students learning the English alphabet and vocabulary by demonstrating a strong knowledge of the Indian abugida alphabet.

Volunteer Hunter College Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, New York, NY, 2013-2015

Group leader

- Attracted and retained 70+ regular attendees on campus for weekly philosophical/theological discussions.
- Partnered with 20 clubs to execute three social justice campaigns, reaching 1K+ students with the opportunity to learn about philosophical issues (e.g. social injustice and its correlation with the problem of evil).
- Trained leaders of the chapter on how to instruct productive philosophical/theological conversations with students at Hunter College.

LANGUAGES

Fluent Spanish

Reading French

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Leibniz in his early philosophical career, mentions and adheres to the different forms of God's knowledge such as, free, natural, and middle knowledge (God's understanding). And surprisingly, Leibniz is consistent with these forms of God's knowledge in his mature philosophical years. It is with surprise that many Leibnizian scholars do not implement these forms of God's knowledge when Leibniz speaks of the Trinity, the problem of evil, the possibility and impossibility of the damnation of the innocent, phenomena, and Leibniz's correspondence with Arnauld. It is essential to take into consideration Leibniz theological position since fundamentally Leibniz's philosophical assertion stems from and is grounded in his theology. For this reason, when discussing Leibniz's philosophical system, one must incorporate his theological perspective. Thus, when Leibniz speaks of God's foreknowledge, one should decipher what form of knowledge is Leibniz speaking of and how precisely these types of God's knowledge is incorporated into his system. For this reason, I argue that Leibniz uses, as a background, his understanding of these forms of knowledge and by noticing this background it will show how Leibniz departs from Spinozism and Cartesianism regarding God's intellect.

REFERENCES

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