

# MATTHEW A. BENTON

417 Malloy Hall · Center for Philosophy of Religion · University of Notre Dame · Notre Dame, IN 46556  
[mbenton@nd.edu](mailto:mbenton@nd.edu) · <https://sites.nd.edu/matthew-benton>

## Curriculum Vitae

### Appointments

#### **University of Notre Dame**

2026–29 Seminar Fellow, Notre Dame Summer Seminars in Philosophy of Religion,  
Center for Philosophy of Religion

2025–26 Visiting Associate Research Professor, Center for Philosophy of Religion

#### **Seattle Pacific University**

2021–25\* Associate Professor of Philosophy (tenured 2022) \*line eliminated in budget cuts

2016–21 Assistant Professor of Philosophy

#### **University of Notre Dame**

2015–16 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Philosophy of Religion  
([Hope and Optimism: Conceptual and Empirical Investigations project](#))

#### **University of Oxford**

2012–15 Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy  
([New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology project](#))

2012–15 Junior Research Fellow, Somerville College

2012–13 College Lecturer in Philosophy, Trinity College

### Education

#### **Rutgers University**

2012 Ph.D., Philosophy      Dissertation: *Knowledge Norms*. Ernest Sosa (chair), Jason Stanley,  
Keith DeRose, John Turri

#### **Yale University, Divinity School**

2005 M.A., Philosophy of Religion & Philosophical Theology, *magna cum laude*

#### **Fuller Theological Seminary**

2002 M.A., Theology

#### **University of California, Santa Barbara**

1999 B.A., History, B.A., English

### Areas of Specialization

Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion

### Areas of Competence

Logic, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Early Modern Philosophy

- BOOKS     \*†*Knowledge and God*. Elements in Epistemology. Cambridge University Press, 2024.
- \**Religious Disagreement and Pluralism*. Edited with Jonathan L. Kvanvig. Oxford University Press, 2021.
- \**Knowledge, Belief, and God: New Insights in Religious Epistemology*. Edited with John Hawthorne & Dani Rabinowitz. Oxford University Press, 2018.
- JOURNAL     \*"The Epistemology of Interpersonal Relations," *Noûs* 59 (2025): 92–111.
- ARTICLES   \*"Testimony and Interpretation" (with Billy Dunaway), *Synthese* 206 (2025), article 261: 1–22.
- \**"Assertion Remains Strong"* (with Peter van Elswyk), *Philosophical Studies* 180 (2023): 27–50.
- \**"Knowledge, Hope, and Fallibilism,"* *Synthese* 198 (2021): 1673–1689.
- \**"Lying, Accuracy, and Credence,"* *Analysis* 78 (2018): 195–198.
- \**"God and Interpersonal Knowledge,"* *Res Philosophica* 95 (2018): 421–447.
- \**"Epistemology Personalized,"* *The Philosophical Quarterly* 67 (2017): 813–834.
- \**"Gricean Quality,"* *Noûs* 50 (2016): 689–703.
- \**"Expert Opinion and Second-Hand Knowledge,"* *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research* 92 (2016): 492–508.
- †*"Knowledge and Evidence You Should Have Had,"* *Episteme* 13 (2016): 471–479.
- \*†*"Evil and Evidence"* (with John Hawthorne & Yoaav Isaacs), *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion*, ed. Jonathan Kvanvig. Vol. 7 (2016): 1–31.
- †*"Defeatism Defeated"* (with Max Baker-Hytch), *Philosophical Perspectives* 29 (2015): 40–66.
- \**"Iffy Predictions and Proper Expectations"* (with John Turri), *Synthese* 191 (2014): 1857–1866.
- \*†*"Believing on Authority,"* *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 6 (2014): 133–144.
- \**"Dubious Objections from Iterated Conjunctions,"* *Philosophical Studies* 162 (2013): 355–358.
- \**"Assertion, Knowledge, and Predictions,"* *Analysis* 72 (2012): 102–105.
- \**"Two More for the Knowledge Account of Assertion,"* *Analysis* 71 (2011): 684–687.
- \**"The Modal Gap: the Objective Problem of Lessing's Ditch(es) and Kierkegaard's Subjective Reply,"* *Religious Studies* 42 (2006): 27–44.
- ARTICLES     †*"Knowledge is the Norm of Assertion,"* in *Contemporary Debates in Epistemology*, 3rd edn. B. Roeber, E. Sosa, M. Steup, & J. Turri, eds., 329–339. Wiley-Blackwell, 2024.
- IN BOOKS

- (CONT'D) †“[Disagreement and Religion](#),” in *Religious Disagreement and Pluralism*. M. Benton & J. Kvanvig, eds., 1–40. Oxford University Press, 2021.
- †“[Hedged Assertion](#)” (with Peter van Elswyk), in *The Oxford Handbook of Assertion*. Sanford Goldberg, ed., 245–263. Oxford University Press, 2020.
- †“[Epistemological Aspects of Hope](#),” in *The Moral Psychology of Hope*. Claudia Blöser and Titus Stahl, eds., 135–151. Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.
- \*†“[Lying, Belief, and Knowledge](#),” in *The Oxford Handbook of Lying*. Jörg Meibauer, ed., 120–133. Oxford Handbooks in Linguistics. Oxford University Press, 2019.
- †“[Religious Diversity and Disagreement](#),” in *The Routledge Handbook of Social Epistemology*. M. Fricker, P. Graham, D. Henderson, and N.J.J.L. Pedersen, eds., 185–195. Routledge, 2019.
- \*†“[Pragmatic Encroachment and Theistic Knowledge](#),” in *Knowledge, Belief, and God*. M. Benton, J. Hawthorne, & D. Rabinowitz, eds., 267–287. Oxford University Press, 2018.
- †“Introduction” (with co-editors John Hawthorne and Dani Rabinowitz), in *Knowledge, Belief, and God*, 1–10. Oxford University Press, 2018.
- †“[Lotteries and Prefaces](#),” *The Routledge Handbook of Epistemic Contextualism*. Edited by Jonathan Jenkins Ichikawa, 168–176. Routledge, 2017.
- ENTRIES,  
SURVEYS \*†“[Paul Grice](#),” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Philosophy*. Edited by Duncan Pritchard. Oxford University Press, 2015. Revised 2020.
- \*†“[Knowledge Norms](#),” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2014): ISSN 2161-0002.
- BOOK  
REVIEWS Jonathan Fuqua, John Greco, and Tyler McNabb, eds., *The Cambridge Handbook of Religious Epistemology* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), *Faith & Philosophy*, forthcoming.
- John Pittard, *Disagreement, Deference, and Religious Commitment* (Oxford University Press, 2020), in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, Sept. 2020.
- Hud Hudson, *A Grottesque in the Garden* (Xerxes Press, 2017; 2nd edn., Eerdmans, 2020), in *Faith & Philosophy* 36 (2019): 271–275.
- Timothy Williamson, *Tetralogue: I’m Right, You’re Wrong* (Oxford University Press, 2015), in *Marginalia Review of Books*, March 17, 2015.
- Clare Carlisle, *Kierkegaard’s Philosophy of Becoming* (SUNY Press, 2005), in *Religious Studies* 42 (2006): 488–492.
- PUBLIC  
FACING “[The Epistemology of Interpersonal Relations](#),” *New Work in Philosophy*, May 2024
- [The Philosophy of Honesty](#), interview on *Parker’s Pensées* podcast, July 2023
- “[In All Things, Charity](#),” interview, *SPU Stories*, June 23, 2022

- (CONT'D) "Does Peer Disagreement Destroy your Religious Knowledge?", *Parker's Pensées*, May 2022
- "Finding Common Ground through Religious Disagreement," *Psychology Today*, Hope + Resilience blog, April 23, 2021
- "White Noise and White Silence: Evangelicals and Race" in *Marginalia Review of Books* (then a channel of the *LA Review of Books*), December 4, 2020
- "Evil, Hell, and Evidence for God at a Christian College," interview with Dan Koch, *Religion on the Mind* podcast (formerly *You Have Permission*), November 2019
- "Revitalizing the Epistemology of Religion," OUP Blog, Oxford University Press, June 16, 2018

#### Presentations (selected)

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- TALKS "God as the Good," 8th Annual Theistic Ethics Workshop, Georgetown University, September 26–28, 2024
- "Knowledge and Interpersonal Honesty," Western Washington University, Philosophy Colloquium, November 2023
- "Linguistic and Interpersonal Honesty," Honesty Project initial research conference, Wake Forest University, August 2022; and final conference, July 2023
- "Faith and Interpersonal Knowledge"
- Toronto Philosophy of Religion workshop (online), Keynote, Dec. 2023
  - British Society for Philosophy of Religion conference, Oxford, Sept. 2022
  - Logos Institute, University of St Andrews, May 2022
  - Princeton University, Joint Colloquium, Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion and the Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion, April 2022
  - Center for Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame, April 2022
- "The Epistemology of Interpersonal Relations"
- University of Glasgow, Cogito Knowledge & Normativity workshop, May 2022
  - Invited Symposium, Epistemology: Central APA (Chicago), February 2020
  - Reed College, Philosophy Colloquium, November 2019
- "Interpersonal Hiddenness," Divine Hiddenness workshop, Baylor University, November 2021
- "Knowing Persons, Knowing God," The Christian West and Islamic East workshop, University of Missouri, St. Louis, August 2019
- "God, Knowledge, and Persons," Pacific APA (San Diego), Group Program, Society of Christian Philosophers, March 28, 2018
- "Knowledge, Hope, and Fallibilism," Northwestern University, Epistemology Brown Bag Series, November 2015

- (CONT'D) "Horrendous Evils and Optimism," Brackenridge Philosophy Symposium, University of Texas at San Antonio, October 2015
- "Divine Epistemology Personalized," University of York, England, May 26, 2015;  
Baylor University, April 11, 2014
- "Epistemology Personalized," University of Edinburgh, March 12, 2014;  
University of Innsbruck, Austria, April 10, 2013
- "Pragmatic Encroachment and Theistic Knowledge," Rutgers University, May 2014;  
Oxford University, March 13, 2013
- "Parenthetically Speaking," University of Geneva, Switzerland, May 31, 2013
- "Doxastic Expression and Self-Ascription," Northwestern University, Epistemology  
Brown Bag Series, March 14, 2012
- "Knowledge Norms in Conflict," Central APA (Chicago), Feb. 17, 2012
- "'Might' Counterfactuals, Thickened Semantics, and Agglomeration," 7th Formal  
Epistemology Workshop (FEW), University of Konstanz, Germany, Sept. 2010
- "Modal Realism and World-Bound Deities," Princeton University, *On the Possibility  
of Worlds* Interdisciplinary Conference, March 6–7, 2009
- COMMENTS Commentator-at-large, *Epistemic Explanations: Investigations into the Epistemology  
of Ernest Sosa*. University of Miami, Nov. 2022
- On Matthew Braddock, "The Common Consent Argument and the Cognitive  
Science of Religion," Cognitive Science of Religion and Philosophy: an Inter-  
disciplinary Workshop, Rutgers University, March 2022
- On Sanford Goldberg, *Assertion: On the Philosophical Significance of Assertoric Speech*  
(OUP 2015), Author-meets-Critics, Pacific APA (San Francisco), April 2016
- On Sanford Goldberg, "On the Epistemic Significance of Evidence You Should Have  
Had," 11th *Episteme* Conference, Phuket, Thailand, June 2015
- On Helen DeCruz, "Etiological Challenges to Religious Practices," Etiology, De-  
bunking, and Religious Epistemology workshop, Oxford University, March 2015
- On Paul Silva Jr., "Justification and Composite Normative Concepts," Pacific APA  
(San Diego), April 2014
- On Charity Anderson, "On the Intimate Relation of Knowledge and Action," Eastern  
APA (Washington, DC), December 2011
- On Adam Pelsler, "Emotion and the Value of Understanding," Pacific APA (San  
Francisco), April 2010
- On Ishani Maitra and Brian Weatherson, "Assertion, Knowledge, and Action," 2009  
Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University

## Teaching

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### Guest Teaching/Class Visits

University of Notre Dame (Epistemology, B. Roeber, Spr. 2026; Religious Epistemology, L. Callahan, Fall 2025); Baylor University (Graduate Seminar, C. Anderson, Fall 2024, zoom); University of California, Riverside (Assertion graduate seminar, P. Graham, Spr. 2025, zoom); University of Washington (Epistemology, C. Mayo-Wilson, Fall 2019)

### Seattle Pacific University (7 courses/year, quarter system)

PHI 1001: Logic and Critical Thinking. Fall: 2016–2019, 2021–2024

PHI 2001: Advanced Logic. Winter: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025

HONORS 2100: Ethics and Critical Reasoning (UScholars). Winter 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2021; Winter 2023, 2024, 2025

PHI 3700/LIN 3700: Philosophy of Language. Winter 2019; Fall 2020, 2022

PHI 4653: Contemporary Epistemology. Fall 2017; Winter 2020, Fall 2021, 2023

PHI 4897: Philosophy of Religion: Contemporary Topics. Spring: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021; Winter 2022, Spring: 2023, 2024, 2025

UCORE 3000: Faith, Philosophy, and Science. 18+ times: 3x annually, 2016–2020; 2x annually, 2023–2025

PHI 4898: Existence of God. Winter 2017

### Lecturer in Philosophy at Oxford, Trinity College and Somerville College

Tutorials: Moral Philosophy, Mods & Prelims (first-years), Trinity term 2013

Tutorials: Early Modern Philosophy (PHIL 101), Hilary term 2013

Tutorials: Philosophy of Religion (PHIL 107), Michaelmas term 2012

### Oxford Programme for Undergraduate Studies (OPUS), exchange program, 2012–2013

Tutorials: Descartes & Epistemology; Mind & Free Will; Philosophy of Language (assertion, pragmatics); Philosophy of Language (metaphor, sarcasm)

### Instructor (professor of record), Philosophy Department, Rutgers University

PHIL 205: Early Modern Philosophy. Fall 2011

PHIL 320: Knowledge and Assertion. Fall 2010

PHIL 220: Theory of Knowledge. Fall 2008

PHIL 265: Introduction to Philosophy of Religion. Spring 2008

PHIL 103: Introduction to Philosophy. Fall 2007

### Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, Rutgers University

PHIL 104: Introduction to Philosophy. Martin Bunzl, Spring 2007

PHIL 106: Current Moral and Social Issues. Larry Temkin, Fall 2006

### Teaching Fellow, Philosophy Department, Yale University

Nietzsche. James Kreines, Spring 2006

Belief in the Existence of God. Keith DeRose, Fall 2005

Theory of Knowledge. Troy Cross, Fall 2004

## Awards, Honors, and Grants

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- Undergraduate Professor of the Year nominee (by students), Seattle Pacific University, 2024
- [Philosophy of Honesty subgrant](#) (PI), the Honesty Project, Wake Forest University (\$40,000), funded by the John Templeton Foundation, 2022–2023
- Scholar of the Year Award, Seattle Pacific University, 2020
- [Knowledge and God](#) research grant (PI), the John Templeton Foundation (\$99,774), 2019–2022
- Faculty Research & Scholarship Grants, Seattle Pacific University, Summer 2017 (\$5,000); Summer 2018 (\$3,000)
- Mellon Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities, Summer Research Grants (\$5,000), Rutgers University, 2009 and 2011
- Dissertation Teaching Award honorable mention, for PHIL 320: *Knowledge and Assertion*, Rutgers University, 2010
- Mellon Dissertation Research/Travel Grants, Rutgers University, Summer 2010 and 2011
- Teaching Award nominee: Distinguished Contributor to Undergraduate Education, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University, 2009

## Service and Other Experience

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### *Service to the Profession:*

Referee: Oxford University Press\*, Cambridge University Press\*, Routledge, *Analysis*\*, *Noûs*\*, *Mind*\*, *Journal of Philosophy*\*, *Philosophical Quarterly*\*, *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*\*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*\*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*\*, *Cognition*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Ergo*, *Episteme*\*, *Synthese*\*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Philosophia*, *Linguistics & Philosophy*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Faith & Philosophy*\*, *Religious Studies*\*, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*\* (\* = more than once)

Category Editor, PhilPapers.org: [Defeat](#), [Primitivism about Knowledge](#), [Norms of Assertion](#), [Epistemology of Religion](#)

Subject Editor for Philosophy reviews, [The Marginalia Review of Books](#), 2013–2016

### *Service to and within the University:*

General Education Revision Committee, Seattle Pacific University, 2023–2024

Admissions, Advising, and Retention Committee, Seattle Pacific University, 2020–2023

Selection Committee, Scholar of the Year Award, Seattle Pacific University, 2022

Faculty Salary Equity Task Force, Seattle Pacific University, 2021–2022

Search Committee for Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Department, Seattle Pacific University, 2019–2020

Promoting Deep Learning with Diverse Groups of Students workshop (invited),  
Seattle Pacific University, 2019

Faith and Pedagogy Faculty Task Force, Seattle Pacific University, 2018–2019

Whole and Intentional Leadership Development Faculty Initiative, 2017–2018

Oxford Undergraduate Admissions Interviewing

Jesus College, 2013; Trinity and Somerville Colleges, 2012

*Other Experience:*

Conference Planning/Managing:

Psychological and Philosophical Perspectives on Faith and Belief workshop (with  
Philip Baker), Seattle Pacific University, May 2023

Hope and Optimism workshop (with Anne Jeffrey), Notre Dame, April 2016

New Insights in Religious Epistemology international conference, June 2015,  
St. Anne's College, Oxford

2012 Metaphysical Mayhem, at Rutgers University

2009 and 2011 Rutgers Epistemology Conferences

Managing Editor, *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, 2008–2012

References

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<b>Michael Rea</b>	Rev. John A. O'Brien Professor of Philosophy, and Co-Director of the Center for Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame, <a href="mailto:rea.3@nd.edu">rea.3@nd.edu</a>
<b>Ernest Sosa</b>	Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Rutgers University, <a href="mailto:ernest.sosa@rutgers.edu">ernest.sosa@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>John Hawthorne</b>	Provost Professor and Linda MacDonald Hilf Chair in Philosophy, University of Southern California, <a href="mailto:jhawthor@usc.edu">jhawthor@usc.edu</a>
<b>Timothy Williamson</b>	Wykeham Professor of Logic emeritus, University of Oxford, <a href="mailto:timothy.williamson@philosophy.ox.ac.uk">timothy.williamson@philosophy.ox.ac.uk</a>
<b>Rebekah Rice</b>	Professor of Philosophy, former Philosophy Department Chair and Dean, Seattle Pacific University, <a href="mailto:ricer@spu.edu">ricer@spu.edu</a>
<b>Joshua Tom</b>	Honors Program Director and Associate Professor of Sociology, Seattle Pacific University, <a href="mailto:jtom@spu.edu">jtom@spu.edu</a>