

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Early Modern Philosophy, especially G. W. Leibniz, Philosophy of Religion, Native American Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Medieval Philosophy, Ethics, Political Philosophy, African Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Latin American Philosophy

EDUCATION

- May 2025 ABD, PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
Dissertation: *Leibniz on God's Understanding: Knowledge of Simple Intelligence, Middle Knowledge, and Knowledge of Vision*
Dissertation Defense Date: February 2025
- 2023 MA, PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
- 2019 BA, PHILOSOPHY (HONORS), BROOKLYN COLLEGE
Thesis: *Molina Contra Leibniz on God's Middle Knowledge*
Minor: *History and Latino Studies*
- 2013 AA, LIBERAL ARTS, KINGSBOROUGH COLLEGE

EMPLOYMENT

- 2024-present Full Time Lecturer, Philosophy, Georgia College State University
- 2020-present Graduate Teaching Assistant, Philosophy, University of South Florida
- 2024 Adjunct Professor, Philosophy, Catawba College
- 2014-2020 Teacher Assistant, NYC Department of Education, PS 102
- 2013-2014 Teacher Assistant, NYC Department of Education, MS136

PUBLICATION

- 2023 Alvarez, Joel. "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. pp. 159-167. 2023.
- 2023 Alvarez, Joel. "Spinozism and Native American on Pantheism and Panentheism," In Valera Luca (ed.), *Pantheism and Ecology: Cosmological, Philosophical, and Theological Perspectives*, Springer. pp. 159-171. 2023.

Forthcoming	Alvarez, Joel. “ <i>A Leibnizian Lens on Identity and Violence and Response to ‘Being Born This Way,’</i> ” In Anne Wagner and Angela Condello (ed.), (In)Visible Signs of Gender-Based Violence, Springer Series Gender, Justice, and Legal Feminism, 2024
Forthcoming	Alvarez, Joel. “ <i>Empedocles’s Ethics On The Daimones and Their Purification: A Reinterpretation of the Broken Oath and its Relation with Love and Strife,</i> ” In Heather L. Reid (ed.), Empedocles in Sicily, Jstor Parnassos Press Series The Heritage of Western Greece, 2024
Forthcoming	Alvarez, Joel, “ <i>Native American and African Ethics: We, You, I, Them, and Everyone,</i> ” In Alan A. Preti and Timothy A. Weidel (ed.), A Companion to Doing Ethics, Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2025

WORK IN PROGRESS AND UNDER REVIEW

Work in Progress	Alvarez, Joel. “ <i>Native American Epistemology and Metaphysics: Dreams, Visions, the Spiritual Realm, and the Pursuit of Verified Knowledge,</i> ” In Rajendra Baikady, Koustab Majumdar, Bindi Bennett, and Ndangwa Noyoo (ed.), The Oxford Handbook of Global Indigenous Studies, Oxford University Press, 2024
Work in Progress	Alvarez, Joel. “ <i>Community, Nature, and Respect Part of What Is It to Be Human in Native American Thought: Philosophy of V.F. Cordova’s Creed,</i> ” In Terrance MacMullan (ed.), The Handbook of the Philosophies of America, Bloomsbury Press, 2025
Work in Progress	Alvarez, Joel. “ <i>Native American on The Way to The Spiritual Realm of Mythical and Phenomenological Truths: The Metaphysics, Spirituality, and Aesthetics of Black Elk’s Vision,</i> ” In Terrance MacMullan (ed.), The Handbook of the Philosophies of America, Bloomsbury Press, 2025
Work in Progress	Alvarez, Joel. “ <i>Christian Duty in Liberation Theology: Latin Philosophy of Archbishop Oscar Romero,</i> ” In Terrance MacMullan (ed.), The Handbook of the Philosophies of America, Bloomsbury Press, 2025
Under Review	“ <i>Latin Philosophers as The Knight of Self: The Abraham-Agamemnon Paradigm and The Survival of Philosophy</i> ”
Under Review	“ <i>Leibniz on The Damnation of the Innocent Interpretation Revisited</i> ”
Under Review	“ <i>Leibniz Trinitarian System and God’s Understanding</i> ”
Under Review	“ <i>Adam’s Trauma and Original Sin’s Compatibility with Evolution Through Epigenetics</i> ”
Under Review	“ <i>Augustinian Epigenetic Ethics: The Biological Impact of Our Choices</i> ”
Under Review	“ <i>Are Native American Epistemology of Dreams Cartesian? A Hawaiian and Zuni Take on Dream Epistemology</i> ”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

- Upcoming *“In Search of the Native American Logos: Monotheism, Panentheism, and Divine Attributes in Indigenous American Religions”* Concepts of God in Underrepresented Religious Traditions Conference
- Upcoming *“Latin Philosophers as The Knight of Self The Abraham-Agagmemnon Paradigm and The Survival of Philosophy”* APA Pacific Division
- 2024 *“Adam’s Trauma and Original Sin’s Compatibility with Evolution Through Epigenetics,”* Evangelical Philosophical Society Conference
- 2024 *“Augustinian Epigenetic Ethics: The Biological Impact of Our Choices”* 2024 Midwest Society of Christian Philosophers Conference
- 2024 *“Native American Dream Epistemology, Dream Verification, and Dream Experience Through the Senses and the Soul,”* APA Central Division
- 2023 *“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
- 2022 *“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 Conference, 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	<i>“Leibniz and Counterpart Theory,”</i> Western Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Manitoba Winnipeg
2022	<i>“Interpreting Mozi on The Betterment of Society: Radical View or Partial View,”</i> BIPPA Conference on the History of Hindu, South Asian, and Chinese Philosophy Conference, Kings College
2022	<i>“Galileo on Faith and Reason: Apostolic and Church Fathers, Thomas Aquinas, and Contemporary Theologians Supporting Galileo,”</i> American Scientific Affiliation Conference, Point Loma Nazarene University
2022	<i>“Interpreting Leibniz: Counterpart Theory or Transworld Identity,”</i> Australian Association of Philosophy, Australian Association of Philosophy
2022	<i>“Native American Epistemology Through Dreams,”</i> Perspective About Truth Conference, Politehnica University of Bucharest
2022	<i>“Interpreting Leibniz: Counterpart Theory or Transworld Identity,”</i> The Long Island Philosophical Society, Molloy College
2017	<i>“Society and its Effect on Hispanic Freedom,”</i> Brooklyn College Mellon’s Program Conference meeting

CONFERENCE AND JOURNAL REVIEWER SERVICE

2024	Moderating a session for the Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Conference
2024	Chaired for University of South Florida 17 th Annual Philosophy Graduate and Undergraduate Conference on Religious Experiences
2023	Manuscript reviewer for Cambridge Journal “Religious Studies”
2023	Commented on Ricky Mouser, "Surviving and Thriving" University of South Florida 16 th Annual Philosophy Graduate and Undergraduate Conference on Death and Illness

AWARDS

2024	EPS Graduate Student Essay Contest Prize. My paper, <i>“Original Sin’s Compatibility with Evolution Through Epigenetics”</i> has been selected as the winner of the EPS Graduate Student Essay contest in the amount of \$1000.
2024	Graduate Student Stipend, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida Awarded \$500 for my travel to present my paper <i>“Native American Dream Epistemology, Dream Verification, and Dream Experience Through the Senses and the Soul,”</i> at the APA Central Division Meeting
2024	University of South Florida College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship. I have been selected to receive the College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship for the Fall 24 term in the amount of \$500.00

- 2023 Paul Copan Scholarship, Palm Beach Atlantic University Philosophy of Religion Department Awarded \$6,500 as funds for the Certificate of Cultural Apologetics Program
- 2023 International Travel Grant Competition, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida. 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, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida 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
- 2023 Departmental Stipend, Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida Awarded \$750 for my stay to present my paper “*Native American Epistemology Through Dreams*” at the 114th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference
- 2023 Graduate Student Stipend, APA Central Division, Awarded \$500 for my stay to present my paper “*Spinozism and Native American on Pantheism,*” at the APA Central Division Meeting
- 2022 IVP 2022 Prize for Early-Career Philosophers of Religion Tyndale House Cambridge and Intervarsity Press. My paper “*Christian Materialism, Logic, and The Spiritual Realm*” won third place for The Early Career Philosophers of Religion Competition
- 2022 Graduate Student Stipend, Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida 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
- 2022 American Scientific Affiliation Scholarship Award 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
- 2017 Mellon Transfer Research Program, Humanities and Social Science Department, Brooklyn College Awarded \$500 for completing the research program

PROGRAMS AND HONORS

- 2019 Departmental Honors in Philosophy Award, Brooklyn College Philosophy Department
- 2019 KAPPA DELTA PI Education Honors Society, Brooklyn College
- 2017-2018 Dean’s List Honors, Brooklyn College
- 2017 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 New York City Department of Education, Bilingual Pupil Program

TEACHING (INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD) AND GRADING

Teaching

2024-present **Georgia College and State University**

PHIL 2010: Survey of Philosophy (6 times)

GC1Y 1000 Critical Thinking: Philosophy & Social Justice (2 times)

2024-present **Catawba College,**

PHIL 2170: Introduction to Ethics (2 times online)

2020-present **University of South Florida,**

PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy (3 times)

PHI 2021: Introduction to Ethics (2 times)

Hum 2593: Science in its Cultural Context

Grading

2020-present **University of South Florida,**

PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy (3 times)

PHI 4320: Philosophy of Mind

PHI 2021: Introduction to Ethics (3 times)

PHI 3633: Biomedical Ethics (2 times)

Hum 2593: Science in its Cultural Context

SERVICE

2023-2024 **Mentor, Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida**

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.

2023-2024

Vice President (PGSO), Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida

Established and executed strategic initiatives to enhance the Graduate philosophy organization by enhancing its 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.

2023-2024

Organizer, Annual University of South Florida Graduate and Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

Drafted the call for papers and invited keynote speakers. Formed selection committee to evaluate student papers.

Made travel arrangements for attendees, secured rooms for the event, and marketed the event through email and social media marketing.

Created flyers, posters, and programs to market the conference locally and regionally.

2015-2018

Group leader and Mentor, IVCF CUNY Hunter College

Attracted and retained 70+ regular attendees on campus for weekly philosophical/theological discussions.

Partnered with 20 university student organizations 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.

TEACHING SERVICE

2013-2020

Teacher, NYC Department of Education

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.

2017-2020

Teacher and Theological Studies Host, Zion NYC

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.

2013-2016

Teacher, World Compassion Fellowship, Overseas

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.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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| 2024 | Georgia College and State University Grantsmanship Workshop USG State University Sector, Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects |
| 2024 | Preparing Humanities PhDs for Careers in Grant-Writing and Resource Development, Council of Graduate Schools, Webinar |
| 2024 | Educational Censorship & the Teaching of Philosophy, American Philosophical Association, Webinar |
| 2024 | Teaching Latin American Philosophy in the Anglosphere, American Philosophical Association, Webinar |
| 2023 | Empowering Education, Unveiling Disparities & Cultivating A Sense of Community, Cuny Brooklyn College NYC Men Teach, Webinar |
| 2021 | NYC Men Teach DOE Ambassadors Workshop [Lesson Planning], Cuny Brooklyn College NYC Men Teach, Webinar |
| 2021 | Teaching Excellence for Equity and Diversity, Cuny Brooklyn College NYC Men Teach, Webinar |

CERTIFICATES

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| 2025 | Certificate of Completion: Cultural Apologetics, Palm Beach Atlantic University |
| 2023 | Certificate of Completion: Online Instructor, University of South Florida |
| 2019 | Certificate of Completion: Aristotle's Ethics – How to Lead a Good Life, Hillsdale College |
| 2019 | Certificate of Completion: Theology – The Western Theological Tradition, Hillsdale College |

2019	Certificate of Completion: Great Books – Ancient to Medieval, Hillsdale College
2019	Certificate of Completion: Great Books – Renaissance to Modern, Hillsdale College
2017	Certificate of Completion: World Religions, Christian University GlobalNet

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2022-present	Australian Association of Philosophy
2022-present	American Scientific Society
2022-present	Australasian Society For Continental Philosophy
2017-present	American Philosophical Association
2017-present	Philosophia Christi

ONLINE TEACHING PLATFORMS

- Canvas
- D2L
- Blackboard
- Microsoft Teams
- Zoom

LANGUAGES

Fluent Spanish
Reading French

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Title: Leibniz on God's Understanding: Knowledge of Simple Intelligence, Middle Knowledge, and Knowledge of Vision

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 regarding God's intellect.

REFERENCES

Prof. Roger Ariew

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Philosophy Department
Tel: 813.974.8207
rariew@usf.edu

Prof. Alexander Levine

University of South Florida
Philosophy Department
Tel: 813.974.5508
Levineat@usf.edu

Prof. Douglas Jesseph

University of South Florida
Philosophy Department
Tel: 813.974.0220
djesseph@usf.edu

Prof. Adriana Novoa

University of South Florida
Department of History
Tel: 813.974.2807
ainovoa@usf.edu