

JOHN Y. KWAK

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Ph. D., Philosophy – University of Rochester (Rochester, NY), December 2021

M.A., Philosophy – University of Rochester (Rochester, NY), May 2020

M.A., Philosophy – University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA), August 2013

M.A., Philosophy of Religion and Ethics (highest honors), M.A., New Testament (highest honors) – Biola University (La Mirada, CA), December 2004

B.A., Philosophy, Economics-Accounting (cum laude) – Claremont McKenna College (Claremont, CA), May 1998

DISSERTATION

'Bachelor' vs. 'Water': Defending Variable Epistemic Demands on Linguistic Competence

Advisor: Zeynep Soysal

Committee: Jens Kipper, Paul Audi, Ash Asudeh

Abstract: My dissertation articulates and defends a view about linguistic competence called 'variabilism'. According to variabilism, the epistemic demands of full linguistic competence vary in a particular way. More specifically, variabilism holds that different individual lexical application conditions (individually essential metaphysical ways of being providing essence-giving satisfaction conditions on reference) vary in whether comprehensional awareness of them is required to be fully linguistically competent with the words whose application conditions they are. For some individual conditions, like those for 'bachelor' (e.g., being unmarried, being male, being an adult), linguistic competence intuitively appears to demand robust awareness of them, while for others, like those for 'water' (e.g., being a chemical, being two atomic parts hydrogen, being one atomic part oxygen) no such demand seems in force. This dissertation seeks to defend the reality of this variability by explaining its objective basis. This defense is developed with the challenge of semantic externalism in mind in particular, a widely embraced view which many regard to render implausible all accounts of linguistic competence which place uniform, robust, and psychologically "internal" epistemic demands on users of an expression. Such a view would seemingly threaten variabilism's affirmation of any words for which linguistic competence requires robust awareness of any of their application conditions. The dissertation concludes by suggesting a handful of potential implications and applications of the theory of linguistic competence developed in relation to various familiar and important topics in the philosophy of language.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Fall 2020 – Present	<i>Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, Assistant Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, Chair of the Center for Ministry and Leadership Studies (since Jan. 1, 2022)</i> – Western Seminary
Spring 2020	<i>Adjunct Instructor</i> – George Fox University (Portland Seminary)
Fall 2019	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> – Western Seminary
Fall 2014 – Summer 2018	<i>Adjunct Instructor</i> – Multnomah University
Spring 2010 – Spring 2011	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> – University of Southern California
Fall 2007 – Spring 2008	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> – University of Rochester
Fall 2003 – Spring 2006	<i>Adjunct Instructor</i> – Biola University
Fall 2000 – Spring 2004	<i>Teaching and Research Assistant</i> – Biola University

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Language

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Church and Society	Theology of Love
Pastoral Theology	Inductive Bible Study
Pastoral Leadership and Care	Introduction to Philosophy
Christian Apologetics and Worldview	Ethics (Normative and Applied)
Christianity and Science	Logic, Reason and Argument
The Gospel of the Kingdom	Metaphysics
Race, Culture, Justice	Epistemology
Spiritual Formation and the Life of the Mind	Philosophy of Mind
Spiritual Formation and Civil Discourse	Philosophy of Religion

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught: Graduate

Ministerial Ethics – Summer 2023 (Western Seminary)
Transformational Leadership – Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022 (Western Seminary)
Effecting Gospel-Centered Transformation – Spring 2022 (Western Seminary)
Mission, Church, and Society – Spring 2020 (Portland Seminary, George Fox University)
Research Design and Methodology – Summer 2021 (Part 1), Spring 2023 (Part 1) (Western Seminary)
Introduction to Epistemology – Fall 2005 (Talbot School of Theology, Biola University)
Philosophy of Religion / Introduction to Christian Apologetics – Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2005, Spring 2006 (Talbot School of Theology, Biola University)

Courses Taught: Undergraduate

Introduction to Biblical Greek I – Fall 2003, Fall 2004, Fall 2005 (Biola University)
Introduction to Biblical Greek II – Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Spring 2006 (Biola University)
Introduction to Philosophy and Christian Thought – Summer 2015 (Multnomah University)
Principles of Ethics – Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Summer 2018 (Multnomah University)

Courses Assisted

Introduction to Christian Apologetics – Fall 2000, Spring 2001, Fall 2001 (for R. Douglas Geivett, Biola University)
Theology IV: Eschatology – Spring 2003, Spring 2004 (for Robert Saucy, Biola University)
Pastoral Care and Leadership – Fall 2019 (for John Johnson, Western Seminary)
Expository Preaching – Fall 2019 (for John Johnson, Western Seminary)
Transformational Leadership – Fall 2019 (for John Johnson, Western Seminary)
Introduction to Philosophy – Spring 2008 (for Earl Conee, University of Rochester)
Philosophical Foundations of Modern Western Culture (History of Modern) – Spring 2011 (for James Van Cleve, USC)
Introduction to Logic – Fall 2007 (for John Bennett, University of Rochester)
Knowledge, Explanation, and the Cosmos – Fall 2010 (for Jacob Ross, USC)
Mind and Self: Contemporary Perspectives – Spring 2010 (for Edwin McCann, USC)

Teaching Mentorship Received

Received a one-year teaching mentorship under Dallas Willard as part of USC's new graduate teaching mentorship initiative for all philosophy doctoral students - Fall 2010-Spring 2011

HONORS AND AWARDS

1. *University Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award* – USC Center for Excellence in Teaching, Spring 2012 (annual award for the university's top three teaching assistants, across all disciplines)
2. *Graduate Travel Award (competitive)* – to present at the Pacific Division meeting of the APA, April 4-7, 2012
3. *Award for Excellence in Teaching* – USC Center for Excellence in Teaching, Fall 2011 (annual award for each university department's most outstanding teaching assistant)
4. *Teaching Assistant Fellow* – USC Center for Excellence in Teaching, Fall 2011-Spring 2012 (competitive program for outstanding USC TAs aimed at utilizing their knowledge and abilities to train other TAs)
5. *College Graduate Merit Award* – University of Southern California, Fall 2008-Spring 2013 (five year graduate support package)
6. *Heidi M. Payne First Year Essay Prize* – University of Rochester, Philosophy Dept., Spring 2007 (annual award for the best essay by a first year graduate philosophy student)
7. *Dean's Fellowship* – University of Rochester, Fall 2006-Spring 2008 (five year graduate support package)
8. *Kappa Tau Epsilon* – Biola University, Fall 2004 (the Talbot School of Theology Scholastic Honor Society)
9. *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges Award* – Biola University, Fall 2004 (national scholastic achievement award)
10. *Bible Study Fellowship International Scholarship Award* – Biola University, Fall 2002-Spring 2004
11. *William W. Bass Memorial Scholarship Award in Philosophy* – Biola University, Spring 2002 (annual award for the best graduate student in philosophy)
12. *Robert N. Oliver Award in Systematic Theology* – Biola University, Spring 2001 (annual award for the best graduate student in systematic theology)
13. *Edward J. Sexton Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Fellow* – Claremont McKenna College, 1997 (accepted into competitive application-based endowed major, though ultimately declined)
14. *Distinguished Scholar* – Claremont McKenna College, Fall 1994-Fall 1995, Fall 1997 (for GPA of at least 3.67)
15. *Dean's List* – Claremont McKenna College, Spring 1997 (for GPA of at least 3.33)

PUBLICATIONS

Semi-Professional Articles

1. "The Christian Doctrine of the Trinity", an article in *Apologia: Magazine of RZIM Life Focus Society*, co-authored with R. Douglas Geivett (July 2003).

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Conference Presentations

1. "One What? Three Who? An Attempt at a Deeper Account of Substance and Persons in the Trinity Employing a Morelandian Substance Metaphysic", Evangelical Theological Society, Far West Regional Meeting, Bethel Seminary (San Diego, CA), April 23, 2004.
- 2-3. "Scotching Hajek's 'Scotching Dutch Books?'"
 - University of Miami Graduate Conference in Epistemology (Miami, FL), January 13-15, 2011.
 - University of Texas at Austin Graduate Conference in Philosophy (Austin, TX), April 15-16, 2011.
- 4-5. "Marmor, Putnamian Externalism, and the Semantics of 'Law'"
 - Northwest Philosophy Conference (Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR), November 4-5, 2011.

- Pacific Division Meeting of the APA (Seattle, WA), April 4-7, 2012.

Non-refereed Presentations

1. “One What? Three Who? An Attempt at a Deeper Account of Substance and Persons in the Trinity Employing a Morelandian Substance Metaphysic”, Talbot Philosophy Club, Biola University (La Mirada, CA), March 16, 2004.
2. “The Kalam Cosmological Argument”, two-part visiting lecture for R. Douglas Geivett’s Christian Apologetics course, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University (La Mirada, CA), March 2001.
- 3-4. “The Problem of Evil”, two-part visiting lecture for R. Douglas Geivett’s Christian Apologetics course, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University (La Mirada, CA), November 2000, April 2001.

Other

1. “Graduate Studies in Philosophy at Talbot: An Alumnus Perspective,” presented for the incoming class of new students at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University (La Mirada, CA), August 23, 2005.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Organizing

1. *UCLA-USC Graduate Conference in Philosophy* – University of California, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), February 26, 2011

Conference Refereeing

1. *UCLA-USC Graduate Conference in Philosophy* – University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA), February 27, 2010
2. *UCLA-USC Graduate Conference in Philosophy* – University of California, Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), February 26, 2011
3. *UCLA-USC Graduate Conference in Philosophy* – University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA), February 18, 2012

Conference Chairing/Moderating

1. *American Philosophical Association* – Pacific Division Meeting (Portland, OR), March 22-26, 2006 (for the Evangelical Philosophical Society section, topic: Christianity and Metaphysics)
2. *American Philosophical Association* – Pacific Division Meeting (San Diego, CA), April 20-24, 2011 (for Nicholas Georgalis, “On Frege’s Supposed Hierarchy of Senses”)

Committee Responsibilities

1. *Organizing Committee* – The Center for Language Sciences, University of Rochester, Fall 2007-Spring 2008
2. *Teaching Assistant Fellow* – USC Center for Excellence in Teaching, University of Southern California, Fall 2011-Spring 2012
3. *Diversity Task Force* – Western Seminary, Fall 2020–Present
4. *Internal Review Board* – Western Seminary, Fall 2020–Present
5. *Faculty Search Committee* – Western Seminary, Summer 2021 (for hire in Center of Ministry and Leadership)

Administrative

1. *New Student Advisor* – Biola University, Fall 2003, Fall 2004 (for incoming graduate philosophy students of Talbot School of Theology)

Donor Relations

1. “The Impact of Talbot’s Graduate Program in Philosophy,” presented for prominent donors at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, August 30, 2004. (Didn’t I do this twice, the second time when I said all that stuff about worship that Horner was impressed by? The first time was outdoors in some courtyard, the second at the Phil House.)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association, Fall 2000-Spring 2007, Spring 2011-Spring 2012, Spring 2020-Summer 2023

Society of Christian Philosophers, Fall 2000-Spring 2007, Spring 2020-Present

Evangelical Philosophical Society, Fall 2000-Spring 2007, Fall 2020-Present

Evangelical Theological Society, Spring 2002-Spring 2009, Spring 2020-Present

Philosophy of Time Society, Fall 2003-Spring 2007

American Academy of Religion, Fall 2003-Spring 2005

Heterodox Academy, Spring 2020-Present

MINISTRY SUPPLEMENT

PERSONAL

Spouse: Kelly J. Kwak (married February 5, 2005)
Children: Jace H. Kwak, Cleo J. Kwak
Hometown: Beaverton, OR
Ethnicity: Korean American

CURRENT CHURCH

Beaverton Christian Church
13600 SW Allen Blvd.
Beaverton, OR 97005

Lead Pastor: Jon Furman
Non-denominational
Began attending: Jan. 2020

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Jun. 2014-May 2019	<i>Ordained Pastor (Adult Education, Life Groups, Asian-American Ministry)</i> – Village Baptist Church (Beaverton, OR) [Ordained on Jun. 1, 2014]
Sept. 2012-Jun. 2014	<i>Director (Adult Education, Asian-American Ministry)</i> – Village Baptist Church (Beaverton, OR) [Licensed for ministry on Feb. 12, 2013]
May 2011 – May 2012	<i>Deacon</i> – Los Angeles Open Door Church (Los Angeles, CA)
Jan. 2004 – Jun. 2006	<i>Director and Instructor</i> – Aletheia: The Institute of Christian Thought at Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)
Oct. 2001 – Jun. 2006	<i>Associate Pastor (Teaching, Administration)</i> – Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA)
Aug. 1998 – Jun. 2000	<i>Campus Ministry Staff Worker</i> – InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Claremont McKenna College (Claremont, CA)
Aug. 1995 – May 1998	<i>Student Leader (Bible Study, Worship)</i> – InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Claremont McKenna College (Claremont, CA)

MINISTRY PRESENTATIONS

1. “The Problem of Pain and Evil”, summer retreat workshop for Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), June 22, 2001.
2. “Do God and Evil Mix?: The Problem of Evil & Belief in God”, North Hills Church (Brea, CA), July 29, 2001.
3. Christian Apologetics Panel with Greg Koukl of Stand To Reason, Christian Campus Ministry at UC Irvine (Irvine, CA), May 15, 2002.
4. “The Kalam Cosmological Argument”, Summer Institute for Training (SIT) for Christian Campus Ministry (El Monte, CA), July 2002.
5. “The Christian View of the Bible”, Cleveland High School (Reseda, CA), December 1, 2003.
6. “Constructing an Argument for the Existence of God”, Christian Campus Ministry at UCLA (Los Angeles, CA), April 15, 2004.
7. “The Problem of Evil”, Summer Institute for Training (SIT) for Christian Campus Ministry (Downey, CA), July 2004.

8. "The Not-So Fundamentals of the Faith", twelve-part series, Aletheia – The Institute of Christian Thought at Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), July-September 2004.
9. "Actions Speak Louder than Words", After Dark (the undergraduate evening chapel service) at Biola University (La Mirada, CA), October 13, 2004.
10. "Answering Questions about Intelligent Design", Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), November 14, 2004.
11. "Intelligent Design", four-part series, Aletheia – The Institute of Christian Thought at Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), November-December 2004.
12. "Answering Objections to the Christian Faith", eight-part series, Aletheia – The Institute of Christian Thought at Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), May 2005.
13. "The Argument and Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus", Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), May 29, 2005.
14. "Gaining Life by Losing It in Marriage", wedding homily for Gary Osmundsen and Julie Ware (Cape May, NJ), July 30, 2005.
15. "A Theology of Gender", five-part series, Aletheia – The Institute of Christian Thought at Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), August-September 2005. (Co-taught with Jeandarlae Yim.)
16. "Actions Speak Louder than Words", Young Nak Presbyterian Church English Ministry (Portland, OR), September 4, 2005.
17. "Intelligent Design: What's All the Fuss About?", two-part series, Living Hope Bible Institute (Walnut, CA), May 24-31, 2006.
18. "Actions Speak Louder than Words", four-part series, winter retreat for Agape Christian Fellowship at the University of Rochester (Rochester, NY), February 9-11, 2007.
19. "The Call of the Christ: The Cost of the Cross", three-part series, Spring Festival for Agape Christian Fellowship at the University of Rochester (Rochester, NY), March 30-April 1, 2007.
20. "Our Purpose in Life", InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at SUNY Geneseo (Geneseo, NY), September 7, 2007.
21. "Mere vs. Denominational Christianity", Agape Christian Fellowship at the University of Rochester (Rochester, NY), November 16, 2007.
22. "Biochemical Intelligent Design", Agape Christian Fellowship at the University of Rochester (Rochester, NY), February 22, 2008.
23. "The Argument and Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus", Global Leadership Development Institute of JAMA (Jesus Awakening Movement for America), Vanguard University (Costa Mesa, CA), July 2008.
24. "Our Purpose in Life", Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), September 28, 2008.
25. "Abortion: The Key Questions", Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), October 26, 2008.
26. "Abortion: The Key Questions", two-part series, LA Open Door Church (Los Angeles, CA), February 2009.
27. "Jesus and Your Purpose in Life", summer retreat workshop for the Youth Group at LA Open Door Church (Los Angeles, CA), July 3, 2009.
28. "Jesus and Your Purpose in Life", LA Open Door Church (Los Angeles, CA), July 12, 2009.
29. "Creation, Science, and God", eleven-part lecture series for Village University at Village Baptist Church (Beaverton, OR), Jan.-Apr. 2019.
30. "Jesus and Your Purpose in Life", Ratio Christi Campus Fellowship at Portland State University (Portland, OR), April 30, 2019.
31. "Jesus and Our Purpose in Life", Eden Presbyterian Church (Beaverton, OR), August 11 and 18, 2019.
32. "God's Purpose and Our Pleasure: On Piper's Christian Hedonism", Eden Presbyterian Church (Beaverton, OR), October 20, 2019.

33. “On Transformation”, Eden Presbyterian Church (Beaverton, OR), November 10, 2019.
34. “Losing Life to Gain It”, Eden Presbyterian Church (Beaverton, OR), November 8, 2019.
35. “On Transformation”, two-part series for Eden Presbyterian Church Youth Retreat (Silverton, OR), Dec. 26-27, 2019.
36. “The Church and Social Justice”, Beaverton Christian Church (Beaverton, OR), June 24, 2021. (Training session for church leadership and staff.)
37. “The Church and Social Justice”, Willamette Christian Church, Beaverton Christian Church, and Hope City Church (West Linn, OR), June 20, 2022. (Training session for three church leadership.)

* Also periodic preacher for Village Baptist Church from Aug. 2012-May 2019 (while employed as director, then pastor), regular preacher for Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles from Oct. 2001-Jun. 2006 (while employed as associate pastor), and regular speaker for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Claremont McKenna College from Fall 1998-Spring 2000 (while on volunteer staff).

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Radio

1. Thirty minute radio interview on my personal history and Living Way Community Church’s *Compass at the Crossroad* conference on Christian Ethics (for which I served as the organizer), on “Meeting the Next Generation” with host Jason Park, GBC 1190 AM (Los Angeles, CA), broadcast on March 2, 2006.

Television

2. Ten minute television interview on local pastoral reaction to *The Da Vinci Code* on “tvK News: English Edition,” interviewed by Grace E. Jang, station tvK24 (Los Angeles, CA), broadcast on May 25, 2006.