

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 (IN PROGRESS)

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

Advisor: Zeynep Soysal

Committee: Jens Kipper, Paul Audi, Ash Asudeh

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Fall 2020 – Present *Asst. Professor of Pastoral Theology, Asst. Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program - Western Seminary*

Spring 2020 *Adjunct Instructor – George Fox University (Portland Seminary)*

Fall 2019 *Teaching Assistant – Western Seminary*

Fall 2014 – Summer 2018 *Adjunct Instructor – Multnomah University*

Spring 2010 – Spring 2011 *Teaching Assistant – University of Southern California*

Fall 2007 – Spring 2008 *Teaching Assistant – University of Rochester*

Fall 2003 – Spring 2006 *Adjunct Instructor – Biola University*

Fall 2000 – Spring 2004 *Teaching and Research Assistant – Biola University*

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Language

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Pastoral Theology

Pastoral Leadership and Care

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Church and Society

Race, Culture, Justice

Multiethnic, Multicultural Ministry

Spiritual Formation and the Life of the Mind

Spiritual Formation and Civil Discourse

Inductive Bible Study

Logic, Reason and Argument

Introduction to Philosophy

Ethics (Normative and Applied)

Metaphysics

Epistemology

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Religion

Christian Apologetics and Worldview

Christianity and Science

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught: Undergraduate

Introduction to Biblical Greek I (Biola University)
Introduction to Biblical Greek II (Biola University)
Introduction to Philosophy and Christian Thought (Multnomah University)
Principles of Ethics (Multnomah University)

Courses Taught: Graduate

Introduction to Epistemology (Talbot School of Theology, Biola University)
Philosophy of Religion / Introduction to Christian Apologetics (Talbot School of Theology, Biola University)
Mission, Church, and Society (Portland Seminary, George Fox University)
Transformational Leadership (Western Seminary)
Research Design and Methodology (Western Seminary)

Courses Assisted

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)
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)

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
15. *Dean's List* – Claremont McKenna College, Spring 1997

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).

Under Peer Review

1. “Scotching Hajek’s ‘Scotching Dutch Books’”

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.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

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

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)
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 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.
11. “Actions Speak Louder than Words”, Young Nak Presbyterian Church English Ministry (Portland, OR), September 4, 2005.
12. “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.

13. "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.
14. "Our Purpose in Life", InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at SUNY Geneseo (Geneseo, NY), September 7, 2007.
15. "Mere vs. Denominational Christianity", Agape Christian Fellowship at the University of Rochester (Rochester, NY), November 16, 2007.
16. "Our Purpose in Life", Living Way Community Church of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, CA), September 28, 2008.
17. "Jesus and Your Purpose in Life", summer retreat workshop for the Youth Group at LA Open Door Church (Los Angeles, CA), July 3, 2009.
18. "Jesus and Your Purpose in Life", LA Open Door Church (Los Angeles, CA), July 12, 2009.
19. "Jesus and Your Purpose in Life", Ratio Christi Campus Fellowship at Portland State University (Portland, OR), April 30, 2019.
20. "Jesus and Our Purpose in Life", Eden Presbyterian Church (Beaverton, OR), August 11 and 18, 2019.
21. "God's Purpose and Our Pleasure: On Piper's Christian Hedonism", Eden Presbyterian Church (Beaverton, OR), October 20, 2019.
22. "On Transformation", Eden Presbyterian Church (Beaverton, OR), November 10, 2019.
23. "Losing Life to Gain It", Eden Presbyterian Church (Beaverton, OR), November 8, 2019.
24. "On Transformation", two-part series for Eden Presbyterian Church Youth Retreat (Silverton, OR), Dec. 26-27, 2019.
25. "The Church and Wrestling with Social Justice", Beaverton Christian Church (Beaverton, OR), June 24, 2021. (Training session for church leadership and staff.)

* 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.