

# Dawn Eschenauer Chow

1115 E. 58th St., Chicago, IL 60637  
260-224-1460  
desch@uchicago.edu  
www.dawneschenauerchow.com

## Education

PhD Philosophy, University of Chicago, 2017  
MA Philosophy, University of Chicago, 2008  
BA Philosophy and English Writing, Saint Mary's College, 2005

## Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology

## Areas of Competence

Metaphysics, Ethics, Logic

## Dissertation

*Analogical Models of God: An Account of Religious Language*  
Committee: Josef Stern (chair), James Conant, Michael Kremer

Thought about God in Western monotheism is drawn in two conflicting directions: theistic faith demands that one be able to offer some description of God, but there are forceful theological reasons for thinking that none of our creaturely concepts could properly apply to God. One traditional solution to this problem is to assert that we speak *analogically* of God: that God is not, e.g., wise in the same sense as any creature, but instead has something *similar* to wisdom. But William Alston and others have argued that analogical claims must be reducible to non-analogical ones or else they will be too empty of propositional content to support religious faith or practice. I argue that we must understand analogical speech about God to consist, not in simple similarity claims, but instead in claims which either construct or are based on analogical *models* of God. Accepting a model involves not only accepting particular similarity claims, but also taking a particular cognitive and practical stance toward the modeled object. I then show how such a theology can be coherent, realist in purport, and sufficiently contentful to support a robust religious faith and practice, even if one takes the fairly radical position that all true, positive ascriptions of intrinsic properties to God are irreducibly analogical.

## Publications

“The Passibility of God: A Plea for Analogy” (forthcoming in *Faith and Philosophy*)

## Presentations

### *Invited Commentaries*

“Sin as Alienation” in Author Meets Critics session on Noreen Khawaja, *The Religion of Existence: Asceticism in Philosophy from Kierkegaard to Sartre*, APA Central Division meeting, Chicago, IL, February 24, 2018

Response to “Gott and Evil” by Samuel Ruhmkorff, Central States Philosophical Association meeting, October 11, 2014

### *Workshop Presentations*

“Analogy, Similarity, and Polysemy: On the Irrelevance of ‘Words Said in Different Senses’ in Accounts of Religious Language,” Wittgenstein Workshop, University of Chicago, April 22, 2016

“Aquinas’s Doctrine of Analogy as a Response to the Problem of Religious Language,” Metaphor Workshop, University of Chicago, Jan. 25, 2013

“The Logic of Nonsense,” Wittgenstein Workshop, University of Chicago, Feb. 20, 2009

“An Ideal Spinoza,” Early Modern Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, Jan. 25, 2008

## Awards

Excellence in Course Design Award (Honorable Mention) for the course “FYS II: Skepticism,” from the University of Chicago Center for Teaching, 2016

## Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame, 2018-2019

Lecturer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2013-2018

## Teaching Experience

### *As Lead Instructor*

**“FYS I: The Concept of Faith,” 2013-2017, nine sections total (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)**

A writing-intensive seminar course for first-year students on a topic of my own design

**“FYS II: Skepticism,” 2014-2018, eight sections total (School of the Art Institute of Chicago)**

A writing-intensive seminar course for first-year students on a topic of my own design

**“Philosophical Perspectives,” Humanities Core class, Winter 2013 (University of Chicago)**

Syllabus focused on Descartes’ *Meditations* and Hume’s *Enquiry*

**“Human Being and Citizen,” Humanities Core class, Fall 2012 (University of Chicago)**

Syllabus included Genesis, the *Iliad*, and texts by Sophocles and Plato

**“Religion and Truth,” Junior/Senior Tutorial, Fall 2010 (University of Chicago)**

Seminar course for advanced-track Philosophy majors

## *As Writing Intern*

*Writing interns grade papers and hold small-group writing workshops associated with the University of Chicago's Humanities Core classes.*

### **“Philosophical Perspectives,” five sections total, 2012-2015**

Instructors Anubav Vasudevan, Ted Cohen, Markus Hardtmann, Nicolas Koziolk, and Bart Schultz

### **“Greek Thought and Literature,” four sections total, 2010-2013**

Instructors Jonathan Ulliot, Christopher Faraone, and Joshua Scodel

### **“Human Being and Citizen,” Fall 2012**

Instructor Dawn Chow (I served both roles for this class)

## *As Teaching Assistant*

Josef Stern, “Maimonides and Hume on Religion,” 2013

Benjamin Callard, “Introduction to Epistemology and Metaphysics,” 2013

Kevin Davey, “Paradox,” 2012

Corinne Bloch and Robert Richards, “History and Philosophy of Biology,” 2012

William Wimsatt, “Philosophy of Mind and Science Fiction,” 2012

Kevin Davey, “Introduction to Philosophy of Science,” 2011

Daniel Brudney, “Autonomy and Medical Paternalism,” 2010

David Finkelstein, “Wonder, Magic, and Skepticism,” 2009

Thomas Lockhart, “Elementary Logic,” 2009

Jason Bridges, “Elementary Logic,” 2008

Michael Kremer, “Faith and Reason,” 2008

## Pedagogical Training

### **Department of Philosophy Pedagogy Program, completed Spring 2016**

Eight-part instructional program with a discipline-specific focus; requirements included participation in a peer classroom observation exchange

### **“How People Learn,” University of Chicago, Department of Philosophy, Winter 2014**

Two-hour workshop on how to maximize students' ability to internalize new knowledge

### **“Creating an Enabling Classroom Environment,” University of Chicago Center for Teaching, Winter 2014**

Two-hour workshop on enabling learning for all students, addressing both disabilities and bias issues

### **“Assignment Design Workshop,” University of Chicago Center for Teaching, Summer 2013**

Two-hour workshop on designing assignments to fit course goals

### **“Seminar on Course Design,” University of Chicago Center for Teaching, Spring 2013**

Three-hour seminar on setting course goals and designing a syllabus

### **“Pedagogies of Writing,” University of Chicago Writing Program, Spring 2007**

10-week graduate course on effective methods for teaching students to write at the college level

## Academic Service

### **Session Facilitator for “Teaching@Chicago” Conference, Fall 2017 (University of Chicago)**

Alongside one co-facilitator, ran a 20-person training session on learning goals and inclusive teaching practices

### **Student Coordinator for the Department of Philosophy Pedagogy Program, 2016-2017 (University of Chicago)**

Duties included facilitation of peer observation exchanges and organizing a student-led TA orientation

### **Teaching Consultant for the Chicago Center for Teaching, 2016-2017 (University of Chicago)**

Duties included observing and filming graduate student instructors and offering constructive feedback

## Coursework

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### **Philosophy of religion**

Jean-Luc Marion, “Augustine’s *On the Trinity*,” Spring 2006

Daniel Brudney, “18th/19th Century Philosophy of Religion,” Autumn 2006

Jonathan Lear, “Kierkegaard’s Socrates,” Autumn 2005

Jonathan Lear, “Kierkegaard’s *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*,” Spring 2008 \*

Paul Mendes-Flohr (Divinity School), “‘Religious as Presence’: Martin Buber’s Philosophy,” Autumn 2007 \*

Daniel Arnold (Divinity School), “Theories of Religion as Philosophy of Mind,” Winter 2006 \*

### **Moral and political philosophy**

Daniel Brudney, “Themes in Recent Political Philosophy: Recognition and Respect,” Spring 2007

Charles Larmore, “Practical Reason,” Autumn 2005

Jonathan Lear, “Parts of the Soul,” Winter 2006

### **Logic and 20th century analytic philosophy**

Michael Kremer, “Intermediate Logic,” Winter 2007

Michael Kremer, “Analytic Philosophy,” Spring 2006

David Finkelstein, “Seminar: Wittgenstein,” Spring 2006

James Conant, “Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*,” Winter 2008 \*

### **Other historical philosophy**

Josef Stern, “Medieval Philosophy,” Winter 2007

Yitzhak Melamed, “Spinoza,” Autumn 2006

Jonathan Beere, “Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason,” Winter 2006

John Haugeland, “Heidegger’s *Being and Time*,” Autumn 2006 \*

Robert Pippin, “Hegel’s Theory of Freedom,” Winter 2006 \*

### **Theology and biblical studies**

Willemien Otten (Divinity School), “History of Christian Thought I,” Winter 2009 \*

Jeffrey Stackert (Divinity School), “Prophecy in Ancient Israel,” Winter 2009 \*

Kristine Kulp (Divinity School), “H. Richard Niebuhr,” Spring 2008 \*

Margaret Mitchell (Divinity School), “Introduction to the New Testament,” Winter 2007 \*

## References

**Paul Ashley (teaching reference)**

Associate Professor  
Liberal Arts  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
pashley@saic.edu

**James Conant**

James D. Tripp Professor of Humanities  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Chicago  
jconant@uchicago.edu

**Michael Kremer**

Mary R. Morton Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Chicago  
kremer@uchicago.edu

**Josef Stern**

William H. Colvin Professor of Philosophy (Emeritus)  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Chicago  
j06s@uchicago.edu