

Dawn Eschenauer Chow

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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, for example, 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.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

2018. "The Passibility of God: A Plea for Analogy," *Faith and Philosophy*, 35:389-407

Invited Publications

2018. "Sin as Alienation: On Khawaja's Interpretation of Kierkegaard," *Existenz*, 13:50-55

Presentations

Conference Commentaries

2014. Response to "Gott and Evil" by Samuel Ruhmkorff, Annual Meeting, Central States Philosophical Association

Workshop Presentations

2018. "Analogy without Evisceration: Irreducibly Analogical Models of God," Center for Philosophy of Religion Discussion Group, University of Notre Dame

2016. "Analogy, Similarity, and Polysemy: On the Irrelevance of 'Words Said in Different Senses' in Accounts of Religious Language," Wittgenstein Workshop, University of Chicago

2013. "Aquinas's Doctrine of Analogy as a Response to the Problem of Religious Language," Metaphor Workshop, University of Chicago

2009. "The Logic of Nonsense," Wittgenstein Workshop, University of Chicago

2008. "An Ideal Spinoza," Early Modern Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago

Awards

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

Academic Appointments

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

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

Teaching Experience

As Lead Instructor

"FYS I: The Concept of Faith," School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 9 sections total, 2013-2017

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

"FYS II: Skepticism," School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 8 sections total, 2014-2018

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

"Philosophical Perspectives," Humanities Core class, University of Chicago, 2013

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

"Human Being and Citizen," Humanities Core class, University of Chicago, 2012

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

"Religion and Truth," Junior/Senior Tutorial, University of Chicago, 2010

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,” 5 sections total, 2012-2015

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

“Greek Thought and Literature,” 4 sections total, 2010-2013

Instructors Jonathan Ulliot, Christopher Faraone, and Joshua Scodel

“Human Being and Citizen,” 2012

I was both the writing intern and the instructor 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 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, 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, 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, 2013

Two-hour workshop on designing assignments to fit course goals

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

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

“Pedagogies of Writing,” University of Chicago Writing Program, 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

** indicates audit*

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