

JONATHAN LYONHART

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ACADEMIC HISTORY

LINCOLN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Illinois, USA

- Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy (2021-Present)
- Program Director for the BA in Philosophy (2022-Present)
- Program Director for the BA in Biblical and Theological Studies (2023-Present)

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge, UK

- Fellow of the Cambridge Centre for the Study of Platonism (2021-Present)

MCGILL UNIVERSITY / UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- Postdoctoral Researcher with a SSHRC funded project between the University of Cambridge and McGill University, titled: *The Reception of German Mysticism in Early Modern England*. (2020-2021)

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver, Canada

- Inclusive Assessment Fellow at the University of British Columbia, helping re-evaluate MCQs to better incorporate EAL (English as an Additional Language) Students (2020-2021)

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge, UK

- PhD Theology and Religious Studies (Viva Passed in Oct 2020) Cd.
 - Burney Scholarship in Philosophy of Religion (£48,000)
 - One of three Founders of the *New Trinitarian Ontologies Conference*, Cambridge
- MPhil Theology, Religion, and Philosophy of Religion, Distinction (2018)
 - M.Phil. Prize for being top of the Graduate Class (2018)

REGENT COLLEGE

Vancouver, Canada

- MATS Christianity and Culture (2017)
- Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies (2017)

OZARK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Joplin, USA

- BTH New Testament Theology (2011)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- *Introduction to Christian Theology* (IVP Academic, Accepted, 2024).
- *Zeus Was An Atheist: An Odd Retelling of the Moses Story* (Cascade Books, Accepted, 2024).
- *Space God: Rejudging a Debate Between More, Newton, and Einstein* (Cascade Books, Accepted, 2023).

- John Milbank, Ryan Haecker, and Jonathan Lyonhart, *New Trinitarian Ontologies* (Cascade Books, Accepted, 2023).
- *MonoTheism: An Absurdly Arrogant Attempt to Answer All the Problems of the Last 2000 Years in One Night at a Pub* (Cascade Books, 2021).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- ‘Peele’s Black, Extraterrestrial, Naturalistic Critique of Religion’, *Journal of Religion and Film* Vol. 27, Iss. 2 (Accepted, October 2023).
- ‘Wrangling about Innate Ideas? Reflections on Locke and Cudworth’, *Religions* Vol. 14, Iss. 3 (March 2023).
- ‘What if Descartes had been a Woman? An Epistemology of Empathic Partnership’, *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies* vol. 9.2 (October 2022). University of Minnesota.
- ‘Gender, Race, and Religion in an African Enlightenment’, *Journal of Religion and Film* Vol.26, Iss.1 (April 2022).
- ‘The Monstrous Other and the Biblical Narrative of Ruth’, *Journal of Religion and Film* Vol.24, No.2 (October 2020). Jonathan Lyonhart and Jennifer Matheny.
- ‘Rethinking Truth: Assessing Heidegger’s Critique of Aquinas in light of Vallicella’s critique of Heidegger’, *New Blackfriars* vol. 101 (May 2020).
- ‘Being and Time-less Faith: Juxtaposing Heideggerian Anxiety and Religious Experience’, *Open Theology* 6, no. 1 (January 2020): 15-26.
- ‘Heidegger for the Perplexed: Some Possible Ways Forward After Being and Time’, *Crux: A Quarterly Journal of Christian Thought and Opinion*, Vol. 56.4 (December 2020).

CHAPTERS

- “Alternative History and Eschatological Justice,” in *Ethics and Religion in Contemporary Speculative Fiction*. Ed. Sarah Gallant and Jennifer Matheny. (Fortress Press Academic/Lexington Books, 2023, Accepted).
- “The Modern Manichaeans: Binaries of Light and Dark in Contemporary Culture” In *Theology and the Star Wars Universe*. Ed. Ben Espinoza. (Fortress Press Academic/Lexington Books, June 2022)
- “The Defeat of Death: The Philosophy of Death in Mainstream Cinema.” in *Popular Culture and Philosophy, 131: The Avenger’s Infinity Saga and Philosophy*. Ed. Heather Rivera. (OpenCourt Pub., 2020)
- “Thanos is no Abraham: A Kierkegaardian Analysis of Ethics” in *Popular Culture and Philosophy, 131: The Avenger’s Infinity Saga and Philosophy*. Ed. Heather Rivera. (OpenCourt Pub., 2020)

BOOK REVIEWS

- Alister McGrath, *A Theory of Everything (That Matters): A Brief Guide to Einstein, Relativity, and His Surprising Thoughts on God* (Illinois: Tyndale, 2019). Review in *Science and Christian Belief* Vol 33, 1 (2021).
- Brian Greene, *Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe* (New York, Knopf, 2020). Review in *Theology and Science* Vol 20.1 (December 2021).
- Sean Carroll, *Something Deeply Hidden: Quantum Worlds and the Emergence of Spacetime* (Boston, MA: Dutton, 2019). Review in *Public Understanding of Science* Vol 29.7 (2020).

- Ron Cowen, *Gravity's Century: From Einstein's Eclipse to Images of Black Holes* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019). Review in *Physics in Perspective* Vol 22.4 (2020).
- Jim Al-Khalili, *The World According to Physics* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2020). Review in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* Vol 72.4 (2020).

POPULAR-LEVEL PUBLICATIONS

- 'Henry More on Divine Space', *Genealogies of Modernity* (Collegium Institute for Catholic Thought & Culture, University of Pennsylvania), November 2022.
- *Noesis: Journal of Theology, Philosophy, and Poetics* Vol 7 (Graduate Society for the Study of Philosophical Theology and Systematics, Cambridge, UK: October 2020). Editor.
- 'Jericho Beach', *The Mirrored Hall* (Burnaby, BC: ShatterBooks Pub., April 2017).
- 'Terminal', *The Mirrored Hall* (Burnaby, BC: ShatterBooks Pub., April 2017).
- 'Trump sparks War with CBS', *The Mirrored Hall* (Burnaby, BC: ShatterBooks Pub., April 2017).
- 'Wittgenstein on Divine Hiddenness', *Noesis Review* Vol 7 (Graduate Society for the Study of Philosophical Theology and Systematics, Cambridge, UK: October 2020).
- '3rd Corinthians', *Noesis Review* Vol 5 (Graduate Society for the Study of Philosophical Theology and Systematics, Cambridge, UK: November 2018). Republished.
- '3rd Corinthians', *Et Cetera Issue 9* (Regent College Student Association, BC: March 2017)
- Interview by *Regent Web* (June 2019) regarding the *New Trinitarian Ontologies Conference I* co-founded at Cambridge. Available here: <https://www.regent-college.edu/about-us/news/2019/regent-alumni-start-new-trinitarian-ontologies-conference-at-cambridge>

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

- *Chitwood Research Award for Excellence in Scholarship* (\$500) Lincoln Christian University, 2022
- *American Academy of Religion Grant* (\$500) AAR Denver, 2022
- *Burney Scholarship in Philosophy of Religion* (£48,000) University of Cambridge, 2018-21
- *Bethune-Baker Fund* (£1500) University of Cambridge, 2020
- *Divinity German Language Fund* (£1000) University of Cambridge, 2020
- *University of Fribourg* (£4000) Major Conference Grant, 2019
- *Cambridge Faculty of Divinity Trust Fund* (£2500) Major Conference Grant, 2019
- *Greta Burkill Fund* (£2000) Major Conference Grant, 2019
- *Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Italy* (€4600) Major Conference Grant, 2019
- *Cambridge Colleges Grants* (£1100) Five Minor Conference Grants, 2019
- *Societies Syndicate Technical Committee Grant* (£350), Minor Conference Grant, 2019
- *MPhil Prize* for being Top of the 2018 Graduate Class at the University of Cambridge
- *Economics and Morality Academic Colloquium Grant* (£300) Acton Institute, 2018
- *Williamson Man of the Year Award*, Ozark Christian College, 2011
- *Trustees Scholarship* (\$4000) Ozark Christian College, 2007-2011

TEACHING

Lincoln Christian University, Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy

- Courses Previously/Currently Taught:
 - TH160 *Basic Christian Beliefs* (2021-2022)
 - TH160 NET *Basic Christian Beliefs* (2021-2023. Online, Asynchronous)
 - IDP210 *History of Western Thought* (2021-2022)
 - IDP211 NET *History of Western Thought* (2022-2023. Online, Asynchronous)
 - IDP345 *God and the Holocaust* (2022-2023)
 - IDP336 *History of Gender and Christianity* (2022-2023)
 - IDP311 *Non-Western Philosophy* (2023)
 - IDP311 NET *Non-Western Philosophy* (2023. Online, Asynchronous)
 - IDP311 S-NET *Non-Western Philosophy* (2023. Online, Synchronous)
 - PH IS 305 *Modern Philosophy* (2022)
 - PH IS 306 *Contemporary Philosophy* (2023)
 - PH IS 314 *Metaphysics and Epistemology* (2023)
 - PH IS 482 *Ethics* (2023)
 - CH600 *Christianity through the Ages* (2023)
 - CH600 NET *Christianity through the Ages* (2023. Online, Asynchronous)
 - CH600 S-NET *Christianity through the Ages* (2023. Online, Synchronous)
 - TH701 *Modern Theology I* (2022)
 - TH701 NET *Modern Theology I* (2022. Online, Asynchronous)
 - TH701 S-NET *Modern Theology I* (2022. Online, Synchronous)
- Sample Feedback (Official Assessments Available Upon Request):
 - “This was probably the best class I’ve had at Lincoln. The instructor is engaging and hilarious. Mr Lyonheart is approachable, he just gets it. Great class.”
 - “I enjoyed this class so much. He made learning interesting and fun to learn about biblical topics I hadn't thought of before.”
 - “This has without question been the best class I have ever taken for school.”
 - “This class was so amazing. It opened up many alternative views that I had never heard of before. The professor was very skilled at representing each view point. Each was treated with respect and assessed without bias.”
 - “Professor Lynon (sic) taught me so much in these few months that I could not believe how much information I grasped. Loved it.”
 - “Dr. Lyonhart was extremely knowledgeable and engaging. Very well done!”
 - “Professor Lyonhart is an amazing professor. He makes clear what he expects and if you need help he is always more than willing to help.”
 - “This instructor truly seemed to care about the class and worked hard to present the material in a way that was engaging.”
 - “Lyonhart is an engaging teacher! Loved listening to dramatized lectures that kept my attention and anticipation for what was being taught.”
 - “Professor Lyonhart is a great professor, and I truly believe that he will going (sic) to change the trajectory of every student he comes in contact with for the betterment of their life.”
 - “It was a wonderful class that I think everyone should be required to take!”
 - “This class has been my favorite I have taken within my 4 years here.”

- “This was perhaps the best class I have ever taken, and Lyonheart was a Phenomenal professor. He kept the class engaged, allowed great discussion, and encouraged questions. He genuinely showed he cared for the class and for the material and taught it extremely well.”
- “This was one of my most favorite classes! The professor was amazing and did an amazing job at teaching and communicating the topics. He was funny and made the class a Joy to be in.”
- “This (sic) hands down the best Professor on campus no questions asked. Very helpful and always knows how to make the class interesting and fun.”
- “Lyonhart is my favorite teacher i (sic) love his teaching style and he was amazing at keeping everyone engaged.”
- “My favorite class this year. Professor was fantastic and material and class set up was incredibly engaging due to the professor's attitude and teaching style.”
- “Dr. Lyonhart is a very engaging professor! He seemed to know how to connect with students well, to keep them interested, and to make class entertaining as we learned.”
- “He is a professor that I will never forget throughout the years.”
- “I really enjoyed your class and loved the content...”
- “Awesome (sic) Class I Ever Took!!!!”

Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, University of Cambridge, Intensive Week Adjunct

- Course: *History of Early Modern Science* (2020. Online)
- Course: *Religion, Science, and Contemporary Culture* (2020. Online)
- Course: *Mind and Matter* (2020)

University of Cambridge, Department of Philosophy, Supervisor

- Course: *Metaphysics* (2020-2021. Online)
- Course: *Early Modern Philosophy* (2020-2021. Online)
- Course: *Philosophy of Science II* (2020-2021. Online)

University of Cambridge, Regular Guest Lecturer in *Philosophy of Religion* (2017-2020)

- Sample Feedback:
 - “Many were quite simply stunned at the quality... [he left us] in stunned silence.”
 - “Absolutely brilliant speaker - knowledgeable (which one would expect) but also excellent delivery and very engaged with the audience - very impressed.”
 - “Jonathan was simply marvellous... I cannot speak highly enough of him. It was an utter privilege to have heard him speak.”

Church-Based Learning Programs and Ministry Curriculum, Vancouver Christian Logos Church

- Subject: *Religion and Film* (2016-2017)
- Subject: *Theology of the Old Testament* (2016-2017)
- Subject: *History of Western Thought* (2015-2016)
- Subject: *Philosophy of Religion* (2016)
- Subject: *The Book of James* (2016)
- Subject: *World Religions* (2015)

- Subject: *Psalms* (2015)
- Subject: *Theology of Gender and Sexuality* (2014)
- Subject: *The Gospel of Luke* (2013-2014)
- Subject: *Philippians* (2012-2013)
- Sample Feedback:
 - “He’s the best teacher I’ve ever had.”
 - “The moment I heard him speak I knew I’d need to hear him speak again.”
 - “Jonathan put a lot more effort into his job than the teachers I’ve had in the past and teachers I currently have. He went above and beyond what was required of him to make sure that his students grow as people.”
 - “I would say that he is by far the best teacher I’ve had so far. He is engaging, friendly, and very helpful.”
 - “I have never met a teacher that is as passionate and dedicated as Jonathan.”
 - “He’s extremely creative, integrating visual aids (props, etc.), multimedia, and so on... It makes it hard to ever get bored!”
 - “He made history really fun.”
 - “He is intellectual without showing up as obnoxious or unapproachable.”
 - “...has the professionalism of a university professor, with the passion of an elementary school teacher.”
 - “Jonathan was always really encouraging of different opinions. He was extremely patient and caring, which made everyone feel safe to express their beliefs or their concerns.”

Select Teaching Certificates and Pedagogical Courses/Seminars Attended:

- *Certificate in Inclusive Pedagogy: Universal Design for Learning in Theological Education* – American Academy of Religion – 2022
- *Sexual Harassment Seminar* – Lincoln Christian University – 2021 & 2023
- *Accessibility in the Classroom* – McGill University – 2021
- *Engaging Students Online with Zoom* – McGill University – 2021
- *Microaggressions in the Classroom* – McGill University – 2021
- *Teaching Strategies for Engaging Students in Remote Learning* – McGill University – 2020
- *Supervisor Training* – University of Cambridge – Department of Philosophy – 2019
- *Leadership and Sexual Ethics* – Mennonite Brethren of British Columbia – 2016
- *Annual Leadership Seminar* – Mennonite Brethren Chinese Churches Assoc. – 2013-2016
- *Curriculum Planning* – Ozark Christian College – 2011
- *Leadership, Team Building, & People Development* – Ozark Christian College – 2011
- *Advanced Biblical Communication* – Ozark Christian College – 2011
- *Strategies for Teaching* – Ozark Christian College – 2010
- *Self-Disclosure in Teaching and Preaching* – Ozark Christian College – 2009

Select Conference Lectures:

- “*Henry More on the Oneness of Space and the Many-ness of Matter.*” (AAR, San Antonio, November, 2023)
- Co-Chair and Opening Speaker, *New Trinitarian Ontologies Panel* (European Academy of Religion, St Andrews, Scotland, June 2023)

- “The Trinity and Cosmology.” (European Academy of Religion, St Andrews, Scotland, June 2023)
- “In Nature but not of Nature: Henry More on Divine Space.” (AAR, Denver, November, 2022)
- “Locke and Cudworth on Innate Ideas.” (John Locke Conference, Naples, June 9, 2021)
- “Divine Space: Odd, Interesting, or Heretical?” (Cambridge Festival, Cambridge, March 28, 2021)
- “Introduction to Philosophy of Religion.” (Divinity Online, University of Cambridge, June 17, 2020)
- “Hemsterhuis on Space: A response to Adrian Mihai.” (The D Society, University of Cambridge, November 15, 2019)
- “God is Dead? An introduction to Philosophy of Religion.” (Cambridge Festival of Ideas, Oct 17, 2019)
- “Heidegger and Aquinas on the location of Truth.” (AHRC ‘Trust and Truth’ International Interdisciplinary Conference, Peterhouse College, Cambridge, September 18-20, 2019)
- “The On-going Necessity of Trinitarian Ontology.” (New Trinitarian Ontologies Conference, University of Cambridge, September 13-15, 2019)
- Panel Chair for “Evolution and Pan(en)theism” discussion, feat. Celia Deane-Drummond and Johannes Hoff. (New Trinitarian Ontologies Conference, University of Cambridge, September 13-15, 2019)
- “Nietzsche, Cosmos and Morality.” (Sutton Trust, University of Cambridge, August 23, 2018)
- “John Locke and Ralph Cudworth on the source of Reason and Morality.” (Lehrstuhl für Religionsphilosophie und Wissenschaftstheorie, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, May 11, 2019)
- “Wrangling about Innate Ideas? Reflections upon Locke and Cudworth.” (British Society for the History of Philosophy Annual Conference, King’s College London, April 24, 2019)
- Response to Christian Hengsternann’s “Holiness and Love – Divine Sensation and Agency in Ralph Cudworth’s Early Sermons,” (‘Ralph Cudworth at the Crossroads of Modernity’, conference co-sponsored by the British Academy, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, March 11, 2019)
- “Arguments for and against the Existence of God.” (University of Cambridge, Outreach at Mill Hill, November 9, 2018)
- “Cudworth on Atoms, Motion and Nothingness.” (Beierwaltes Seminar, Clare College, Cambridge, October 20, 2018)
- “What is Philosophy of Religion?” (Sutton Trust, University of Cambridge, August 15, 2018)
- “Re-evaluating the Cosmological Argument.” (July 26, 2018, University of Cambridge, UK)
- Response to Gavin Hyman’s “Between Hegel and Wittgenstein: Reflections in the Wake of Gillian Rose and Rowan Williams,” (The D Society, University of Cambridge, February 2, 2018)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

ENGLISH PASTOR

Vancouver Christian Logos Church, 2012-2017

- Served as the full-time English pastor over a Chinese congregation in Vancouver, Canada
- Acquired essential skills in cross-generational and intercultural communication as the youngest and only Caucasian pastor in our denomination.
- Gained valuable communication experience, averaging 46 Sundays preaching a year for five years in a row.

- Garnered useful counselling, pastoring, teaching and interpersonal skills.
- Oversaw numerous teams, as well as hiring ministry staff, delegating responsibilities, and equipping leaders.

CO-FOUNDER OF THE NEW TRINITARIAN ONTOLOGIES CONFERENCE

University of Cambridge, 2019

- One of three founders of the New Trinitarian Ontologies Conference, featuring Rowan Williams, David Bentley Hart, Graham Ward, John Milbank, Catherine Pickstock, Judith Wolfe, Emmanuel Falque, Andrew Louth, Thomas Joseph White, et al.
- Liaised with speakers to coordinate lectures, arrange panels, and live-stream the proceedings
- Promoted the conference worldwide, while arranging travel, catering and accommodations for hundreds of incoming guests
- Handled over £30,000 in grants and ticket sales, acquiring proficiency in event management

EDITOR OF NOESIS

University of Cambridge, 2019-Present

- Worked as one of the lead editors of *Noesis*, Cambridge Divinity's annual *Journal of Theology, Philosophy, and Poetics*.

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION SUBJECT COMMITTEE

University of Cambridge, 2019-2021

- Organized programming, collected student response data, helped construct course curriculum and syllabi, raised concerns in committee, and coordinated with faculty and staff

WRITING CONSULTANT

ShatterBooks Publishing, 2015-2017

- Functioned as a consultant for a local publishing house, participating in the ongoing effort to publish anthologies and novels

MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Co-Host of the *Spiritually Incorrect Podcast* (spirituallyincorrectpodcast.com) since Fall 2022.
- Designed and hosted a personal website (jdlyonhart.com) enabling the public to engage with my on-going content (2018-Present)
- Published a YouTube channel ([JD Lyonhart](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJdLyonhart)) featuring my lectures, interviews, dramatizations, public debates, podcast, and sermons (2014-Present).

CAMPUS MINISTRY INTERNSHIP

College Heights Christian Church/Missouri Southern State University, 2009-2011

- Fostered administrative abilities through organizing programs for nearly 300 young adults.
- Created and ran my own volunteer staff teams, including organizing a weekly homeless ministry involving over 20 students.
- Refined public speaking and interpersonal abilities through consistent weekly teaching and regular preaching

NON-FOR-PROFIT WORK

- Helped equip a local homeless and drug-rehabilitation ministry in downtown Vancouver (2015, 2017)
- Served on an impoverished Native Reservation in the mountains of Phoenix, Arizona, running free programs for youth, building homes, and volunteering at a Sex-Slave rehabilitation home while receiving special training in the subject. (2011)
- Supported a struggling community during the failed 2010 revolution in Bangkok, Thailand, ministering in the slums and protest zones. (2010)
- Rebuilt homes in Galveston, Texas, in the wake of Hurricane Ike. (2009)
- Served with Living Waters, a Non-for-Profit in Manhattan, New York, working to provide clean water around the globe. Simultaneously, assisted small groups for recovering drug addicts. (2008, 2010, 2011)
- Helped a local ministry serve the poor and disenfranchised in Matamoros, Mexico, particularly through construction projects and running community programs for local youth. (2007)
- Gained experience working with youth (grades 3-11) through counselling, teaching, running programs, and leading discussions at Camp Artaban (2005-2008, 2011, 2016, 2017)
- Acquired experience with youth as a volunteer leader for both the grade 6-8 and 8-12 groups at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Vancouver, Canada (2005-2007, 2011-2012)

REFERENCES

Academic

- Dr. Douglas Hedley - Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, University of Cambridge, UK
01223 763028 / rdh26@cam.ac.uk
- Dr. Jennifer Kenny Matheny - Associate Professor of Christian Scriptures, Baylor University, USA. 971 226 4952 / jmatheny@nts.edu
- Dr. Fred Johnson - Professor of New Testament, Lincoln Christian University, USA
217-732-3168, ext. 2209 / fjohnson@lincolnchristian.edu

Personal & Pastoral

- Rev. Dr. Arthur Matheny - Lead Pastor, TRU Church, Manhattan KS, USA
917 226 4555 / art.matheny@tru.church
- Pastor Silas Huffer - Lead Pastor, College Heights Christian Church, Joplin MO, USA
918 360 8634 / shuffer@hcchurch.org
- Pastor Cody Graves - Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Baxter Springs KS, USA
417 770 5095 / fccbaxter@gmail.com