

# JONATHAN LYONHART

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## ACADEMIC HISTORY

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### LINCOLN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Illinois, USA

- Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy (2021-Present)
- Program Director for the BA in Theology and Philosophy (2021-Present)

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge, UK

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

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE/MCGILL UNIVERSITY

- 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 in the University of British Columbia's Inclusive Assessment program, 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 and Religious Studies, 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

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### BOOKS

- *Space God: Rejudging a Debate Between More, Newton, and Einstein* (Cascade Books, Wipf & Stock, Accepted and Forthcoming 2023).

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

#### ARTICLES

- ‘What if Descartes had been a Woman? An Epistemology of Empathic Partnership’, *Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies* vol. 9.2 (September 2022). University of Minnesota.
- ‘Gender, Race, and Religion in an African Enlightenment’, *Journal of Religion and Film* vol.26, Iss.1 (April 2022).
- ‘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.
- ‘The Monstrous Other and the Biblical Narrative of Ruth’, *Journal of Religion and Film* vol.24, no.2, art.3 (October 2020). Jonathan Lyonhart and Jennifer Matheny.
- ‘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, 2022, 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 *The Infinity Saga and Philosophy*. Ed. Heather Rivera. (OpenCourt Pub., 2020)
- “Thanos is no Abraham: A Kierkegaardian Analysis of Ethics” in *The Infinity Saga and Philosophy*. Ed. Heather Rivera. (OpenCourt Pub., 2020)

#### EDITED WORKS

- *Noesis: Journal of Theology, Philosophy, and Poetics* Vol 7 (Graduate Society for the Study of Philosophical Theology and Systematics, Cambridge, UK: October 2020).
- *The Mirrored Hall* (Burnaby, BC: ShatterBooks Pub., April 2017).

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- 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).
- 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).
- 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).

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 'Wittgenstein on Divine Hiddenness', *Noesis Review* Vol 7 (Graduate Society for the Study of Philosophical Theology and Systematics, Cambridge, UK: October 2020).
- '3<sup>rd</sup> Corinthians', *Noesis Review* Vol 5 (Graduate Society for the Study of Philosophical Theology and Systematics, Cambridge, UK: November 2018). Republished.
- '3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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- *Chitwood Research Award for Excellence in Scholarship* (\$500) Lincoln Christian University, 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

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Lincoln Christian University, Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy

- Courses
  - IDP 210 *History of Western Thought* (2021-2022)
  - IDP 211 NET *History of Western Thought* (2022. Online, Asynchronous)
  - PH 305 *Modern Philosophy* (2022)
  - TH160 *Basic Christian Beliefs* (2021-2022)
  - TH160 NET *Basic Christian Beliefs* (2021-2022. Online, Asynchronous)
  - IDP 345 *God and the Holocaust* (2022)
  - IDP 336 *History of Gender and Christianity* (2022)

- TH701 *Modern Theology I* (2022)
- TH701 NET *Modern Theology I* (2022. Online, Synchronous)
- TH701 NET *Modern Theology I* (2022. Online, Asynchronous)
- Sample Feedback:
  - “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.”
  - “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.”
  - “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.”
  - “This was perhaps the best class I have ever taken, and Lyon-heart 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. I feel I have learned a lot from this class and I am sure others have as 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 class helped me to think critically and helped me develop my faith even more. This was an excellent class with an excellent professor!”
  - “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. He would bring in outer things that related to us students to help understand class and he also had open discussions with us while in class.”
  - “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. I admire that he was open with us about his uncertainties on questions that the answers to cannot be known and the humility he had when it is not possible to be certain about particular questions. However, I think that he showed that being uncertain does not undermine our faith. I like that even if there was not a clear answer, he was very knowledgeable on the various options or traditions that the church and scholars had presented.”
  - “Dr. Lyonhart was an amazing professor, going into it I did not know what to expect because he was a new professor. I was very pleasantly surprised that I was able to like an 8 a.m. class, he was always so awake at 8 in the morning which was absolutely crazy to me.

He made sure that we were all involved in the classroom by doing different class debates which were probably some of my favorite class times. He has challenged me to question my own faith and to get a deeper understanding of what I believe aside from what my parents believe. 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!!!!”
- “I really enjoyed taking this class. The one thing I had a problem with was getting up early for class.”

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.”

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

- Intensive Week Course: *History of Early Modern Science* (2020. Online)
- Intensive Week Course: *Religion, Science, and Contemporary Culture* (2020. Online)
- Intensive Week Course: *Mind and Matter* (2020)
- Sample Feedback:
  - “Really enjoyed being taught by him... a testament to that is the fact that I still remember most of it.”
  - “Very engaging.”
  - “Great use of analogies. Succeeded in breaking complicated ideas down into their easily-digestible constituent parts. Loved the use of diagrams and visual tools as well.”
  - “Dr Lyonhart was very kind and created a friendly learning environment where I was not afraid to voice my opinion.”

University of Cambridge, Department of Philosophy, Teaching Supervisor

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

Church-Based Learning Programs, VCLC, BC Mennonite Brethren

- 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.”

#### Regent College

- Course: *Augustine* (2013). Teaching Assistant.

#### Regent College

- Teacher in the graduate writing tutor program (2011-2012)

#### Ozark Christian College

- Course: *Religion and Science* (2009-2010). Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer.

#### Teaching Certificates and Teaching Courses/Seminars Attended

- *Certificate in Inclusive Pedagogy: Universal Design for Learning in Theological Education* – American Academy of Religion – 2022
- *Title IX and Sexual Harassment Prevention for Employees* – Lincoln Christian University – 2021
- *Accessibility in the Classroom* – McGill University – 2021
- *Engaging Students Online with Zoom* – McGill University – 2021
- *Inclusive Testing* – University of British Columbia – 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
- *Graduate Tutor Training* – Regent College – 2011

- *Advanced Biblical Communication* – Ozark Christian College – 2011
- *Strategies for Teaching* – Ozark Christian College – 2010
- *Expository Preaching* – Ozark Christian College – 2009
- *Self-Disclosure in Teaching and Preaching* – Ozark Christian College – 2009
- *Pastoral Counselling* – Ozark Christian College – 2009
- *Homiletics* – Ozark Christian College – 2008
- *Speech II* – Ozark Christian College – 2007

Select Conference Lectures:

- “*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)
- “*Is Duns Scotus responsible for Onto-Theology, Immanence and Nihilism?*” (Academic Symposium, Regent College, Canada, March 2017)

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### 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*.

### MINISTER

Vancouver Christian Logos Church, 2012-2017

- Served as the full-time English minister over a Chinese congregation
- 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.

### 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

### MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Co-Host of the *Spiritually Incorrect Podcast* ([spirituallyincorrectpodcast.com](http://spirituallyincorrectpodcast.com)) since Fall 2022.
- Designed and hosted a personal website ([jdlyonhart.com](http://jdlyonhart.com)) enabling the public to engage with my on-going content (2018-Present)
- Published an on-going YouTube channel ([JD Lyonhart](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJDLyonhart)), featuring over 60 of my lectures, dramatizations, public debates and sermons (2014-Present).

### CAMPUS MINISTRY

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

#### SUMMER CAMP MINISTRY

Camp Artaban, 2005-2008, 2011, 2016, 2017

- Gained experience working with youth (grades 3-11) through counselling, teaching, running programs, and leading discussions

#### YOUTH MINISTRY

Holy Trinity Church, Vancouver, BC 2005-2007, 2011-2012

- Acquired experience with youth as a volunteer leader for both the grade 6-8 and 8-12 groups

#### NON-FOR-PROFIT WORK

- Helped equip a local homeless and drug-rehabilitation ministry in inner city Vancouver (2015, 2017)
- Served on an impoverished Native Reservation in the mountains of Phoenix, Arizona, running free programs for youth, building homes, volunteering at a Sex-Slave rehabilitation home while receiving special training in the subject. (2011)
- Spent several months supporting 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)

#### REFERENCES

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- Dr. Douglas Hedley - Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, University of Cambridge, UK  
01223 763028 / rdh26@cam.ac.uk
- Dr. Brian Messner - Academic Dean & Professor of History and Interdisciplinary Studies,  
Lincoln Christian University, USA. 217-732-3168, ext. 2350 / messner@lincolnchristian.edu
- Dr. Jennifer Kenny Matheny - Assistant Professor of Old Testament, Nazarene Theological  
Seminary, 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
- Rev. Dr. Arthur Matheny - Lead Pastor, TRU Church, Kansas, USA  
971 226 4555 / art.matheny@tru.church