

# BLAKE MCALLISTER

## *Curriculum Vitae*

–July 2021–

Department of Philosophy & Religion  
Hillsdale College  
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Hillsdale, MI 49242

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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#### HILLSDALE COLLEGE

2016–Present Assistant Professor of Philosophy

#### BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

2014–2016 Teacher of Record

#### LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

2013–2016 Instructor

### EDUCATION

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#### BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

2016 PhD in Philosophy  
2013 MA in Philosophy

#### PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

2011 BA in Philosophy, *summa cum laude*

### SELECTED HONORS

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- 2021 Awarded \$2.4 million grant (with Principle Investigator Ian Church) from John Templeton Foundation for the project “Launching Experimental Philosophy of Religion”
- 2019 Award attendee of the TheoPsych Residential Seminar at the Office of Science, Theology, and Religion Initiatives at Fuller Theological Seminary, funded by the John Templeton Foundation.
- 2015–2016 Outstanding Dissertation Award Winner, Baylor University
- 2011–2016 Presidential Scholar, Baylor University
- 2015 Award attendee of the St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion at the University of St. Thomas, funded by the John Templeton Foundation.
- 2015 Winner of George Elder Davie Essay Prize for excellence in the study of Scottish Philosophy, Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy
- 2012 Best Graduate Student Paper, Midwest Region of the Society of Christian Philosophers
- 2011 Salutatorian, Pepperdine University
- 2010 Award of Recognition for Work Against Human-Trafficking, California’s 38<sup>th</sup> District

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**SCHOLARSHIP**

*Research Interests:* Epistemology; Philosophy of Religion; Philosophical Theology; Early Modern Philosophy

**PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES**

- Forthcoming "The Partiality of Faith." *Australasian Philosophical Review*, Special Issue on Faith.
- 2021 "From One Conservative to Another: A Critique of Epistemic Conservatism." *Southwest Philosophical Review*, 37(2).
- 2021 "Understanding Moral Disagreement: A Christian Perspectivalist Approach." *Religions* 12: 318. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12050318>
- 2021 "Conceptualism and Concept Acquisition." *Theoria* 87(1), Special Issue on Concepts, Contexts, and Communication, 87: 69-86. <https://doi.org/10.1111/theo.12209>
- 2020 "The Perspectival Problem of Evil." *Faith and Philosophy*, 37(4): 421-450.
- 2019 (with Trent Dougherty). "Reforming Reformed Epistemology: A New Take on the *Sensus Divinitatis*." *Religious Studies* 55(4): 537-557.
- 2018 "The Perspective of Faith: Its Nature and Epistemic Implications." *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, 92(3): 515-533.
- 2018 "Seemings as *Sui Generis*." *Synthese* 195(7): 3079-3096.
- 2016 "Re-evaluating Reid's Response to Skepticism." *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 14(3): 317-339.
- 2016 "Divine Command Theory and Moral Supervenience." *Philosophia Christi* 18(1): 65-78.
- 2014 "Adequate and Inadequate Ideas in Spinoza." *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 31(2): 119-136.

**BOOK CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 2020 (with Logan Gage). "The Phenomenal Conservative Approach to Religious Epistemology." In J. DePoe and T. McNabb, eds., *Debating Christian Religious Epistemology: An Introduction to Five Views on the Knowledge of God*. New York: Bloomsbury.
- 2020 (with Logan Gage). "Classical Evidentialism: A Phenomenal Conservative Critique." In *Debating Christian Religious Epistemology*
- 2020 (with Logan Gage). "Reformed Epistemology: A Phenomenal Conservative Critique." In *Debating Christian Religious Epistemology*
- 2020 (with Logan Gage). "MacIntyrean Traditions Based Perspectivalism: A Phenomenal Conservative Critique." In *Debating Christian Religious Epistemology*
- 2020 (with Logan Gage). "Covenantal Epistemology: A Phenomenal Conservative Critique." In *Debating Christian Religious Epistemology*

- 2020 (with Logan Gage). "Reply to Critics." In *Debating Christian Religious Epistemology*
- 2019 "Evidence is Required for Religious Beliefs." In *Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Religion*. Edited by Michael L. Peterson and Raymond J. VanArragon. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2019 "Reply to VanArragon." In *Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Religion*.
- 2019 "A Return to Common Sense: Restorationism and Common Sense Epistemology." In *Restoration & Philosophy: New Philosophical Engagements with the Stone-Campbell Tradition*. Edited by J. Caleb Clanton. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press.

#### DISSERTATION

- 2016 "Common Sense Epistemology: A Defense of Seemings as Evidence"  
Committee: Jonathan Kvanvig (director), Trent Dougherty, Alexander Pruss, Todd Buras, Gerald Cleaver

#### SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 "Epistemic Responsibility without Transparency or Voluntarism." American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting.
- 2019 "The Perspectival Problem of Evil." Evangelical Philosophical Society, Moody Bible School.
- 2018 "Perspectives on the Problem of Evil: The Need for Theodicy." Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University.
- 2018 Panel presentation on "Philosophy and the Church." Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University.
- 2017 "Faith and the Justification of Christian Belief." Society of Christian Philosophers Eastern Regional Meeting, Asbury University.
- 2017 "Why Internalists Should Endorse Phenomenal Conservatism (and Externalists Should Pay Attention)." American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting.
- 2017 "Reforming Reformed Epistemology." American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting.
- 2017 "Restoring Common Sense: Common Sense Epistemology and the Restoration Tradition." Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University.
- 2017 Panel presentation on "Philosophical Engagements with the Stone-Campbell Tradition." Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University.
- 2017 Panel on Faith and Authority, This Far by Faith: Reformation at 500 Lecture Series.
- 2016 "The Perspective of Faith." Society of Christian Philosophers Eastern Regional Meeting, Rutgers University.
- 2016 "Reforming Reformed Epistemology." Society of Christian Philosophers Pacific Regional Meeting, University of San Diego.
- 2016 "Reforming Reformed Epistemology." Lecture sponsored by the Department of Philosophy & Religion.

- 2015 "Conceptualism and Concept Acquisition." Mountain Plains Philosophical Society, University of Missouri-Kansas City.
- 2015 "Revamping Traditional Arguments for Internalism." Alabama Philosophical Society.
- 2015 "Carving at the Joints: Naturalism and the Problem of Natural Beliefs." Houston Baptist University Philosophy Conference, Houston Baptist University.
- 2015 "A New Evolutionary Argument Against Naturalism." Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Meeting, Spring Hill College.
- 2015 "Reid on the Justification of First Principles." Center for the Study of Scottish Philosophy Spring Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary.
- 2014 "Conceptualism and Concept Acquisition." Northern Graduate Philosophy Conference, Northern Illinois University.
- 2014 Comments on Michael Shaffer, "Pascal's Wager, Acceptance and Belief." The Nature and Value of Faith Conference, The Faith Project funded by the John Templeton Foundation.
- 2014 "Teaching with Ethos." Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers, Baylor University.
- 2014 "Hard Facts Made Easy." American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting.
- 2014 "Hard Facts Made Easy." Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Meeting, Trinity Christian College.
- 2013 "A Reductive Account of the *Sensus Divinitatis*." Houston Baptist University Philosophy Conference, Houston Baptist University.
- 2013 "A Reductive Account of the *Sensus Divinitatis*." Society of Christian Philosophers Mountain-West Regional Meeting, University of Colorado-Boulder.
- 2012 "Theistic Modal Realism and Gratuitous Evil." Alabama Philosophical Society.
- 2012 "Desire Fulfillment Theories and the Inequality of Desires." North Texas Philosophical Association, University of North Texas.
- 2012 "Escaping Murphy's Trilemma." Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Meeting, Hendrix College.
- 2012 Comments on Richard Cross, "What is Philosophically Interesting about Medieval Views of the Trinity." Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference, Baylor University.
- 2010 "The Principle of Sufficient Reason and Free Will." Intermountain West Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Utah.

#### RESEARCH SEMINARS

- 2019 Participant in the TheoPsych Residential Seminar at the Center for Science, Technology, and Religion at Fuller Theological Seminary, funded by the John Templeton Foundation.
- 2015 Participant in the St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion at the University of St. Thomas, funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE***Conferences Organized*

- 2013            9<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference, Baylor University (with Jonathan Kvanvig)
- 2012            8<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference, Baylor University (with Jonathan Kvanvig)

*Ad Hoc Referee*

Mind  
 Cambridge University Press  
 Philosophical Studies  
 American Philosophical Quarterly  
 Faith & Philosophy  
 Journal of Analytic Theology  
 Res Philosophica  
 Australasian Journal of Philosophy  
 Dialectica  
 Theoria  
 Religions

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- 2012–Present American Philosophical Association
- 2011–Present Society of Christian Philosophers

**POPULAR SCHOLARSHIP***Popular-Level Articles*

- 2021            (with Jordan Wales) “God creates through the natural process of the universe” *The Collegian*, Hillsdale College.
- 2018            “Seeing Through the Eyes of Faith.” The Open Table, July 29, 2018, <https://www.theopentableblog.com>
- 2011            “The Universe Began to Exist? Craig’s Philosophical Arguments for a Finite Past.” *Stance*, Vol. 4
- 2010            “The Principle of Sufficient Reason and Free Will.” *Stance*, Vol. 3

*Popular-Level Presentations*

- 2021            “Alston on Perceiving God.” Lecture for Phi Sigma Tau Philosophical Honorary, Hillsdale College.
- 2021            “The Basics of Bayesian Epistemology.” Lecture for Formal Logic Club, Hillsdale College.
- 2020            “What is Phenomenal Conservatism?” The Sound Doctrine Podcast, October 2020, <https://www.thesounddoctrinepodcast.com>
- 2020            “Aristotelian Metaphysics and the Soul of Holy Trinity.” Holy Trinity Anglican Parish.

- 2019 "The Psychology of Moral Judgments, Narrative, and the Problem of Suffering." Lecture for the Liberal Arts Friday Forum on Psychology and the Moral Imagination, sponsored by The Lyceum.
- 2019 "The Wisdom of Horror." Lecture for Interdisciplinary panel on Biological Weapons, sponsored by the Alexander Hamilton Society.
- 2019 "Are We Just Organic Computers?" Panel presentation for Center for Constructive Alternatives Conference on Artificial Intelligence.
- 2019 "And Yet..." Easter Vigil Homily, Holy Trinity Anglican Parish.
- 2019 "Self-Deception." Lecture for Student Men's Group sponsored by Joshua Bailey, Dominic Whalen, and the Dean of Men's Office.
- 2019 "Tithing: Why We Are All Afraid to Think Too Hard About Money." Lecture for panel on tithing sponsored by the Catholic Student Association.
- 2018 "Freedom in Dostoevsky's 'The Grand Inquisitor'." (with Dr. Justin Jackson) Lecture for Collegiate Scholars Program.
- 2018 "Philosophical Underpinnings of the Culture Wars: It's All About the Metaphysics." Lecture for Modern Identity Crisis Conference, World Youth Alliance.
- 2018 "David Lewis on Time Travel." Lecture for the Philosophy Club Reading Group.
- 2018 "A True Liberal Arts College." Lecture delivered at Hillsdale College Admissions Reception in Plymouth, MI
- 2018 "The God Who Loves." Homily, Holy Trinity Anglican Parish.
- 2015–2016 Fundamentals of Christian Theology Course, Church Under the Bridge, Waco, TX:  
     "God and Knowledge of God"  
     "Humanity's Purpose, Fall, and Redemption"  
     "Justification and Sanctification"  
     "The Sanctified Life"  
     "The Church: The Life and Mission of a Disciple of Christ"
- 2015 "Sin as Rebellion." John Henry Newman Center, Baylor University.
- 2014–2015 Lectures for Church Under the Bridge, Waco, TX:  
     "Justification"  
     "Sanctification"  
     "Forgiveness"  
     "Paradoxes of the Faith"  
     "Passover and the Crucifixion"
- 2011 "Hume's Argument Against Miracles." Pepperdine University
- 2010 "Anselm's Ontological Argument." Pepperdine University

## TEACHING

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*Teaching Competences:* Logic, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophical Theology, Analytic Philosophy, Early Modern Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language

### COURSES TAUGHT

#### HILLSDALE COLLEGE

- PHL 105 The Western Philosophical Tradition
- PHL 213 Modern Philosophy
- PHL 341 Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy
- PHL 342 Issues in Contemporary Epistemology
- PHL 343 Issues in Contemporary Metaphysics
- PHL 420 Philosophy of Religion
- CSP 255 Wandering in Darkness: Narrative and the Problem of Suffering
- CSP 260 Heaven, Hell, and In Between
- PHL 495 Philosophy, Science, and Religion

#### BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

- PHI 105 Logic
- PHI 1308 The Pursuit of Happiness

#### LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY

- PL 1003 Introduction to Philosophy
- PL 3433 Ethical Theory
- PL 366V Business & Professional Ethics