

**AARON STALNAKER**  
Curriculum Vitae, January 2025

Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University  
Sycamore Hall 230, 1033 East 3rd Street  
Bloomington, IN 47405  
e-mail: <astalnak@iu.edu>

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**EDUCATION:**

Brown University, Ph.D., Religious Studies	2001
Brown University, A.M., Religious Studies	1997
Middlebury College, Summer program in Classical Chinese	1995
Stanford University, A.B., Philosophy and Religious Studies	1991

**EMPLOYMENT:**

Indiana University, Professor, Department of Religious Studies (chairperson, 2021-2025), and Philosophy and East Asian Languages and Cultures by courtesy	2020-present
Indiana University, Associate Professor with tenure	2008-2020
Indiana University, Assistant Professor	2004-2008
Georgetown University, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Theology	2001-2004

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:**

- Indiana University Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society, Seminar grant  
("Global and Comparative Approaches to Religion, Ethics, and Political Theory"), co-  
organized with Hussein Banai 2018
- Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Scholar Grant ("Mastery, Dependence, and the Ethics of  
Authority") 2015-16
- Research Leave Supplement, Indiana University 2015-16
- Trustees Teaching Award, Indiana University, Dept. of Religious Studies 2007, 2013
- College Arts and Humanities Institute grant ("Mastery, Dependence, and the Ethics of  
Authority"), Indiana University 2013-14
- New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities grant ("Mastery, Dependence, and the Ethics of  
Authority"), Indiana University (declined) 2013-14
- New Frontiers/New Perspectives grant ("Shaping the Third Wave of Comparative Religious  
Ethics: A Workshop Proposal"), Indiana University 2010
- Science of the Virtues grant (one member of a group project, "Virtuous Empathy: Scientific  
and Humanistic Investigations"), Arete Institute, University of Chicago 2010
- Poynter Center Faculty Fellowship, Indiana University 2005-2006
- Georgetown University Faculty Summer Research Grant 2003
- Joukowsky Foundation award for the best dissertation in the humanities at Brown 2001
- Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, Spencer Foundation 2000-2001
- Finalist for the Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation 2000-2001
- Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, U. S. Department of Education 1995-1999
- Dean's Fellowship, Brown University (highest merit award for graduate students) 1994-1995
- Phi Beta Kappa, Stanford University 1990

## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS:**

- Comparative Religious Ethics
- Chinese Philosophy and Religious Thought
- Christian Thought and Ethics
- Moral Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religions (theistic, non-theistic, and comparative)
- Method and Theory in the Study of Religion

## **BOOKS:**

*Mastery, Dependence, and the Ethics of Authority.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

- Discussed: Sole focus of a panel at the Central division meeting of the American Philosophical Association meeting, February 2020; papers and response published in *Philosophy East and West* 71.2 (April 2021)
- Sole focus of a panel at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion conference, November 2021
- Peng Yin, "Virtue and Hierarchy in Early Confucian Ethics," *Journal of Religious Ethics* 49.4 (Winter 2021): 793-807.

*Overcoming Our Evil: Human Nature and Spiritual Exercises in Xunzi and Augustine.*  
Moral Traditions series, ed. James Keenan. Georgetown University Press, 2006.

- Reviewed: *Theological Book Review* 22.1 (2010): 66-67 (J. McGarry)
- Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 30.2 (2010): 215-216 (M. Farina)
- Augustinian Studies* 40.1 (2009): 169-176 (M. Cameron)
- Bulletin of the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica* 34 (March 2009): 319-326 (J. Eichman)
- Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76.1 (June 2008): 183-186 (W. Farley)
- Theological Studies* 69.1 (March 2008): 201-202 (J. Miller)
- Dao: a Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 6 (2007): 318-323 (S. Angle)
- Journal of Chinese Religions* 35 (2007): 190-191 (J. Berthrong)
- Chinese Cross Currents* 4.4 (October 2007): 186-190 (L. Chan)
- Religious Studies Review* 33.3 (July 2007): 218 (A. Yong)
- Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 34.2 (June 2007): 311-314 (R. Wang)
- Christian Century* 124.9 (May 1, 2007): 24 (R. Lovin)
- Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2007.03.14 (T. C. Kline)

- Discussed: Partial focus of a panel at the American Academy of Religion national meeting, October 2008
- Breakfast with an author session, Society of Christian Ethics annual meeting, January 2008
- Sole focus of a panel at the American Academy of Religion national meeting, November 2007

**EDITED BOOK:**

*Religious Ethics in a Time of Globalism: Shaping a Third Wave of Comparative Analysis.*  
Co-edited with Elizabeth M. Bucar. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Reviewed: *Religious Studies Review* 42.3 (2016): 198 (B. Grelle)

Discussed: sole focus of a panel at the Society of Christian Ethics annual meeting,  
January 2015

**REFEREED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS:**

“Dependence and Autonomy in Early Confucianism”

Forthcoming in *Oxford Handbook of Chinese Philosophy*, ed. Justin Tiwald (Oxford UP).

“The Architecture of Global Justice: Comparing East Asian and Western Images of Communal Order”  
In *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Global Justice and East Asian Philosophy*, ed. Janusz Salamon and Hsin-Wen Lee (London: Bloomsbury, 2024): 219-247.

“Religious Ethics and its Publics” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 51.3 (September 2023): 446–457.

“Striving for the Impossible: Early Confucians on Perfect Virtue in an Imperfect World”  
In *Michael Slote Encountering Chinese Philosophy: A Cross-Cultural Approach to Ethics and Moral Philosophy*, ed. Yong Huang (London: Bloomsbury, 2020): 179-198.

“Roles and Virtues: Early Confucians on Social Order and the Different Aspects of Ethics”  
In *Perspectives in Role Ethics: Virtues, Reasons, and Obligation*, ed. Christine Swanton and Tim Dare (Routledge, 2020): 95-122.

“The Innocuous Legacy of Christian Ethics in Comparative Religious Ethics”  
*Journal of Religious Ethics* 47.4 (December 2019): 778-780.

“Self-Cultivation”

In *Dao Companion to the Philosophy of Xunzi*, ed. Eric Hutton (Dordrecht: Springer, 2016):  
35-65.

“In Defense of Ritual Propriety”

*European Journal of Philosophy of Religion* 8.1 (Spring 2016): 117-141.

“Confucianism, Democracy, and the Virtue of Deference”

*Dao: a Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 12.4 (December 2013): 441-459.

“Xunzi”

In *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, ed. Hugh LaFollette (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell,  
2013): 5569–5573.

“Comparative Religious Ethics”

In *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, ed. Hugh LaFollette (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell,  
2013): 944-953. Revised version forthcoming in the second edition of the IEE.

“Introduction: The ‘Third Wave’ of Comparative Religious Ethics,” with Elizabeth M. Bucar  
in *Religious Ethics in a Time of Globalism* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 1-26.

“Mastery, Authority, and Hierarchy in the ‘Inner Chapters’ of the *Zhuāngzǐ*”  
*Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 95.3 (2012): 255-283;  
reprinted in *Religious Ethics in a Time of Globalism* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012):  
177-203.

“Xunzi’s Moral Analysis of War and Some of its Contemporary Implications”  
*Journal of Military Ethics* 11.2 (August 2012): 97-113.  
reprinted in *Chinese Just War Ethics: Origin, Development, and Dissent*, ed. Ping-cheung Lo  
and Sumner B. Twiss (New York: Routledge, 2015): 135-152.

“Virtue as Mastery in Early Confucianism”  
*Journal of Religious Ethics* 38.3 (September 2010): 404-428.

“Judging Others: History, Ethics, and the Purposes of Comparison”  
*Journal of Religious Ethics* 36.3 (September 2008): 425–444.

“The Mencius-Xunzi Debate in Early Confucian Ethics”  
In *Teaching Confucianism*, ed. Jeffrey L. Richey, AAR’s Teaching Religion series (New  
York: Oxford University Press, 2007): 85-105.

“Focus Introduction: Anthropos and Ethics: Categories of Inquiry and Procedures of  
Comparison” (co-authored with Mark Berkson, Thomas Lewis, and Jon Schofer)  
*Journal of Religious Ethics* 33.2 (Summer 2005): 177-185.

“Comparative Religious Ethics and the Problem of ‘Human Nature’”  
*Journal of Religious Ethics* 33.2 (Summer 2005): 187-224.

“Spiritual Exercises and the Grace of God: Paradoxes of Personal Formation in Augustine”  
*Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 24.2 (Fall/Winter 2004): 137-170.

“Rational Justification in Xunzi: On His Use of the Term *Lǐ* 理”  
*International Philosophical Quarterly* 44.1 (March 2004): 53-68.

“Aspects of Xunzi’s Engagement with Early Daoism”  
*Philosophy East and West* 53.1 (March 2003): 87-129.

#### **NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS:**

“Conceptual Approaches in Comparative Religious Ethics”  
In *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, ed. William Schweiker, Maria Antonaccio,  
David Clairmont, and Elizabeth Bucar (Oxford: Wiley, 2022): vol.1, 389-396.

Comment on Peng Yin, “Virtue and Hierarchy in Early Confucian Ethics,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 49.4 (Winter 2021). *Journal of Religious Ethics* 50.3 (September 2022): 568–569.

“Relations and Practices of Virtue: Replies to Commentators”  
*Philosophy East and West* 71.2 (April 2021): 525–536.

“We’re All in this Together?” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 48.3 (September 2020): 352–354.

“On Comparative Religious Ethics as a Field of Study,” with Elizabeth M. Bucar  
*Journal of Religious Ethics* 42.2 (June 2014): 358–384.

“Transforming the Self: Confession and Performance in the Thought of Augustine and Xunzi”  
In *Augustine and World Religions*, ed. Brian Brown, John Doody, and Kim Paffenroth  
(Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2008): 227–274.

“Xunzi” *Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., vol. 14 (New York: Macmillan, 2005): 9862–3.

### **REVIEWS:**

Review of *Ritual and Religion in the Xunzi*, edited by T. C. Kline III and Justin Tiwald  
(Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 2014)  
*Dao: a Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 14.4 (December 2015): 615–619.

Review of *Virtue Ethics and Consequentialism in Early Chinese Philosophy*, Bryan Van Norden  
(New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007)  
*The Journal of Religion* 89.2 (April 2009): 280–282.

Review of *The Politics of Mourning in Early China*, Miranda Brown (Albany, N.Y.: SUNY  
Press, 2007)  
*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 76.4 (December 2008): 1039–1043.

Review of *Virtue, Nature, and Moral Agency in the Xunzi*, T.C. Kline III and Philip J. Ivanhoe,  
eds. (Indianapolis, Ind.: Hackett, 2000)  
*The Journal of Chinese Philosophy* (June 2002): 293–296.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES (selected):**

“Comment on Thorian Harris, ‘Moral Perfection as the Counterfeit of Virtue.’” Presented at the  
Eastern meeting of the American Philosophical Association, New York. January 2025

“Three Conceptions of Leadership in Ancient China.” Presented remotely, California State  
University—Fresno. September 2024

“The Architecture of Global Justice: Comparing East Asian and Western Images of Communal  
Order.” Presented at Fudan University, Shanghai, China. July 2024

“Cultivating Autonomy with the Early Confucians.” Presented at the Confucius-Aristotle  
Symposium on Ancient Wisdom for Modern Challenges, Qufu and Beijing, China. July 2024

- “Forgetting the Self as Trauma *and* Healing: Zhuangzian Reflections on Dementia and Dementia Care.” Presented at the East-West Philosophers’ Conference, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. May 2024
- “Xunzi and Augustine on Self-Cultivation” and “Virtue as Skillful Mastery in Early Confucianism.” Presented at National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan. May 2024
- “Moral Theory and Early Confucianism: Toward a Unified Account.” Presented at the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan. October 2022
- “Response to panelists.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion annual conference, as part of a panel on my second book. November 2021
- “Evaluating Sumner Twiss’s Influence on the Development of Comparative Religious Ethics.” Presented at the American Academy of Religion annual conference. November 2021
- “Dependence and Autonomy in Early Confucianism.” Presented at Valparaiso University. October 2021
- “Comments on Niki Kasumi Clements, *Sites of the Ascetic Self: John Cassian and Christian Ethical Formation.*” Presented at the American Academy of Religion annual conference. November 2020
- “Response to panelists.” Presented at the Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association. February 2020
- “Dependence, Autonomy, and the Varieties of Relationship.” Presented at the Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University. January 2020
- “Sagehood and Tyranny: Reconsidering Some of Xunzi’s Political Ideas.” Presented at the International Society for Chinese Philosophy meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 2018
- “Striving for the Impossible: Early Confucians on Perfect Virtue in an Imperfect World.” Presented at an international conference on Michael Slote’s encounter with Chinese Philosophy, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. March 2018
- “Thoughts on the Legacy of Christian Ethics in Comparative Religious Ethics.” Presented at the Society of Christian Ethics annual meeting. January 2018
- “Debating Universal Empire: The Early Chinese Quest for Order.” Presented at Oxford University. July 2017
- “Dreaming of a Meritocracy.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 2016

- “The Confucian Dào: Virtue as the Fruit of Shared Practices.” Presented at Oberlin College.  
September 2016
- “An Early Confucian Theory of Shared Practice.” Presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> East-West Philosophers’  
Conference, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa; and also at the 12th Annual Midwest  
Conference on Chinese Thought, University of Chicago. March and May, 2016
- “Rethinking Dependence with the Early Confucians.” Keynote lecture given at the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Philosophical Collaborations Conference at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.  
March 2016
- “Why role ethics? Early Confucians on social order and the different aspects of ethics.”  
Presented at a conference on role ethics hosted by the University of Auckland Philosophy  
Department, Auckland, New Zealand. January 2016
- “Teacher-Student Relationships in the *Mengzi*.” Presented at the Midwest Conference on  
Chinese Thought, North Central College. May 2015
- “Facing Human Vulnerability in a Dangerous World: Two Chinese Responses.” Presented at the  
University of Alaska, Anchorage. March 2015
- “Response to panelists.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics, as  
part of a panel of critical appraisals of *Religious Ethics in a Time of Globalism*. January 2015
- “Xunzi on Virtue Politics and the Authority of the Wise.” Versions presented at the Rutgers  
Workshop on Chinese Philosophy, the Midwest Conference on Chinese Thought (in  
absentia), and the International Symposium on Xunzi Research: Review and New  
Explorations, Han Dan, Hebei, PRC. April and June, 2014
- “Dependence and Autonomy in Early Confucian Teaching Relationships.” Presented at the 18<sup>th</sup>  
annual meeting of the International Society for Chinese Philosophy. July 2013
- “Mastery and Dependence in Early Confucianism.” Versions presented at the Society for Asian  
and Comparative Philosophy annual meeting, and also the American Academy of Religion  
annual meeting. October, November 2012
- “Xunzi’s Moral Analysis of War and Some of its Contemporary Implications.” Presented at  
Hong Kong Baptist University during a conference on Chinese Ethics of War and Peace.  
August 2011
- “The ‘Third Wave’ of Comparative Religious Ethics—Characterization and Prospects.”  
Presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. January 2011
- “Mastery, Authority, and Hierarchy in the Inner Chapters of the *Zhuangzi*.” Presented at a  
workshop on comparative religious ethics, Indiana University October 2010

- “Mastery, Authority, and Hierarchy in the *Zhuangzi*.” Presented at the Midwest Conference on Chinese Thought, DePaul University May 2010
- “Disputing the Ethics of Ritual in Early China.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, as part of a panel on “Self and Action” to a Comparative Perspective Seminar on Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures November 2009
- “Virtue as Mastery in Early Confucianism.” Invited lecture at Harvard Divinity School, as part of a series of lectures on “Moral Worlds and Religious Subjectivities” hosted by the Center for the Study of World Religions February, 2009
- Responded to panelists at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, as part of a panel of critical appraisals of new work in Confucian ethics. October 2008
- “Confucian Democracy and the Question of Deference”  
Bristol lecture in ethics, Florida State University, Department of Religion October 2008
- “Xúnzǐ on kě 可, yù 欲, and zhì 志.” Presented at the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. March 2008
- “Law and Virtue Revisited: Inspiration, Coercion, and Paternalism in Early Confucianism.”  
Presented at the University of Oregon during a conference on Chinese thought. March 2008
- “Equality, Mastery, and Dependence: Overview of Work in Progress.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. January 2008
- “Response to panelists.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, as part of a panel of critical appraisals of my first book. November 2007
- “Virtue as Mastery in Early Chinese Thought.” Presented at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. April 2007
- “Varieties of Comparison within Religious Studies.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, as part of a panel on “The State of Comparative Enterprise in the Study of Religions.” November 2006
- “Natural and Unnatural Hierarchies.” Presented at the Poynter Center Faculty Fellows Fall Symposium. October 2006
- “Confucian Democracy and the Virtue of Deference.” Presented at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. December 2005
- “Ritual and the ‘Mode of Subjection’ in Xunzi, with Comparative Observations.” Presented at Indiana University, East Asian Studies Center, East Asian Colloquium Series. March 2005

- “Comparative Religious Ethics and the Problem of ‘Human Nature.’” Presented at Indiana University, Department of Religious Studies. February 2004
- “Spiritual Exercises and the Grace of God: Paradoxes of Personal Formation in Augustine” Presented at the national meeting of the Society of Christian Ethics. January 2004
- “‘West’ Implies ‘East’: Comparison and the Characterization of Distinctive ‘Civilizations.’” Presented at Georgetown University as one of four invited Provost’s Seminars on “Western Civilization” and its role in the intellectual agenda of the contemporary academy. December 2003
- “The Problem of Human ‘Nature’: Contributions from Comparative Religious Ethics.” Presented at Harvard Divinity School. December 2002
- “Constructive Comparisons: Preliminary and Final Ends in Comparative Religious Ethics.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 2002
- “Xunzi on Emotions.” Presented at the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, for a conference on Xunzi, responding to a recent anthology of critical essays. March 2001
- “Xunzi on Ritual as a Spiritual Exercise.” Presented at Davidson College, Department of Religion. January 2001
- “Overcoming Our Evil: Spiritual Exercises and Personhood in Augustine and Xunzi.” Presented at Princeton University, Department of Religion. January 2001
- “Retrieving Diverse Traditions of Spiritual Exercises for Contemporary Religious Ethics.” Presented at Georgetown University, Department of Theology. January 2001
- “The Continued Relevance of the Very Idea of a Conceptual Scheme to the Comparative Study of Religion.” Presented at Congress 2000: The Future Of The Study Of Religion, a conference co-sponsored by Boston University and Harvard University. September 2000
- “Rationality in Xunzi.” Presented to the Philosophy of Religion section at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. November 1998
- “Toward a Social Ethic in Kierkegaard’s Works of Love.” Presented at the Mid-Atlantic regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion. March 1998
- “Comparative Religious Ethics and Contemporary Critique.” Presented at the New England regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion. March 1996

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**Indiana University** August 2004 – present  
*Comparative Religious Ethics* (masters and doctoral level graduate)  
*Religion, Ethics, and Social Conflict* (masters and doctoral level graduate)

*Religion, Ethics, and Power* (masters and doctoral level graduate)  
*Religion, Power, and Authority* (masters and doctoral level graduate)  
*Practices of the Self* (masters and doctoral level graduate)  
*Religion, Ethics, and Culture* (advanced undergraduate seminar/masters level graduate)  
*Zhuangzi* (advanced undergraduate seminar/masters level graduate)  
*Religion, Virtue, and the Good Life* (advanced undergraduate seminar/masters level graduate)  
*Religion and the Search for a Common Morality* (advanced undergraduate seminar/masters level graduate)  
*Self-Cultivation and Spiritual Exercises* (advanced undergraduate seminar/masters level graduate)  
*Friendship, Benevolence, and Love* (intermediate undergraduate/masters level graduate)  
*Classical Chinese Thought* (intermediate undergraduate/masters level graduate)  
*Conceptions of the Self, East and West* (introductory undergraduate)  
*Religion, Ethics, and Public Life* (introductory undergraduate)

I have also taught 9 independent study/directed reading courses (8 for graduate students, 1 for undergraduates), and numerous graduate “piggyback” courses as supplements to existing courses, as well as participated regularly in a classical Chinese reading group.

Graduate and undergraduate student advising:

Doctoral advisee placement: Cheryl Cottine (Oberlin College, tenure track asst. prof., started 8/2014); Geoffrey Goble (University of Oklahoma, TT asst. prof., started 8/2016); Erik Hammerstrom (Pacific Lutheran University, TT asst. prof., started 8/2010); Jonathan Pettit (Purdue University, research/admin position, started 7/2014; University of Hawai’i, TT asst. prof., started 8/2017); Meng Zhang (Huaqiao University, tenure track asst. prof., started 8/2020)

Doctoral dissertation committee chair (5): Cheryl Cottine, Geoffrey Goble, Erik Hammerstrom (winner of the Stanley Weinstein Prize for the best doctoral dissertation on East Asian Buddhism written during 2008-2010), Jonathan Pettit (co-chair), Meng Zhang

Doctoral dissertation committee reader (15): Joseph Bartzell, Susan Blake, Dongchoel Bin, David Boyd, Joshua Congrove, Diane Fruchtmann, Prakriti Goswami, Naiyi Hsu, Mark King, Stephan Kory, Hassan Lacheb, Cuong Mai, Bharat Ranganathan, Faraz Sheikh, Mark Wilson

Doctoral qualifying examination committee chair (5): Cheryl Cottine, Geoffrey Goble, Erik Hammerstrom, Meng Zhang, Yuyuan Zhang

Doctoral qualifying examination committee reader (13): Joseph Bartzell, Dongchoel Bin, David Boyd, Prakriti Goswami, Naiyi Hsu, Nicole Karapanagiotis, Stephan Kory, Hassan Lacheb, Jonathan Pettit (2 sets of exams), Bharat Ranganathan, Faraz Sheikh, Stephen Walker (University of Chicago), Nicole Willock

Master’s thesis committee chair (2): Joy Brennan, Cheryl Cottine

Master’s thesis committee reader (8): Paul Amato, Graham Bauerle, Brian Flaherty, Diane Fruchtmann, Jeremy Gilmore, Paul Jackson, Laura Meyer, Sara O’Donnell

Undergraduate honors thesis primary advisor (3): Daniel Burnham, Ron Estes, Tim Swanger

Undergraduate honors thesis reader (3): Maggie Downham, A.J. Goldman, Becky Winn

**Georgetown University**

August 2001 – July 2004

*Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue* (senior capstone seminar for theology majors)  
*Friendship, Benevolence, and Love* (intermediate undergraduate)  
*Introduction to Chinese Religious Thought* (intermediate undergraduate)  
*The Problem of God* (introductory course in theology/religious studies)

**Jilin College of Electrification** Jilin City, P.R.C., July 1992 – June 1994  
English Teacher in China with Volunteers in Asia. Taught English at a 3-year technical college in Manchuria. My students set provincial records for passage of standardized English tests.

### **OTHER ACADEMIC SERVICE:**

#### Service to the field:

Trustee, Religious Ethics, Inc. (governing body of the *Journal of Religious Ethics*) 2023-2033  
Member, Editorial Board, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* May 2021-April 2024  
Associate Editor, *Journal of Religious Ethics* 2011- 2023  
Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Religious Ethics* January 2010-June 2011  
Member, Advisory Board, rev. ed. of *Blackwell Companion to Religious Ethics* 2013-2017  
Member, Nominations Committee, *Journal of Religious Ethics* November 2010-December 2011  
Co-chair, Steering Committee, AAR Confucian Traditions group January 2017-December 2022  
Member, Steering Committee, AAR CRE group January 2011-December 2011  
Founder and Chair, Comparative Religious Ethics Group, a new unit in the American Academy of Religion September 2005-December 2010  
Advisor to Routledge, *Comparative Religious Ethics*, Major Works Collection, ed. C. Matthews Routledge, 2015  
Outside promotion referee 2021  
Outside tenure referee 2011, 2020, 2023, 2024  
Book manuscript referee for Columbia University Press, De Gruyter, Georgetown University Press, Indiana University Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Routledge  
Article referee for *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of Chinese Religions*, *Journal of Military Ethics*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, *Journal for the Study of Religion*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Philosophy East and West*, *Res Publica*  
Grant referee, Swiss National Science Foundation 2017  
Member, Search Committee for a new editor of the *JSCE* January-September 2005  
Editorial Assistant to S.B. Twiss for two ethics journals September 1999-August 2000

#### University service:

Member, IU-Bloomington Religious Observance Review Committee 2021-23  
Member, IU-Bloomington Promotion Advisory Committee 2020-21  
Member, College Committee on Graduate Education 2016-2018, 2020-21  
Member, Executive Committee, IU Consortium for the study of Religion, Ethics, and Society 2016-2019  
Member, College Strategic Planning Committee (chair of the Staffing and Professional Development subcommittee) 2016-2017  
Member, Arts and Humanities Committee, Provost's Strategic Planning Initiative 2013-14  
Member, Curricular Working Group on Integrated Humanities for undergraduates 2013

Member, Steering Committee on the study of Religion, Ethics, and Society	2012-2013
Member, IU East Asian Studies Center Executive Committee	2009-2010
Member, IU Fulbright Committee	2007, 2008

Departmental service:

Chairperson, Dept. of Religious Studies	2021-2025
Director of Graduate Studies (RS department)	Spring 2012-2015
Director of Undergraduate Studies (RS department)	Fall 2011
Co-chair, Community and Engagement Committee (RS department)	2011-12
Chair, Michael Ing tenure committee (RS department)	2016
Member, Jason Mokhtarian tenure committee (RS department)	2017
Member, Heather Blair tenure committee (RS department)	2014
Member, Rick Nance tenure committee (RS department)	2012
Member, Sylvester Johnson tenure committee (RS department)	2010
Member, Lisa Sideris tenure committee (RS department)	2008
Member, Heather Blair 3 <sup>rd</sup> year review committee (RS department)	2012
Chair, IU Religious Ethics VAP Faculty Search Committee	March 2014
Chair, IU Chinese Religions Faculty Search Committee	August-December 2010
Member, IU East Asian Religions Search Committee	September 2007-February 2008
Member, IU Pre-modern Chinese Literature Search Committee	September 2007-February 2008
Member, IU East Asian Religions Search Committee	September 2006-February 2007
Member, IU American Religious History Search Committee	September 2005-February 2006
Member, IU Religious Ethics Search Committee	September 2004-February 2005
Member, IU Religious Studies Graduate Committee	2005-6, 2016-17
Member, IU Religious Studies Undergraduate Committee	September 2004-April 2005
Member, GU Theology Department Graduate Committee	September 2001-July 2004
Member, GU Theology Department Merit Review Committee	September 2002

**LANGUAGES:**

- Classical Chinese
- Mandarin Chinese
- French
- Latin

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

- American Academy of Religion
- American Philosophical Association
- International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy
- Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy
- Society of Christian Ethics