

Levi Checketts, PhD
Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy
Hong Kong Baptist University
Hong Kong SAR China
Email: checketts@hkbu.edu.hk

Education

The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, USA January 2018
Doctor of Philosophy in Ethics and Social Theory
Comprehensive Exams passed with distinction November 2015
Dissertation: Homo Gubernator: A Moral Anthropology for New Technologies
Advisor: Lisa Fullam, ThD, DVM

Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Brighton, MA, USA May 2012
Master of Theological Studies in Moral Theology
Thesis: Anonymous and Christian Ethics: Protests in the Twenty-First Century

University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, USA May 2010
Bachelor of Arts in Arabic and Theology

Areas of Research

Catholic Social Ethics; Ethics of Technology; Science, Technology and Society Studies; Theological Studies of Technology; Continental Philosophy; Transhumanism

Previous Experience

Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA, USA January 2018-May 2021
Adjunct Lecturer of Graduate Pastoral Ministry June 2020-March 2021
Adjunct Lecturer in Jesuit School of Theology January 2018-May 2021

Holy Names University, Oakland, CA, USA August 2014-May 2021
Adjunct Professor in Philosophy and Religious Studies Departments

Institute for Leadership in Ministry, San Jose, CA, USA January 2017-January 2021
Instructor of Moral Theology

Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA, USA October 2018-June 2020
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Business Ethics

School of Ministry for the Diocese of Monterey, CA, USA November 2019-December 2019
Instructor of Moral Theology

The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, USA January 2017-May 2017
Newhall Fellow in Technology and Theology

The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, USA August 2014-December 2014
Newhall Fellow in Industrial Revolution and Ethics

Other Experience

Cal-Nevada UMC Annual Conference January 2020-December 2020
Racial Ethnic Local Church Concerns Grant Principal

Jesus Love Korean United Methodist Church, Cupertino, CA, USA September 2018-Present
English Ministry Associate Pastor

Oakland Korean United Methodist Church, Oakland, CA, USA March 2013-September 2017
English Ministry Pastor

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA September 2016-June 2017
AAAS Science for Seminaries Grant student assistant

Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA September 2013-May 2014
Bioethics Research Assistant

Publications

1. Peer-Reviewed Articles

Brian Patrick Green, Matthew J. Gaudet, Levi Checketts, Brian Cutter, Noreen Herzfeld, Cory Andrew Labrecque, Anselm Ramelow, Paul Scherz, Marga Vega, Andrea Vicini, and Jordan Joseph Wales. "Artificial Intelligence and Moral Theology: A Conversation." *Journal of Moral Theology* 11, special issue no. 1 (Spring 2022): 13-40.

"Artificial Intelligence and the Marginalization of the Poor." *Journal of Moral Theology* 11, special issue no. 1 (Spring 2022): 87-111.

"The Sacrality of Things: On the Technological Augmentation of the Sacred." *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology* 25, No. 1 (February 2021): 130-152.

"Idle Hands and the Omega Point: Labor Automation and Catholic Social Teaching." *Agathon: A Journal of Ethics and Value in the Modern World* 5 (2018): 153-171.

"Thomas Aquinas Meets Joseph Smith: Toward a Mormon Ethics of Natural Law." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 51, No. 1 (Spring 2018): 79-100.

"New Technologies—Old Anthropologies?" *Religions* 8, No. 4 (2017): 52.

"The Cross and the Computer: Actor-Network Theory and Christianity." *Theology and Science* 15, No. 1 (February 2017): 116-127.

2. Book Chapters

“Christ and Technology in Dialogical Relation: Some Reflections on the Technological Augmentation of the Sacred.” *Theology and Technology* Volume I: Essays in Christian Analysis. Ed. Carl Mitcham, Jim Grote, and Levi Checketts. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2022.

“Homo gubernator as a Teilhardian-Catholic Response to Transhumanism.” *Religious Transhumanism and Its Critics*. Ed. Ted Peters, Arvin Gouw, and Brian Green. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2022.

“Ghosts and Gods in the Machine: Human-Machine Interfaces in Transhuman Philosophy.” *Human Interaction with the Divine, the Sacred, and the Deceased: Psychological, Scientific, and Theological Perspectives*. Ed. Thomas G. Plante and Gary Schwartz. New York: Routledge, 2022.

“Recognizing the Face and Facial Recognition.” *Social Epistemology and Technology: Toward Public Self-Awareness Regarding Technological Mediation*. Ed. Frank Scalabrino. London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

3. Edited Books

Carl Mitcham, Jim Grote, and Levi Checketts eds. *Theology and Technology* Volume I: Essays in Christian Analysis. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2022.

Carl Mitcham, Jim Grote, and Levi Checketts eds. *Theology and Technology* Volume II: Essays in Exegesis and Historical Theology. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2022.

4. Book Reviews

“Review of *Philosophical Posthumanism*.” *Theology and Science* 20, no. 1 (January 2022): 130-131.

“A Review of *The Good of Recognition: Phenomenology, Ethics and Religion in the Thought of Levinas and Ricoeur*.” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 37, No. 2 (Fall/Winter 2017): 207-208.

5. Other Writings

“Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Christian Work in a Post-Labor Society.” *AI and Faith Insights*. September 14, 2021. <https://aiandfaith.org/pierre-teilhard-de-chardin-and-christian-work-in-a-post-labor-society/>

“Can AI Empower the Poor, or Will It Increase Inequality?” *AI Theology*. July 20, 2021. <https://aitheology.com/2021/07/20/can-ai-empower-the-poor-or-will-it-increase-inequality/>

“Can a Christian Be a Transhumanist?” *FaithTech Institute*. April 9, 2021. <https://medium.com/faithtech/can-a-christian-be-a-transhumanist-93f67fc6fa6d>

“The Persona of the Pastor on Social Media.” *Communication Research Trends* 37, No. 2 (June 2018): 25-33.

“The Mormon Godhead and the Christian Trinity.” *Interreligious Insights* 8, No. 3 (December 2010): 38-47.

6. In Press

“Outing Gay Priests: Toward a Catholic Ethic of Privacy.” *Journal of Moral Theology*.

Presentations

Invited Presentations

“Social and Ethical Issues of AI in Asia” (May 2022). Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Public Forum in Berkeley, CA, USA.

“Transhumanism Explored” (January 2022). AI and the Human Unitarian Universalist Colloquium (online).

“Latent Extropianism in Cross-Border Surrogate Pregnancies: devouring the Poor in the Name of the Free Market” (June 2021). College Theology Society Conference (online).

“Technology and Religion: On the Technological Augmentation of the Sacred” (March 2021). Arnold Lecture at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, USA.

“Idolatry and AI” (January 2020). Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Ethics and Religion conference at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, NY, USA.

“Through a Techno-Mirror Darkly: Created Co-Creators, AI and Consciousness Uploading” (November 2019). Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Public Forum in Berkeley, CA, USA.

“Transhumanism and the Need for a New Christian Ethic” (February 2019). Seeking the Sacred in the Digital Age Conference at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, USA.

“Can a Mormon Be a Transhumanist? A Response from an Apostate” (December 2016). Theologians Testing Transhumanism Meeting, Berkeley, CA, USA.

Conference Presentations

“Psychoanalyzing the Gynoid: Robot Fetishization through Freud and Lacan” (July 2022). Philosophy of Human-Technology Relations Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

“The Civilization of the Poor and AI” (June 2021). Society for Philosophy and Technology Conference in Lille, France.

“The Harvest is Ready: Christian Work in a Post-Labor Society” (June 2021). Catholic Theological Society of America Conference in Baltimore, MD, USA.

“Deus ex Machina or Extra Pauperes nullus Salus? AI and the Option for the Poor” (January 2021). Society of Christian Ethics 2021 Conference in Chicago, IL, USA.

“Indigence and Intelligent Engines: On Poverty and Its Intersection with AI Theory.” (November 2020). Philosophy of Human-Technology Relations 2020 Conference in Twente, Netherlands.

“Constructing Faces: A Dialogue between ANT and AI” (August 2020). Society for the Social Study of Sciences 2020 Conference in Prague, Czech Republic.

“Invisible Faces in Invisible Spaces” (July 2020). TheoCom 2020 Conference at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA, USA.

“The Christian Response to Entropy: Reading Pierre Teilhard de Chardin against Himself on Violence” (June 2019). Catholic Theological Society of America in Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

“The Geoengineering Trolley Problem and a Jonasian Solution” (January 2019). Society for Christian Ethics 2019 Conference in Louisville, IN, USA.

“The Technology Called Religion” (July 2018). Philosophy of Human-Technology Relations Conference in Twente, Netherlands.

“Zarathustra, Transhumanism, and the Homo Gubernator” (November 2017). Pacific Coast Theological Society Fall 2017 Conference in Berkeley, CA, USA.

“Uploaded Anthropologies: Moral Theory and STS in the Transhuman Debate” (September 2017). Society for the Social Study of Science 2017 Conference in Boston, MA, USA.

“The Persona of the Pastor on Social Media” (July 2017). TheoCom 2017 Conference at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA, USA.

“The Sacrality of Things” (June 2017). Society for Philosophy and Technology 2017 Conference at Darmstadt University of Technology, Darmstadt, Germany.

“Vacek and Marion: Toward a Phenomenology of Erotic Love of God” (February 2015). Center for Advanced Research in European Philosophy 2015 Conference at Kings College, London, ON, Canada.

Works in Progress

Monograph in contract with Fortress Press examining the bourgeois epistemological assumptions of AI and Catholic obligation to challenge this in light of option for the poor

Head of Asian sector of Pontifical Council for Culture—AI Concerns Meeting consulting Vatican on social and ethical issues of AI in Asia

“Critiques of Technique” project collecting major classical theological critiques of technology for online publication through the Jacques Ellul Society

Recent Courses Taught

<i>RELI 4067 Environmental Ethics</i>	Hong Kong Baptist University, Spring 2022
<i>CE 2528 Seminar on Human Rights</i>	Jesuit School of Theology SCU, Spring 2021
<i>PHIL 156 Ethics at Work</i>	Holy Names University, Fall 2014-Spring 2021
<i>PHIL 020W/120W Moral Choices</i>	Holy Names University, Fall 2014-Spring 2021
<i>PMIN 251 Catholic Social Thought</i>	Santa Clara University, Summer 2020-Winter 2021
<i>Fundamentals of Morality</i>	Institute for Leadership in Ministry, Winter 2017-Winter 2021
<i>RLSTA 175 World Religions</i>	Holy Names University, Summer 2015-Fall 2020
<i>PHIL 040W The Human Person</i>	Holy Names University, Spring 2015-Fall 2020
<i>ORB 315 Business Ethics</i>	St Mary’s College of California, Autumn 2018-Spring 2020
<i>Moral Theology</i>	Diocese of Monterey, November 2019-December 2019
<i>ORB 411 Ethics</i>	St Mary’s College of California, Autumn 2019
<i>RSST 8200 Technology and Theology</i>	Jesuit School of Theology SCU, Spring 2018
<i>RSST 3784 Technology and Theology</i>	The Graduate Theological Union, Spring 2017

Memberships

Society for Christian Ethics
Catholic Theological Society of America
Society for Philosophy and Technology
Society for Social Study of the Sciences (4S)
American Academy of Religion

Service

HKBU Centre for Applied Ethics	June 2022-Present
AI and Faith Networking Fellow	October 2021-Present
AI Theology Board Member	September 2021-Present
Pontifical Council for Culture AI Concerns Committee	January 2020-Present
AAR Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Steering Committee	November 2018-2022
Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences affiliate	September 2017-Present
Center for Science, Technology, and Medicine Studies affiliate	September 2014-2021

Scholarships and Awards

- **Racial Ethnic Local Church Concerns Grant**, UMC Discipleship Ministries, 2019
- **Dolores L. Christie Scholarship**, Catholic Theological Society of America, 2019, 2021
- **Charles H. Townes Fellowship**, Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, 2018
- **Travel Grant**, National Science Foundation, 2017
- **Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award**, Society for Philosophy and Technology Conference 2017
- **Newhall Teaching Fellowship**, The Graduate Theological Union 2014, 2017