

# Dr. Michael Czapkay Sudduth

CV: Last Updated, June 2019

## Contact Information

Department of Philosophy  
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## Education

- D.Phil., University of Oxford, 1996  
D.Phil. Dissertation: A Foundationalist Case for the Compatibility of Theistic Evidentialism and the Religious Epistemology of Alvin Plantinga  
Professor Richard Swinburne (supervisor)  
John D. Kenyon (internal examiner, Oxford Philosophy Faculty)  
Paul Helm (external examiner, Dept. of Theology and Religious Studies, King's College London)
- M.Phil. in philosophical theology, University of Oxford, 1994  
M.Phil. Dissertation Topic: The Epistemology of Religious Belief  
Tutorial Instructors: Richard Swinburne, Keith Ward, D.H. Rice, Brian Davies, Alister McGrath  
Examination Papers: *Philosophy of Religion*, *Medieval and Modern Philosophical Theology*, *History of Christian Doctrine in Western Europe from Gabriel Biel to John Calvin*
- B.A. in philosophy and classics (*summa cum laude*), Santa Clara University, 1992

**Areas of Specialization:** philosophy of religion (western and eastern), western philosophical theology, comparative/world religions, and epistemology

**Areas of Competence:** psychology of religion, medieval philosophy, and metaphysics

**Areas of Specific Interest:** the psychology and epistemology of religious experience, concepts of God in eastern and western religious traditions, arguments for God's existence, philosophical and empirical aspects of afterlife beliefs, religious diversity, western mysticism and eastern spirituality, and the interface between religion and psychology (including both cognitive psychology and psychotherapeutic modalities)

**Languages:** Latin and Greek

## Professional Experience

- Philosophy Lecturer (Full Time), San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California, August 2008 – present
- Instructor, Contra Costa Community College District (Los Medanos College, Diablo Valley College) Contra Costa County, CA, January 2007 – June 2013, August 2017 – present
- Philosophy Lecturer (Part Time), San Francisco State University San Francisco, California, January 2005 – August 2008

- Philosophy Lecturer, California State University, East Bay Hayward, California, January 2005 – July 2008
- Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, University of Hartford Hartford, Connecticut, Fall 2002 – Spring 2004
- Associate Professor of Philosophy (Tenured), Saint Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont, June 2002-June 2003
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Saint Michael's College Colchester, Vermont, September 1997-June 2002
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Calvin College Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 1996-June 1997
- Instructor in philosophy, St. Anne's College, University of Oxford Oxford, England, April-June 1995
- Instructor in Philosophy and Theology, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Oxford, England, October 1994-March 1995

**Courses Taught (LD = lower division, UD = upper division)**

- San Francisco State University, CA: Introduction to Philosophy (LD), Introduction to Philosophy and Religion (LD), Critical Thinking (LD), World Religions (UD), Nature of Religious Experience (UD), Medieval Philosophy (UD), History of Christian Thought: St. Paul to St. Augustine (UD), Philosophy of Religion (UD), Directed Readings in Religious Studies (UD), the Buddhist Tradition (UD), Philosophical Analysis (UD), Being and Knowing (UD), Ancient Philosophy (UD)
- California State University, East Bay, CA: World Religions (LD), Introduction to Logic (LD), Clear Thinking (LD), Science, Ethics, and Technology (LD), Business and Professional Ethics (UD), Comparative Themes: East and West (UD), Philosophy of Religion (UD)
- Los Medanos College, East Bay, CA: Comparative Religion (LD), Critical Thinking (LD), Philosophy of Religion (LD), Introduction to Philosophy (LD)
- Diablo Valley College, East Bay, CA: Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (LD), Introduction to Philosophy (UD)
- University of Hartford, CT: Introduction to Philosophy (LD)
- Saint Michael's College, VT: Introduction to Philosophical Problems (LD), Philosophy of Society (LD), Philosophy of Religion (LD), Philosophy of Knowledge (DU), Metaphysics (UD), Rene Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (UD), Readings in Religious Epistemology (UD), and Senior Seminar: Death and Immortality (UD)
- Calvin College, MI: Introduction to Philosophy (LD), Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (LD), Christian Perspectives on Learning (LD)
- Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Oxford, England: Introduction to Western Philosophy (Pre-Socratics to St. Augustine) (LD), Medieval Philosophy (LD), Philosophy of Religion (LD), Reformation Theology (LD)
- Saint Anne's College, University of Oxford: Philosophy of Religion (LD)

**MA Reader / Committee (San Francisco State University)**

- Rebecka Fereirer, "The Etiological Relation in Virtue Epistemology" (Defended, Spring 2012)
- Sean Slocum, "Fine-Tuning and the Problem of Evil" (Defended, Spring 2013)

- David Maruffo, “The Dualist Argument from the Unity of Consciousness” (Spring 2014)
- Kypros Koutsokoumnis, “Autonomy and Philosophical Reasoning” (Spring 2016)
- Jacob Zellmer, “Can Philosophy Destroy Faith: Spinoza on the Separation of Philosophy and Theology” (Fall 2016)

## Books

- *A Philosophical Critique of Empirical Arguments for Postmortem Survival* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016)
- *The Reformed Objection to Natural Theology* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009). Republished as softback (Routledge 2016).

## Articles

- “Is Survival the Best Explanation of the Data of Mediumship?” in *The Survival Hypothesis: Essays on Mediumship*, ed. Adam Rock (McFarland, 2014). [Invited]
- “A Critical Response to David Lund’s Argument for Postmortem Survival.” *Journal of Scientific Exploration*. 27/2: 277–316 (June 2013)
- “Revisiting the ‘Reformed Objection’ to Natural Theology,” *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* (November 2009) [invited]
- “John Calvin” in *History of the Philosophy of Religion*, ed. Nick Trakakis and Graham Oppy (Oxford University Press, 2009) [invited]
- “Super-Psi and the Survivalist Interpretation of Mediumship,” *the Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 23:2 (2009).
- “The Contribution of Religious Experience to Dogmatic Theology” in *Analytic Theology*, ed. Michael Rea and Oliver Crisp (Oxford University Press, 2009) [invited]
- “Defeaters,” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (December 2008). [invited]
- “Reformed Epistemology and the Recontextualizing of Natural Theology” in *Philosophy of Religion: Contemporary Practice and Method: New Essays*, ed. Rolfe King and David Cheetham (Continuum Press, 2008). [invited]
- “Pico della Mirandola’s Philosophy of Religion” in *Miraculum Est Homo: The Renaissance Philosopher Giovanni Pico della Mirandola* (Cambridge University Press, 2007). [invited]
- “Reformed Epistemology and Christian Apologetics,” *Religious Studies* (September 2003).
- “Plantinga’s Revision of the Reformed Tradition: Rethinking Our Natural Knowledge of God,” *Philosophical Books: Symposium on Warranted Christian Belief*, Alvin Plantinga, ed. Anthony Ellis (April 2002).
- “Can Religious Unbelief be Proper Function Rational?” *Faith and Philosophy* (July 1999)
- “The Internalist Character and Evidential Implications of Plantingian Defeaters,” *The International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* (June 1999).
- “Proper Basicity and the Evidential Significance of Internalist Defeat: A Proposal for Revising Classical Evidentialism” in *The Rationality of Christian Belief* (Kluwer Academic Press, 1999).
- “Calvin, Plantinga, and the Natural Knowledge of God: A Response to Beversluis,” *Faith and Philosophy* (January 1998).
- “The Prospects for ‘Mediate’ Natural Theology in John Calvin,” *Religious Studies* (March 1995).

- “Alstonian Foundationalism and Higher-Level Theistic Evidentialism,” *the International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* (February 1995).
- “Bi-Level Evidentialism and Reformed Apologetics,” *Faith and Philosophy* (July 1994).

### Previously Published Reviews

- Review of Chris Carter, *Science and the Near-Death Experience: How Consciousness Survives Death*. Rochester: Inner Traditions, 2011. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 75:1 (October 2011).
- Review of David Fontana, *Life Beyond Death: What Should We Expect?* London: Watkins Press, 2009. *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 23:3 (2009).
- Review of Stephen K. Moroney, *The Noetic Effects of Sin: A Historical and Contemporary Exploration of How Sin Affects Our Thinking*, Lexington Books, 2000. *Theology Today* (January 2002).

### Papers in Progress or Forthcoming

- “Undercutting Explanatory Survival Arguments” (to be submitted, *Religious Studies*, 2019)
- “Defeaters,” *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (in progress, invited, Winter 2017)
- “What’s Wrong with Survival Literature?” (in progress)
- “Bayesian Arguments for Postmortem Survival” (in progress)
- “Ad hocness in Arguments for Reincarnation” (in progress)

### Professional Activities

- Recurring creation of course pages for all courses taught at San Francisco State University, hosted on professional website [michaelsudduth.com](http://michaelsudduth.com) (2012 – present)
- Bimonthly blog on topics related to eastern and western philosophy of religion, hosted on professional website [michaelsudduth.com](http://michaelsudduth.com) (2012 – present)
- Associate Editor, *the Journal of Scientific Exploration* (January 2009–present)
- Director of the Religious Studies program, Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University (August 2008–present)
- Member of Board of Directors for Philosophy and Religion (PAR) in the Value Inquiry Book Series (VIPS) published by Editions Rodopi. (2000–present)  
<http://faculty.ucsb.edu/~philosophy/par/frontpage.htm>
- Journal referee for *Faith and Philosophy* (1997–2002), *Religious Studies* (2002), *American Philosophical Quarterly* (2002–2003), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2002–2003), and *the Journal of Scientific Exploration* (May 2008–present).
- Moderator and owner of Reformed Epistemology Internet Listserv, over 600 subscribers. (1998–2008) <http://www.egroups.com/group/reformed-epistemology/>

### Record of Department and College Service

- Volunteer advising of philosophy and religion majors (Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University, Fall 2015 – present)
- Volunteer coordination of the religion program (Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University, Fall 2015 – present)

- Volunteer teaching of Religion 696 (supervisory course for Religion Minors), Spring 2016, Spring 2015, and Fall 2014.
- Completed GE certification proposals for Philosophy of Religion and Introduction to Philosophy and Religion (Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University, fall 2012)
- Completed GE certification proposals for World Religions and Nature of Religious Experience (Department of Philosophy, San Francisco State University, spring 2012)
- Coordinator of the Religion Program in the Philosophy Department at San Francisco State University (August 2008–present)
- Authored revision of the “Creative Spirit” cluster program in the general education curriculum at California State University, East Bay (summer 2007)
- Member of the Honors Committee, Saint Michael’s College (2000–2002)
- Advisor to the philosophy club, Saint Michael’s College (1998–2001)
- Co-author with Dr. John Izzi of a proposal for a new philosophy curriculum, implemented fall semester 2000, Saint Michael’s College (1999)
- Academic advisor, general and departmental, Saint Michael’s College (1998–2002)
- Chair of the Teaching Resource Committee, Saint Michael’s College (1998–2000)

### Honors and Awards

- *Summer Research Stipend*, St. Michael’s College, 2000
- *Visiting Fellowship in Philosophy of Religion*, University of Notre Dame, 1995–96
- *Denyer and Johnson Studentship in Theology*, University of Oxford, 1993-1994, 1994–95
- *St. Hugh's College Senior Scholarship in Theology*, University of Oxford, 1994–95
- *ORS Award*, University of Oxford, 1992–93, 1993–94, 1994–95
- *Oriel College Graduate Scholarship*, University of Oxford 1992–93
- *Senior Prize in Philosophy*, Santa Clara University, 1992
- *Honorable Mention in USA TODAY, "America's Top Junior College Students"*, 1992
- *Strobel Scholarship*, Santa Clara University, 1990-91, 91–92
- *Presidential Scholarship*, Santa Clara University, 1991–92
- *Class of 1939 Award in Philosophy*, Santa Clara University, 1990
- *Santa Clara University Grant*, Santa Clara University, 1989–90

### References: 2005–Present

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**References: 1996–2004**

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