

Levi Checketts, PhD
Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy
Associate Director for the Centre for Applied Ethics
Hong Kong Baptist University
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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 August 2014-May 2017

Newhall Fellow in Technology and Theology
Newhall Fellow in Industrial Revolution and Ethics

January 2017-May 2017
August 2014-December 2014

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. Monographs

Poor Technology: Artificial Intelligence and the Experience of Poverty. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2024.

2. Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Phrenology for the Twenty-First Century.” *International Journal of Chinese and Comparative Philosophy of Medicine* 21, no. 2 (December 2023): 35-41.

“The Poor as Symptom: A Lacanian Reading of the Option for the Poor.” *Religions* 14, no. 5 (May 2023): 639.

“Outing Gay Priests: Toward a Theological Ethics of Privacy in the Digital Era.” *Journal of Moral Theology* 12, no. 1 (January 2023): 1-24.

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.

3. 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, 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.

4. 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.

5. Book Reviews

“Sabine Pfeiffer, *Digital Capitalism and Distributive Forces*.” *Prometheus* 39, no. 2 (September 2023): 130-136.

“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.

6. 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-teillard-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.

7. In Press

Review of *Law, Ethics and Emerging Military Technologies*. *Theology and Science*

Presentations

Invited Presentations

“Current and Future Ethical Concerns with AI” (September 2023). Centre for Applied Ethics at Hong Kong Baptist University and Association of Women Accountants in Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

AI Workshop (August 2023). Chinese Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong SAR.

“Response to Anito Ho” (May 2023). University of Hong Kong Centre for Medical Humanities Book Talk, Hong Kong SAR.

Panel with Ahti-Veikko Juhani Pietarinen and Rachel Siow Robertson, “Ethics of ChatGPT in Schools” (April 2023). Forum hosted by the Centre for Applied Ethics, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR.

“Entropy and Colonialism: A Response to Karen Hao” (March 2023). Social and Ethical Implications in Artificial Intelligence: East Asia and Beyond Conference at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR.

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

“Artificial Dignity: AI and the Status of Non-Human Persons” (July 2023). Virtuous AI Conference hosted by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

“The Consecration of the Ordos Desert: Teilhard’s Mass on the World and the Prospect of a Cosmic Liturgy” (June 2023). The Questions of Origins: Contemporary Science, Philosophical and Religious Perspectives Conference at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR.

“Cambodian Gangsters, Crypto Scams and Trafficked Laborers: Mobility as the Purview of the Rich and Constraint of the Poor” (June 2023). Society for Philosophy and Technology Conference in Tokyo, Japan.

“The Impossibility of Doing Theology from the Margins” (June 2023). Asian Association for Practical Theology, Hong Kong Conference in Hong Kong SAR.

“Jixin and Xerox: The Risk of Mechanizing Mind” (April 2023). Social and Ethical Implications in Artificial Intelligence: East Asia and Beyond Conference at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR.

“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

Editing volume on Carl Mitcham’s inter-cultural philosophy of technology
 Editing conference proceedings in volume on Social and Ethical Issues of AI
 Head of Asian sector of Dicastery for Culture and Education—AI Concerns Meeting consulting
 Vatican on social and ethical issues of AI in Asia

Recent Courses Taught

<i>LSE 7080 Science, Technology and Environmental Ethics</i>	HKBU, Summer 2023
<i>GFVM 1037 Ideologies, Worldviews and Modern History</i>	HKBU, Spring 2023
<i>RELI 3045 Contemporary Ethical Problems: Hong Kong and Beyond</i>	HKBU, Spring 2023
<i>LSE 7060 Globalization: Cultural and Ethical Issues</i>	HKBU, Spring 2023
<i>RELI 3026 Christianity and Humanism</i>	HKBU, Fall 2022
<i>RELI 4067 Environmental Ethics</i>	HKBU, 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>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

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 human subjects (non-clinical) ethics panel	September 2022-Present
HKBU Centre for Applied Ethics	June 2022-Present
Associate Director	January 2023-Present
AI and Faith Networking Fellow	October 2021-Present
AI Theology Board Member	September 2021-Present
Dicastery for Culture and Education	January 2020-Present
AAR Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Steering Committee	November 2018-2022
Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences affiliate	September 2017-Present

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