John Pittard

curriculum vitae

55 Jackson Rd.
Hamden, CT 06517
john.pittard@yale.edu

Yale Divinity School
409 Prospect St.
New Haven, CT 06511

Academic Employment

Yale Divinity School (with secondary appointment in Yale Department of Philosophy)
 Associate Professor of Philosophy of Religion (with tenure), 2022 – present
 Associate Professor of Philosophy of Religion (on term), 2019 – 2022
 Assistant Professor of Philosophy of Religion, 2013 – 2019

Yale Divinity School
 Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion, 2012 – 2013

Education

Yale University, Dept. of Philosophy and Dept. of Religious Studies
 Ph.D., 2013
  Dissertation: *Disagreement, Rationality, and Religious Belief*
  Committee: Keith DeRose, John Hare, Tamar Gendler, and David Christensen
 M.Phil. and M.A., 2010

Princeton Theological Seminary, M.Div., 2005

Harvard University, A.B. *cum laude*, Economics, 2000

Areas

Areas of Specialization: Epistemology (traditional and formal); Philosophy of Religion
Areas of Competence: Metaphysics, Ethics, Early Modern Philosophy

Publications

Book:

Disagreement, Deference, and Religious Commitment. Oxford University Press, 2019. Pp. xiii + 339.

Articles in refereed journals:

"The Many 'Oughts' of Deliberation, *Philosophical Studies*, forthcoming. Approx. 20 pages.

"The Skeptical Challenge of the Theistic Multiverse," *Ergo*, forthcoming. Approx. 25 pages.

"Deceptive Worlds, Skepticism, and Axiarchism," *Inquiry*, forthcoming (advance online access June 2021). 36 pages.

"The Defeat of Evil and the Norms of Hope," *Analytic Philosophy* 62 (2021): 317-35.

"Worship and the Problem of Divine Achievement," *Faith and Philosophy* 38 (2021): 65-90.

"Fundamental Disagreements and the Limits of Instrumentalism," *Synthese* 196 (2019): 5009-5038.

"Evil and God's Toxin Puzzle," *Noûs* 52 (2018): 88-108.

"Disagreement, Reliability, and Resilience," *Synthese* 194 (2017): 4389-4409.

"Metanormative Contextualism and Normative Uncertainty" (with Alex Worsnip), *Mind* 126 (2017): 155-193.

"Resolute Conciliationism," *The Philosophical Quarterly* 65 (2015): 442-63.

Chapters and other academic articles:

"Rationalist Resistance to Disagreement-Motivated Religious Skepticism," in *Religious Disagreement and Pluralism*, ed. Matthew A. Benton and Jonathan L. Kvanvig (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 180-216.

"The Epistemic Challenge of Religious Disagreement: Responding to Matheson," *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 9 (2020): 55-64.

"Religious Disagreement," *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, ISSN 2161-0002, http://www.iep.utm.edu/rel-disa/ . (Appeared 2015. Approx. 14,500 words.)

"When Beauties Disagree: Why 'Halfers' Should Affirm Robust Perspectivalism," *Oxford Studies in Epistemology* 5 (2015): 195-225.

"Conciliationism and Religious Disagreement," in *Challenges to Moral and Religious Belief: Disagreement and Evolution*, ed. Michael Bergmann and Patrick Kain (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 80-97.

Popular writing:

"Artificial Minds and the Coming Religious Disruption," *Reflections* (publication of Yale Divinity School), Fall 2022, https://reflections.yale.edu/article/audacious-odysseys-charting-future-theological-education/artificial-minds-and-coming . (Approx. 2,000 words.)

Presentations

Refereed talks:

"The Many 'Oughts' of Deliberation," Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 2022

"Does Theism Support Moral Skepticism?" God and Morality conference, Aix-Marseille University, October 2021

"The Multiverse, Skepticism, and Creation Ethics," Theistic Ethics Workshop, Georgetown University, October 2019

"The Epistemic Argument for Axiarchism," 2nd International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life, Waseda University, Tokyo, October 2019

"The Multiverse, Skepticism, and Creation Ethics," Society of Christian Philosophers central regional conference, Hope College, September 2019

"Worship and the Problem of Divine Achievement," Worship and the Divine workshop, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, August 2019

"The Puzzle of Normative Uncertainty," The Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 2018

"Credal Voluntarism and Christian Faith," Eastern meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Rutgers University, October 2016

"Credal Voluntarism and Christian Faith," Nature and Value of Faith Conference, Bellingham, Washington, September 2016

"Evil and God's Toxin Puzzle," Pacific meeting of the American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, March/April 2016

"Evil and God's Toxin Puzzle," Eastern meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Messiah College, September 2015

"Evil and God's Toxin Puzzle," and "Two Very Different Reasons to Believe in Multiple Universes," Young Philosophers Lecture Series, Prindle Institute for Ethics and DePauw University Philosophy Department, September 2015. (Selection based on blind review of "Evil and God's Toxin Puzzle.") Videos available at www.youngphilosophers.org

"Evil and the Norms of Hope," Eastern meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Niagara University, November 2014

"Fundamental Disagreements and Defeat," Defeat and Religious Epistemology Workshop (part of the New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology project), Oxford University, March 2014

"Conciliationism and Religious Disagreement," Killeen Chair Conference on Religious Disagreement, St. Norbert College, April 2012

"Resolute Conciliationism," 2nd Annual Notre Dame/Northwestern Graduate Epistemology Conference, April 2011

"Faith and the Requirements of Epistemic Humility," Columbia University Religion Department Annual Graduate Student Conference, April 2011

Invited talks:

"Religious Commitment and the Concern of Intellectual Arrogance," keynote presentation to "The Future of Philosophy of Religion" research network, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, April 2023

"Cosmic Purpose and Epistemic Self-Trust," Institute for Christian Philosophy, University of Innsbruck, March 2023

"Christian Faith and the Challenge of Religious Disagreement," St. John's Lecture Series, St. John's Episcopal Church, New Haven, Connecticut, October 2022

"How Should we Respond to Boltzmann Brain Superabundance?" Skepticism Lecture Series (online), October 2021

"How Should we Respond to Boltzmann Brain Superabundance?" ELLMM City Working Group, Yale University, September 2021

"Deceptive Worlds, Skepticism, and Axiarchism," joint colloquium of the Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion and the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion, December 2020.

"An Epistemic Motivation for Axiarchism," Workshop on the Intersection of Ethics and Metaphysics, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, March 2020

One of two featured presenters at "Blameworthy Machines: Neuroscience and Human Free Will," Yale Faculty Roundtable (hosted by Rivendell Institute), New Haven, December 2017

"Rationalist Resistance to Disagreement-Motivated Religious Skepticism," presentation at Arguing Religion: Disagreement, Recognition, and the Reach of Argumentative Debate, a conference hosted by Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento, Italy, June 2017

One of two featured presenters at "Is Faith Irrational?", a discussion forum hosted by Veritas Forum at Quinnipiac University, March 2017

"The Defeat of Evil and the Norms of Hope," paper workshop at the reading group for the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion, February 2017

"The Defeat of Evil and the Norms of Hope," paper workshop with researchers with Hope and Optimism Initiative, Cornell University, December 2016

"Elusive Impartiality," colloquium talk at the University of Texas, San Antonio, November 2016

"Evil and God's Toxin Puzzle," NYC Workshops in Philosophy of Religion, Fordham University, November 2015

"Disagreement, Fallibility, and Faith," presentation at the Research Retreat on Moral Epistemology and Moral Psychology at The Prindle Institute for Ethics, DePauw University, July 2015

"Fundamental Commitments and Religious Disputes," presentation in The Epistemology of Religious Disagreement Symposium at the 2015 Canadian Philosophical Association congress, Ottawa, June 2015

"Religious Disagreement, Religious Identity, and Violent Conflict," presentation as panel participant at Preventing Intra-State Conflict and Promoting a Vision for Respect and Inclusiveness, a seminar for senior diplomats organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, New York City, June 2014

"Can the Church Give Disagreement its Due?" Society of Vineyard Scholars Conference, April 2014

Commentary:

Comments on *The Philosophy of the Brahama-sutra: An Introduction* by Aleksandar Uskokov, MacMillan Center, Yale University, February 2023

Comments on *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging* by Willie James Jennings, Yale Divinity School, February 2023

Comments on "On the Variable Choice and Multiple Partitions Problems" by Adam Edwards, Eastern meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Philadelphia, January 2020

Comments on "Metaphysical Realism and the *Proton Pseudos* of Theodicism" by Sami Pihlström, Arguing Religion: Disagreement, Recognition, and the Reach of Argumentative Debate, a conference hosted by Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento, Italy, June 2017

Invited contributor to online symposium on Gabriel Citron's "Dreams, Nightmares, and a Defense Against Arguments from Evil," hosted by the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism, May 2016 http://www.theapj.com/08-15-may-gabriel-citrons-dreams-nightmares-and-a-defense-against-arguments-from-evil/

Comments on "Foundations of the Fine-Tuning Argument" by Hans Halvorson, International Conference on New Insights in Religious Epistemology, Oxford, June 2015 http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/foundations-fine-tuning-argument

Comments on "The Stump-Aquinas-Dawkins Thesis" by Daniel Howard-Snyder, The Nature and Value of Faith Conference, St. Louis, November 2014

Comments on "First Principles for Cultivating American Pluralism" by George Marsden, Pluralism workshop hosted by First Things, New York City, May 2014

Comments on "Moral Disagreement among Philosophers" by Ralph Wedgwood, Challenges to Religious and Moral Belief: Disagreement and Evolution, Purdue University, September 2012

Comments on "Why Believe the Truth" by Daniel Singer, Yale & UConn 2012 Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2012

Comments on "Cognitive Science of Religion, Epistemic Circularity, and Religious Disagreement" by Andrew Moon, Killeen Chair Conference on Religious Disagreement, St. Norbert College, April 2012

Comments on "Counter-closure" by Federico Luzzi, Yale/UConn Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 2009

Comments on "Maximal Existence and the Existence of God: The Ontological Argument Reconsidered" by Vince Vitale, Rutgers Graduate Student Philosophy of Religion Conference, January 2007

Podcasts/interviews:

"Artificial Intelligence, Philosophy, and Religion," appearance on the Tom Ficklin show (podcast and live radio in New Haven, CT), January 2023

Teaching

Free Will, Human and Divine. Yale Divinity School/Yale Department of Philosophy, Spring 2023

Philosophy of Religion. Yale Department of Philosophy/Yale Divinity School, Spring 2014, Fall 2017, Spring 2021, Spring 2023

Faith and the Will. Yale Divinity School, Fall 2013, then with cross-listing in Philosophy Department Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2022

Disagreement and Higher-Order Evidence. Yale Department of Philosophy, Fall 2013, Spring 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2022

Theological Predication and Divine Attributes. Yale Divinity School, Spring 2013, Fall 2014, then with cross-listing in Philosophy Department in Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2022

Metaphysics and Epistemic Self-Trust. Yale Divinity School/Yale Department of Philosophy, Spring 2019, Spring 2022

Science and Religion. Yale Divinity School, Spring 2014, Spring 2018, Fall 2021

Directed Studies (teaching classic texts in ancient and medieval philosophy to first years in Yale College). Yale College, Fall 2014, Fall 2018, Fall 2021

Recent Work in Analytic Philosophy of Religion (with Keith DeRose). Yale Divinity School/Yale Department of Philosophy, Spring 2021

Rationality and Christian Belief. Yale Divinity School, Spring 2013, Fall 2017

Disagreement, Fallibility, and Faith. Yale Divinity School, Spring 2015

Problem of Evil (with Keith DeRose). Yale Department of Philosophy/Yale Divinity School, Spring 2015

Does God Exist? Classical and Contemporary Arguments. Yale Divinity School, Fall 2012

Honors, Fellowships, Special Seminars, Etc.

Funded participant in workshop on book on radical skepticism, Purdue University, April 2019

Funded participant, Summer Research Retreat on Moral Epistemology and Moral Psychology, Prindle Institute for Ethics at DePauw University, July 2015

Funded participant, 2014 St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology, University of St. Thomas (selective and fully-funded seminar)

Funded participant, 2011 Purdue Summer Seminar on Perceptual, Moral, and Religious Skepticism (selective and fully-funded seminar)

University Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University, Spring 2010 and Spring 2012

Graduate Student Fellowship, Yale University, 2006-2009, 2010-2011

Fellowship in Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2005 (awarded to best thesis in the area of theology)

Archibald Alexander Hodge Prize in Systematic Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2004 (awarded to top 2nd-year theology student)

Presidential Fellowship, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2002-2005

Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard, 2000

Detur Book Prize, Harvard, 1997

Academic Service

Refereed papers or books for *American Philosophical Quarterly*, Analysis*, Australasian Journal of Philosophy,* Bloomsbury, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*,* Eerdmans, *Episteme*, Ergo, Erkenntnis*, European Journal of Philosophy, Faith and Philosophy*, Journal of Analytic Theology, Journal of Philosophical Research, Journal of Philosophy*, Manuscrito, Mind*, Noûs, Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Methodology*,* Oxford University Press*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint*, Philosophical Compass, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Quarterly*, Philosophical Review, Philosophical Studies*, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, Religious Studies,* Routledge, *Synthese*, Res Philosophica,* and W. W. Norton & Company
 * Indicates multiple assignments.

Society of Christian Philosophers: Eastern Region Committee (2020 – present; chair 2022 – present)

Referee for Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop (2019, 2020, 2023)

Committees at Yale Divinity School: Student Financial Aid Task Force (chair, 2023); Promotion Committee for Clifton Granby (2023/23); Admissions Committee (2014/15; 2015/16; 2016/17; chair, 2022/23); Rethinking the M.Div. Task Force (2021/22) Professional Studies Committee (2018/19; 2020/2021); Ad hoc disciplinary committee (May, 2015); Curriculum Committee (2013/14; 2017/18)

Faculty Coordinator for Master of Arts in Religion concentration in Philosophical Theology/Philosophy of Religion (August 2020 – present)

Assistant Director of Graduate Studies (for Philosophy of Religion area), Department of Religious Studies, Yale University (August 2021 – present)

Panelist on the "New Faculty Panel" for the Yale Academic Job Search Series (October, 2015)