

JOSHUA L. RASMUSSEN

2024

SPECIALIZATION

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion

EMPLOYMENT

Azusa Pacific University, Associate Professor (2013–present)

Research Fellow, University of Notre Dame (2012–2013)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

M.A., Biola University

C.S., Arizona State University

IMPACT INDICATORS

Rasmussen is having a growing international impact in both the scholarly and popular eye, indicated by discussions of Rasmussen’s work in scholarly and media contexts.

Since the 2019 release of Rasmussen’s book, *How Reason Can Lead to God*, Rasmussen has had over 100 media appearances on radio shows, podcasts, and YouTube channels to discuss the nature of consciousness and fundamental reality. Highlights include:

1. “Who Are You Really?” KDKA Radio, “Amplify,” (national radio in 38 states).
2. “A New Ontological Argument,” *Capturing Christianity* (over 200k subscribers), [link](#).
3. “The Nature of Truth” *Wireless Philosophy* (over 330k subscribers), [link](#).
4. “The Contingency Argument,” *Mohammed Hijab* (Muslim channel, over 900k subs), [link](#).
5. “The Nature and Origin of Persons,” *Classical Theism Podcast*, [link](#).
6. “What is Fundamental? Draper vs. Rasmussen,” *Majesty of Reason*, [link](#).
7. “The Nature of Ultimate Reality: Oppy vs. Rasmussen,” *Crusade Against Ignorance*, [link](#).
8. “How Consciousness is a Window into Reality,” *Capturing Christianity*, [link](#).

See this [video playlist](#) for over 75 more presentations with Rasmussen.

Nontheist philosopher, Philip Goff, writes, “Josh Rasmussen is one of the deepest and most interesting thinkers of our time. He is one of the leaders of a new generation of philosophers building a more conciliatory and fruitful dialogue between believers and atheist.” Endorsement for Rasmussen’s book, *Who Are You, Really?*, March 2023.

William Lane Craig cites Rasmussen as among the top 3 most formidable defenders of theism today (along with Alexander Pruss and Robert Koons). *Pints with Aquinas*, January 29, 2020.

RESEARCH

Books

1. *Who Are You Really?: A Philosopher's Inquiry into the Nature and Origin of Persons*, IVP Academic (2023).
2. *Is God the Best Explanation of Things?* (with F. Leon), Palgrave (2019).
3. *How Reason Can Lead to God*, IVP Academic (2019).
4. *Necessary Existence* (with A. Pruss), Oxford University Press (2018).
5. *The Bridge of Reason: 10 Steps to See God*, Great Legacy Books (2018).
6. *Defending the Correspondence Theory of Truth*, Cambridge University Press (2014).

Edited Volume:

1. *A New Theist Response to the New Atheists* (co-edited with K. Vallier), Routledge (2021).

Articles

2023+

1. "On the Coherence of a Fundamental Mind," in *Debate: Does God Exist?*, Bloomsbury
2. "Ontological Arguments," (with G. Oppy and J. Schmid), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
3. "The God in All: How Constitution Theology Can Illuminate the Divine Nature," in *Oxford Handbook on Omnipresence*, Oxford University Press.
4. "Christianity," (with R. Collins), *Moral Argument Collection*, Oxford University Press.
5. "The Existence of God," in *Routledge Companion to Jewish Philosophy*, Routledge.
6. "New Moves in a Modal Cosmological Argument," *European Journal of Philosophy of Religion*.
7. "Why Does Anything Exist? In Search of the Best Possible Answer," *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*.

2022

8. "Cosmological Arguments," in *Handbook of Philosophy and Religion*, Roman & Littlefield.
9. "God and Fundamentality: From Fundamentality to Perfection," in *Ontology and Divinity*, Routledge.

2021

10. "The Argument from Contingency," *Contemporary Arguments in Natural Theology*, Bloomsbury.
11. "Does Atheism Entail a Contradiction?" *Manuscripto*.
12. "How to Expand God's Sight," in *Partnering with God*, SacraSage Press.

2020

13. "How Valuable Could a Person Be?" (with A. Bailey), *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*.
14. "How to Build a Thought," (with A. Bailey), *Thought*.
15. "A New Puppet Puzzle" (with A. Bailey), *Philosophical Explorations*.

2019

16. "An Argument for a Supreme Foundation," in *A New Theist Response to the New Atheists*.
17. "The Logic in God," in *The Worldview Bulletin* (invited).
18. "Argument from Contingency," in *God and Argument: Recent Work on Theistic Proofs*, Edington University Press.

2018

19. "Plantinga on Ontological Arguments," in *Classic Philosophical Arguments*, Cambridge University Press.
20. "Why is There Anything?" (with C. Weaver) in *Two Dozen Arguments: New Essays*.
21. "Against Non-Reductive Physicalism," in *Debating Physicalism*, Oxford University Press.

2017

22. "God Exists—Response," in *Problems in Philosophy* (invited), ed. S. Cowan.
23. "God Exists," in *Problems in Philosophy* (invited), ed. S. Cowan.
24. "A Randomness-Based Theodicy for Evolutionary Evils" (with J. Wessling), *Ergo*.

2016

25. "How Valuable Could a Material Object Be?" (with A. Bailey), *American Philosophical Association*.
26. "Could God Fail to Exist?" *European Journal of Philosophy of Religion*.
27. "Extending Modal Knowledge," in *Modal Epistemology* (invited), ed. Leon, F. & Fischer, R.

2015

28. "Tenseless Times," *Philosophical Studies*.
29. "Building Thoughts from Dust: A Cantorian Puzzle," *Synthese*.
30. "Reasons for Randomness" (with J. Wessling), *Theology and Science*.

2014

31. "Continuity as a Guide to Possibility," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
32. "Problems with Plurals" (with A. Pruss), *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*.
33. "About Aboutness," *Metaphysica*.
34. "From Necessary Truth to Necessary Existence," *Polish Journal of Philosophy*.

2013

35. "Time without Creation" (with A. Pruss), *Faith and Philosophy*.
36. "Explaining Counterfactuals of Freedom" (with A. Pruss), *Religious Studies*.
37. "How Truth Relates to Reality," *American Philosophical Quarterly*.
38. "On the Value of the Freedom to do Evil," *Faith and Philosophy*.

2012

39. "Grounding and Omniscience" (with D. H. Snyder and A. Cullison), *Faith and Philosophy*.
40. "Presentists May Say Goodbye to A-Properties," *Analysis*.

2011-

41. "No Pairing Problem" (with L. van Horn and A. Bailey), *Philosophical Studies*.
42. "From States of Affairs to a Necessary Being," *Philosophical Studies*.
43. "A New Argument for a Necessary Being," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
44. "Cosmological Arguments from Contingency," *Philosophy Compass* (invited).
45. "Necessary Being to God," *International Journal of Philosophy of Religion*.
46. "On Creating Worlds without Evil," *Religious Studies*.

Reference

1. "The Correspondence Theory of Truth," *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (invited), 2018.
2. "Pairing Problem" (with A. Bailey), *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, 2013.

Book Reviews

1. "The Greatest Possible Being," *Mind* (2019).
2. "God and Ultimate Origins," *European Journal of Philosophy* (2018).
3. "Anselm's Other Argument," *Marginalia Review of Books* (2018).
4. "The Puzzle of Existence: Why Is There Something Rather Than Nothing?" *European Journal of Philosophy* (2017).
5. "Truth: Its Nature, Criteria and Conditions," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2012).

Select Professional Presentations & Conference Talks

1. "A Modal Cosmological Argument," (invited) Pepperdine University, March 2022.
2. "Does Atheism Entail a Contradiction?," 8th Conference of the *Brazilian Association for Philosophy of Religion* (keynote), October 2021.
3. "How Reason Can Reveal God," Catholic Apologetics Virtual Conference (invited), October 2020.
4. "How Reason Can Lead to God: Faith Integration," Azusa Pacific University (invited), March 2020.
5. "Why I Am No Longer a Platonist," Virginia Commonwealth University (invited), April 2019.
6. "How Reason Can Reveal God," Virginia Commonwealth University (invited), April 2019.
7. "Ontological Arguments," American Philosophical Association (keynote), February 2019.
8. "Where Does Consciousness Come From?" (with Mihretu), Azusa Pacific University, April 2019.
9. "In Defense of Necessary Beings," *American Philosophical Association* (keynote), February 2018.
10. "An Argument for Maximal Greatness," 7th Conference of the *Brazilian Association for Philosophy of Religion* (keynote), October 2017.
11. "How Your Insights Can Change the World," Azusa Pacific University (chapel), October 2016.
12. "Is God a Necessary Being?" Messiah College, September 2015.
13. "How to Build Complexity," *Randomness and Divine Providence* (invited), Pasadena, California,

June 2015.

14. "Why is There Anything?" (with C. Weaver), *Plantinga Workshop*, November 2014.
15. "What Natural Selection Likes: A Computer Science Investigation," *The Randomness & Foreknowledge Conference*, Dallas, Texas, October 2014.
16. "Why is There Anything?" UCLA (invited), June 2014.
17. "Are People Puppets of Their Parts?" Azusa Pacific University (invited), 2014.
18. "The Puppet Argument," *American Philosophical Association* (Eastern Division), December 2013.
19. "Values of Randomness," *Randomness and Divine Providence*, Calvin College, June 2013.
20. "Moral Realism and the Problem of Self-Defeat," *American Philosophical Association* (Pacific Division), March 2013.
21. "Mind Over Matter" (with J. Walls)
 - *The Annual HBU Philosophy Conference*, March 2013.
 - *Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference* (underground paper), July 2012.
22. "Against Spatial Propositions," *Midsouth Philosophy Conference*, February 2013.
23. "Are People Puppets of their Parts?" (with A. Bailey), *63rd Northwest Philosophy Conference*, October 2011.
24. "A Theory of Correspondence," *62nd Northwest Philosophy Conference*, October 2010.
25. "Propositions Are Not in Your Head, on Paper, or Anywhere Else," *American Philosophical Association* (Central Division), February 2010.
26. "What We See in Dreams," *61st Northwest Philosophy Conference*, October 2009.
27. "A Swift Cosmological Argument," *Yale & UConn Graduate Conference*, February 2009.
28. "What's So Good About Moral Freedom—A Reply to Wes Morriston," University of California Riverside, October 2008.
29. "A Cantorian Cost of Mind-Brain Identity"
 - *American Philosophical Association* (Pacific Division), December 2007.
 - *58th Northwest Philosophy Conference*, November 2006.
 - *Words, Objects, and Metaphysics Conference*, the University of Texas at Austin, March 2006.
30. "A Scotistic Cosmological Argument"
 - *Rutgers Philosophy of Religion Conference*, January 2007.
 - *59th Northwest Philosophy Conference*, October 2007.
31. "Kalâm Calamity," Biola University, February 2004.
32. "The Cardinality of Possible Persons," University of Arizona, February 2003.

Grants & Awards

1. \$10,000: Dean Meadows' Master Class Project (stipend), for *How Reason Can Lead to God*, forthcoming.
2. \$1,000: Reviewer of R. Collins' fine-tuning project (Templeton stipend), 2019.
3. \$1,000: Pantheism & Panentheism Project (stipend award), 2018.
4. \$2,000: Classical Theism Project (stipend plus publication award), 2016.
5. Research Fellowship: Beverly Hardcastle Stanford Fellowship, spring, 2015.
6. \$47,000: Divine Randomness Project (with J. Wessling), Templeton, 2013-2015.
7. \$4,800: Conference Stipends, *St. Thomas Summer Seminar*, 2010 & 2014.
8. \$60,000: Research Fellow (on necessary existence), University of Notre Dame, 2012.
9. \$35,000/yr: Sorin Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2010–2012.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Introduction to Philosophy (topics include logic, phil. religion, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics)

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Religion

Reasons for Faith

Systems of Apologetics

Free Will

Recognitions

Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate, the University of Notre Dame, Fall 2011.

Teaching Excellence Award, Azusa Pacific University, Fall 2015.

Student-Faculty Research Fellowship (SURE award), with Bell'aria Sarian, "The Nature of Mind," Azusa Pacific University, 2018-2019.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Internal

Philosophy Colloquia Director, 2013-present.

Faith Integration Council, 2020-present.

Trust Think Tank, 2018-2019.

Faculty Senate, 2019-2020.

Conference Organizer, Society of Christian Philosophers, "Faith and Reason," 2016.

SOT Committees: mission statement (fall, 2023), PLOs (fall, 2023), dean search (spring, 2023).

External

Founder of Worldview Design (worldview-design.com), 2020-present.

Founder of the New Theist Facebook group for philosophers, 2020-present.

Executive Committee Member for Evangelical Philosophical Society.

Dissertation Review, Lanell Mason's "Moral Agents in a Moral World: A New Account of Moral Realism and Moral Perception," June, 2021.

Get more information about Rasmussen's work at JoshuaLRasmussen.com.