

**Levi Checketts, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy  
Hong Kong Baptist University  
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## **Education**

**The Graduate Theological Union**, Berkeley, CA 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 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 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 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 August 2014-May 2021  
Adjunct Professor in Philosophy and Religious Studies Departments

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

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

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

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

The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA 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 September 2018-Present  
English Ministry Associate Pastor

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

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

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

### **Publications**

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

“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.

“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.

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

“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.

“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.

“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.

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

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

### **In Press**

“Deus Ex Machina or Extra Pauperes Nullus Salus: Artificial Intelligence and the Marginalization of the Poor.” *Journal of Moral Theology*. Forthcoming.

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

### **Presentations**

#### **Invited Presentations**

“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.

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

“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.

“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.

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

#### **Conference Presentations**

“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.

“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.

“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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“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

Reprinting of Carl Mitcham and Jim Grote, eds. *Theology and Technology: Essays in Analysis and Exegesis* with Wipf and Stock

Head of Pontifical Council for Culture—AI Concerns Meeting among scholars across Asia to consult 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>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
<i>CE 2502 Industrial Ethics</i>	The Graduate Theological Union, Fall 2014

### 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

AI and Faith Networking Fellow	October 2021-Present
AI Theology Board Member	September 2021-Present
AAR Human Enhancement and Transhumanism Steering Committee	November 2018-Present
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

## References

Lisa Fullam  
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Professor of Moral Theology  
Email: lfullam@scu.edu

Ted Peters  
Phone: 510-559-2734

Distinguished Research Professor of Systematic Theology  
Email: tedfpeters@gmail.com

Carl Mitcham  
Phone: 303-273-3648

International Professor of Philosophy  
Email: cmitcham@mines.edu