

# Mark Owen Webb

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**Specialization:** Epistemology, Philosophy of Religion

**Competence:** Asian Philosophy, Buddhism

## EDUCATION

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Diploma in Buddhist Studies, University of Sunderland (UK)   | August 2006   |
| Ph.D. Philosophy, Syracuse University<br><i>Dissertation:</i> Natural Theology, Religious Experience and the Reference of ‘God’;<br>William Alston, committee director | December 1991 |
| M.A. Philosophy, Texas Tech University   | December 1986 |
| M.A. Classical Humanities, Texas Tech University<br><i>Thesis:</i> Cicero’s <i>Paradoxa Stoicorum</i> : a new translation with philosophical<br>commentary             | May 1985      |
| B.A. Philosophy/Latin, Texas Tech University (cum laude)   | August 1982   |

## PUBLICATIONS

- (With I. Kuntuova and A. Karabayeva) “The Role of Philosophy in the Life of a Student of a Technical University,” *Procedia: Social and Behavioral Sciences* 174 (2015), 3847–3852.
- “The Value of Puzzlement,” in Kishor Vaidya (ed.), *Philosophy for the Curious: Why Study Philosophy*, Curious Publishing, 2015.
- “Fethullah Gülen’s Use of Philosophical and Scriptural Resources for Tolerance,” *Hizmet Studies Review* 2 (2015), 9–18.
- A Comparative Doxastic-Practice Epistemology of Religious Experience*, Springer Press, 2015.
- “Diversity, Hizmet, and Hoşgörü: the Philosophical Foundations of the Gülen Movement,” *Global Perspectives on the Religious, Cultural, and Societal Diversity in the Balkans: Fethullah Gülen Experience as a Model and Interfaith Harmony in Albania*. Prizmi Publishing House.
- “The Genius and Vulnerability of the Gülen Hizmet Movement,” forthcoming in *The Gülen Hizmet Movement: Circumspect Activism in Faith-Based Reform*, Newcastle-on-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012.

- “Naturalistic Explanations of Religious Experience,” *Kulturfilosofskaya Paradigma Kazakhstanskoy Modeli Rasvitiya*, 2011, 113–115.
- “Science and Religion: Competing Ways of Knowing?” *Khabarshy Vestnik*, 37(2), 213–214.
- “A Peace Plan for the Science Wars,” *Logos and Episteme*, 2 (2011), 413–422.
- “Religious Experience,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Published November 8, 2011: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/religious-experience/>
- “Perfect Being Theology,” *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Blackwell Publishing, Paul Draper and Charles Taliaferro, eds., 227–234.
- “An Eliminativist Theory of Religion,” *Sophia* 48 (2009), 35–42.
- “Meeting Others in the Space of Reasons,” in *The Self-Correcting Enterprise: Essays on Wilfrid Sellars*, Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2006. (Revision and expansion of “Giving Up on Certainty,” published earlier)
- “In Defense of Anselm: A Reply to Truncellito,” *Philo* 8 (2005), 54–57.
- “An Empirical Challenge to Dissatisfaction Theodicy,” *Southwest Philosophy Review*, 21 (2005), 197–203; reprinted in *Sophia* 44 (2005), 23–29.
- “Can Epistemology Help? The Problem of the Kentucky-fried Rat,” *Social Epistemology*, 18 (2004), 51–58.
- “Jain Philosophy,” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.  
<http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/j/jain.htm>
- (edited, with Heidi Grasswick) *Feminist Epistemology as Social Epistemology*, a special issue of *Social Epistemology* 16 (2002); “Feminist Epistemology as Social Epistemology,” introductory essay to above, 185–196.
- “Feminist Epistemology as Whipping-Girl,” in *Theorizing Backlash: Philosophical Reflections on the Backlash Against Feminism*, edited by Ann Cudd and Anita Superson, New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2002, 49–65.
- “Giving Up on Certainty,” *Colloquia Manilana* 7 (1999), 86–97. Portions of this article appeared in “Why I Know About as Much as You,” below.
- (with Suzanne Clarke) “Anatomy of an Anomaly,” *Disputatio* 6 (1999), 3–18.
- “Social Epistemology and Political Critique,” *Southwest Philosophical Studies* 20 (1998), 92–98.
- “Trust, Tolerance, and the Concept of a Person,” *Public Affairs Quarterly* 11 (1997), 415–429.
- “A Suggestion for Doxastic Practice Epistemology,” *Southwest Philosophical Studies* 18 (1996), 150–160.
- “Fallibilism is Not a Thesis,” *Southwest Philosophy Review* 12 (1995), 45–52.
- “Feminist Epistemology and the Extent of the Social,” *Hypatia* 10 (1995), 85–98.
- “Does the Sanctity of Christian Mystics Corroborate Their Claims?” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 37 (1995), 63–71.

- “Nota Sobre Buridan’s *Sophismata* 8.4,” *Patristica et Mediaevalia* 15 (1994), 39–44.
- “The Legitimacy of Laws: A Puzzle for Hart,” *Vera Lex* 14 (1994), 57–59.
- “Why I Know About as Much as You: A Reply to Hardwig,” *Journal of Philosophy* 90 (1993), 260–270. Portions of this article appeared in “The Epistemology of Trust and the Politics of Suspicion,” below.
- “The Epistemology of Trust and the Politics of Suspicion,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 73 (1992), 390–400.
- “Natural Theology and the Concept of Perfection in Descartes, Spinoza, and Leibniz,” *Religious Studies* 25 (1989), 459–475.
- (with Sarah McLaughlin) *A Word Index to the Poetry of C. S. Lewis*, West Cornwall, CT: Locust Hill Press, 1988.
- “Religious Experience as Doubt Resolution,” *The International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 18 (1985), 81–86.
- “The Rape of Time,” *Southwest Philosophical Studies* 7 (1983), 147–154.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of K. Brad Wray, *Knowledge and Inquiry*, in *Philosophy in Review* 23 (2003), 317–318.
- Review of Jonathan Adler, *Belief’s Own Ethics*, in *Metapsychology* 6, November 22, 2002. <http://mentalhelp.net/books/books.php?type=de&id=1424>
- Review of Paul J. Griffiths, *Problems of Religious Diversity*, in *Philosophy in Review*, 22 (2002), 116–118.
- Review of Oliver Leaman, *Key Concepts in Asian Philosophy*, in *Essays in Philosophy*, vol. 3, no. 1 (2002).
- Review of Trudy Govier, *Dilemmas of Trust*, *Philosophy in Review*, 20 (2000), 110–111.
- Review of Trudy Govier, *Social Trust and Human Communities* and Martin Hollis, *Trust Within Reason*, in *Philosophy in Review* 19 (1999), 258–260.
- Review of Richard Mason, *The God of Spinoza*, in *Canadian Philosophical Reviews* (1998), 279.
- Review of George Wall, *Religious Experience and Religious Knowledge*, in *Southwest Philosophical Studies* 20 (1998).
- Review of Barbara Laslett, Sally Kohlstedt, Helen Longino, and Evelyn M. Hammonds, eds., *Gender and Scientific Authority*, in *Research in Philosophy and Technology*, vol. 18 (1999), 353–355.
- Review of E. Clinton Gardner, *Justice and Christian Ethics*, in *Journal of Church and State*, 39 (1997), 799–800.
- Review of Alan P. F. Sell, *Philosophical Idealism and Christian Belief*, in *Canadian Philosophical Reviews* 16 (1996), 210–211.

Review of E. M. Adams, *Religion and Cultural Freedom*, in *Canadian Philosophical Reviews*, 14 (1994), 227–228.

## PRESENTATIONS

- “Communication and Excommunication: a Gap in Alston’s Doxastic-Practice Epistemology,” Southwest Epistemology Workshop, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, March 16, 2016; Texas Tech University Philosophy Colloquium Series, April 1, 2016.
- “When Science and Religion Conflict,” Philosophy as Calling and Profession, Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 19, 2015.
- “Hizmet, Religious Knowledge, and Scientific Education.” ANPOCS Plenary Address, Caxambu, Brazil, October 24, 2015.
- “Guiding Principles in the Practice of Medicine,” Kazakh National Medical University (October 24, 2014)
- Kuntuova, I. (presenter and author), Webb, M. (author only), Karabayeva, A. G. (author only), “The Role of Philosophy in the Life of a Student of a Technical University,” International Conference on New Horizons in Education, Paris (June 26, 2014)
- “Philosophy of Cognition,” The Humanist Tradition in Historical Peoples, Kazakh National Medical University, Almaty, Kazakhstan (October 23, 2013)
- “The Role of Religion in providing the Preservation of Peace and Stability in Kazakhstan,” Kazakh National Medical University, Almaty, Kazakhstan (October 19, 2013)
- “Social Economy in the USA,” Social Inclusion and Economy, European Union/Romanian Ministry of Labor, Alba Iulia, Romania (March 30, 2013)
- “Trust as Social Capital,” Social Economy, Ministry of Education, Alba Iulia, Romania (March 28, 2013)
- “Steps Toward Peace: the Philosophical Foundations of the Gülen Hizmet Movement,” International Conference on Hizmet Movement: Contributions to Multiculturalism and Global Peace, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan (December 8, 2012)
- Comments on Daniel Howard-Snyder, Webb, M., William Alston Memorial Lecture Conference, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (September 22, 2012)
- “Spirituality, Morality, and Social Order: a Conceptual Analysis,” International Conference on Humanities: the Spiritual Quest in Humanities, Beder University, Tirana, Albania, May 11, 2012.
- “Religious Experience as Perceptual,” *Aktualnye Problemy Filosofii Religii*, Al Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. (November 10, 2011).
- “Identifying Persons and the Epistemology of Moral Categorization,” Center for the Study of Mind in Nature, Oslo, Norway, June 10, 2011.
- “Diversity, *Hizmet*, and *Hoşgörü*: the Philosophical Foundations of the Gülen Movement,” presented at *Global Perspectives on the Religious, Cultural, and Societal Diversity in the Balkans*, Tirana, Albania, March 25, 2011.

- “The Genius and Vulnerability of the Gülen Movement,” presented at *Peace Through Faith-Based Grassroots Organization? Exploring the Gülen Movement*, University of Texas–Pan American, March 27, 2010.
- “Incremental Hope: the Gülen Movement in Diyarbakır, Elazığ, and Malatya as a Model for Social Reform,” presented at *Fifth International Conference on Islam in the Contemporary World: The Fethullah Gülen Movement in Thought and Practice* at LSU, Baton Rouge, LA, March 5–6, 2009.
- “Religion, Propaganda, and Human Nature,” was accepted for presentation at the Second International Conference on Religion and the Media, Tehran, Iran, November 9–12, 2008. The conference was cancelled.
- “The Epistemology of Vipassana,” to be presented at the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies meeting in Dallas, March 15–16, 2008.
- “Human Decency: the Philosophical Foundation of Religious Tolerance” presented at conference “The Role of Education and Media: From Intercultural Dialogue to Living Together,” Kiev, Ukraine, April 27–29, 2007.
- “The Buddha and Women in the Pali Canon,” presented at the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies meeting in Dallas, March 3–4, 2007.
- “Fethullah Gülen’s Use of Philosophical and Scriptural Resources for Tolerance” at the *International Conference on Islam in the Contemporary World: The Fethullah Gülen Movement in Thought and Practice*, University of Oklahoma, November 4–5, 2006
- “Personalism as ‘Right View’” presented at Southwest Commission on Religious Studies meeting in Dallas, February 3–4, 2006.
- Comments on Jeff Jordan’s “Why the Evidential Argument from Evil Fails,” American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago, April 2005.
- “Revenge of the Kentucky-Fried Rat,” presented at University of Central Oklahoma philosophy symposium, December 2004.
- “An Empirical Challenge to Dissatisfaction Theodicy,” Southwest Philosophical Society, New Orleans, November 2004.
- Comments on Robert Newman’s “Harman’s Unknown Evidence,” North Texas Philosophical Association, April 2004.
- Comments on Aaron Meskin’s “Aesthetic Testimony,” North Texas Philosophical Association, Dallas, TX, April 2002.
- “An Empirical Challenge to Dissatisfaction Theodicy,” Society for Christian Philosophers, Boulder, CO, October 2001.
- “Giving up on Certainty,” Presidential Address, North Texas Philosophical Association, April 1999.
- Comments on Ram Nehta’s “How to be an Infallibilist,” North Texas Philosophical Society, April 1999.
- “The Problem of the Kentucky-Fried Rat,” presented at University of Central Oklahoma philosophy symposium, September 2000; accepted for presentation at the Value

Inquiry Conference at the University of Montevallo, April 1998; presented at the North Texas Philosophical Association, April 1998.

Comments on Kevin Meeker's "Alston on Justification and the Epistemic Point of View," American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, March 1998.

"A Peace Plan for the Science Wars," *Webs of Discourse: the Intertextuality of Science Studies*, Texas Tech University, February, 1998

"Two Concepts of Science," North Texas Philosophical Association, April 1997.

Comments on Joe Barnhart's "Hume on Miracles: His Intellectual Roots," North Texas Philosophical Association, April 1997.

"Social Epistemology and Political Critique," New Mexico and West Texas Philosophical Society, April 1997.

Comments on Ron Wilburn's "Posits and Positing," Southwestern Philosophical Society, November 1996.

"Trust, Toleration, and the Concept of a Person," Southern Methodist University, April, 1996; Texas Tech University, October 1996.

Comments on Alastair Norcross's "Comparing Harms: Headaches and Human Lives," North Texas Philosophical Association, April 1996.

"Fallibilism is not a Thesis," Southwestern Philosophical Society, November 1995.

"A Suggestion for Doxastic Practice Epistemology," New Mexico and West Texas Philosophical Society, April 1995.

"Hasty Socialization," Southwest Philosophical Society, November 1994.

"A Suggestion for Doxastic Practice Epistemology," Intermountain Philosophical Society, November 1993.

"How to Tolerate: A Plea for Fallibilism," presented at conference *Intolerance and Toleration* at Mary Washington College, November 1993.

"Does the Sanctity of Christian Mystics Corroborate Their Claims?" North Carolina Philosophical Society, February 1993.

"The Epistemology of Trust and the Politics of Suspicion," Le Moyne College, April, 1992.

Comments on Steve Maitzen's "The Real Epistemic Aim," New York State Philosophical Association, April, 1992.

"Perceptually Recognizing God," Conference at Wheaton College, October 1989.

"Religious Experience as Doubt Resolution," Eastern Division of the Society of Christian Philosophers, March 30, 1985..

"The Rape of Time," New Mexico and West Texas Philosophical Association, April 1982

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Director, Religion Studies Minor Program

Sept 2013–present

Professor of Philosophy, Graduate Faculty, Texas Tech University	Sept 2013–present
Chairman of the Philosophy Department	July 2009–present
Associate Chairman of the Philosophy Department	2006–2009
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Graduate Faculty, Texas Tech University	2005–2013
Director of Graduate Studies, Philosophy	2005–2006
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Graduate Faculty, Texas Tech University	1998–2005
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Graduate Faculty, Texas Tech University	1994–1998
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska	Spring 1994
Lecturer in Philosophy, Appalachian State University	1992–93
Adjunct Instructor in Philosophy, LeMoyne College	1991–92
Teaching Assistant in Philosophy, Syracuse University	1990–91, 88–89
Instructor in Philosophy, Syracuse University	1989–1990
Instructor in Philosophy, Texas Tech University	Summer 1986, 87, 88
Teaching Assistant in Philosophy, Texas Tech University	1984–85, 85–86
Instructor in Philosophy, Texas Tech University	Summer 1984

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Asian Philosophy	Ethics and Social Issues
Introductory Ethics	Plato's <i>Republic</i>
Beginning Logic	Epistemology
Philosophical Foundations of Western Thought	Reasoning
Beginning Philosophy	Feminism and Philosophy
Philosophy of Language	Religions of the World
Buddhist Life and Thought	Introduction to Humanities
Philosophy of Law	Theories of Knowledge and Reality
Ethics and the Health Professions	World Religions and Philosophy
Philosophy of Religion	

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Editorial Board, *Al-Hikmat*, 2015–present

International Advisory Board, *Beder Journal of the Humanities*, 2013–present

Editorial Board, *Social Epistemology*, 2002–present

Consulting Editor, *Episteme*, 2002–present

Chair of session on the Spiritual Quest in the Social Sciences, International Conference on Humanities: the Spiritual Quest in Humanities, Beder University, Tirana, Albania, May 2012

Member of Executive Council, Society for Analytical Feminism, 1999–2001

Vice-President of North Texas Philosophical Association, 2004–2005

Chair of session on Wittgenstein and Feminism, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, IL, April 2002

Chair of “Women and Philosophy” at Conference on Women in the Eighteenth Century, Texas Tech University, January 2000

Chair of panel discussion, All University Conference for the Advancement of Women in Higher Education, April, 1999

Chair of Epistemology session, Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, April 1999

President of North Texas Philosophical Association 1998–1999

Chair of Philosophy of Religion session, Intermountain Philosophical Society, November 1993

Gave seminar on Medical Ethics at Sloop Memorial Hospital, Crossnore, NC, November, 1992

Developed correspondence course in Beginning Philosophy for use by Texas Tech University’s division of Continuing Education

Reviewed manuscripts and proposals for Oxford University Press, Wadsworth Press, West Publishing Company, University Press of America, Rowman and Littlefield Publishing, Prentice-Hall, Longmans, McGraw-Hill, Bloomsbury Publishing

Refereed articles for *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Episteme*, *Journal of Analytic Theology*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, *New Trends in Social and Liberal Sciences*, *Eidos*, *Mind*

Member, Institute for Inclusive Excellence, 2010–present

Faculty advisor for Students for Global Connections, 2010–present

Faculty advisor for Intercultural Dialogue Association, 2003–present

Faculty advisor for Double T Fencing Club, 2001–present

Faculty advisor for Texas Tech Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, 1994–1997, 1999–2001



Faculty advisor for Texas Tech Philosophy Club, Spring 2001

Faculty advisor for Texas Tech Wisdom Studies Club, 1997–1998

Member, Women’s Studies Council, Texas Tech University, 1995–2005

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Academy of Religion

American Philosophical Association

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

2016 Lawrence Schovanec Teaching Development Scholarship

2016 Second Regional Interfaith Dialogue Conference, Grant from Humanities TX,  
\$2000.00

2015 Research Grant with Kazakh National University

2014 Peace and Dialogue Award, Dialogue Institute of the Southwest

2014 Raider Ready First-Year Advocate and Faculty Fellowship

2014 First Regional Interfaith Dialogue Conference, Grant from Humanities TX,  
\$1,500.00.

2014 Dialogue Institute of the Southwest Peace and Dialogue Award

2013 Faculty Spotlight Award (TLPD)

2012 Teaching Academy

2010 President’s Excellence in Equity and Diversity Award

2008 Phi Kappa Phi

2005 Participant, NEH Institute on Southeast Asia, Manoa, Hawai’i

2004 Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty Award

2003 Fulbright-Hays Group Study Abroad grant to travel to Indochina

1999 Participant, NEH Seminar on Social Epistemology, Tucson, Arizona

1994 Phi Sigma Tau

1993 Participant, NEH Naturalism Institute, Lincoln, Nebraska

1987–88 Syracuse University Fellowship

1986–87 Syracuse University Fellowship

1981–82 Texas Tech University Undergraduate Research Award

1980–81 Texas Tech University Undergraduate Research Award

1980 Eta Sigma Phi

## REFERENCES

Tibor Nagy

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Juan Muñoz

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Mark Lance

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Director, Seville Center  
International Affairs  
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Daniel Nathan

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