

Curriculum Vitae

Adam J. Chin — achin6@uci.edu — adamjchin.org — October 2024

Employment

Instructor, Department of Philosophy. Clovis Community College. 2024-Present

Associate Instructor, Department of Religious Studies. University of California, Irvine. Spring 2024

Associate Instructor, Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science. University of California, Irvine. Summer-Spring 2022-2023

Education

PhD Philosophy, Emphases in Medical Humanities and in Medicine, Science, and Technology Studies; 2024, University of California, Irvine, Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science

Thesis: “Methods in Religion-and-Science”— I provide a novel analysis and critique of the methods public-facing scholars use to characterize the relationship between religion and science.

Committee: Jeremy Heis (Chair), Penelope Maddy, Lauren Ross, Renee Raphael (History)

MA Philosophy; 2021, University of California, Irvine, Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science

BA Philosophy, Emphasis in Science, Technology, and Medicine; BA History, emphasis in History of the Middle East; Minor in Classical Studies; 2018, University of California, San Diego

Interests

- Research: Religion-and-Science, General Philosophy of Science, Science and Technology Studies, Early Modern Philosophy, New Religious Movements
- Teaching: History of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Physics, Science and Society, Ancient Philosophy, Logic, Critical Reasoning

Published Work

- (with Stefano Bigliardi) “[New Religious Movements and Science: What Now, What Next, Where To](#)”. *Religion Compass*, 18:4. 2024.
- “[On Conceptual Analysis in Religion-and-Science](#)”. *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 59:1. 2024.
- “[The Aims of Typologies and a Typology of Methods](#)”. *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 58:3. 2023.

Talks and Presentations

Refereed

- “We Should Think of Science Like We Think of Race”. Korean Society for Philosophy of Science. Jeju, South Korea. July 2024.
- “Taking the Non-Research-Oriented Sciences Seriously in Religion-and-Science”. Science and Religion Forum Conference. Cambridge, UK. September 2023. ([Recording](#))
- “Philosophy of the Non-Basic Sciences: Thinking with the 76%”. Lisbon International Conference on Philosophy of Science (LICPOS). Lisbon, Portugal. July 2023.
- “A Typology of Methods in Religion and Science” (Poster). Philosophy of Science Association (PSA). Pittsburgh, PA. November 2022.
- “A Typology of Methods”. Ian Ramsey Center (IRC) Conference in Honour of Alister McGrath. Oxford. July 2022.
- “Some Puzzles in Empedocles’ Theory of Perception” (Poster). American Philosophical Association (APA), Western Division. San Diego, CA. March 2018.

Invited

- *Science and New Religious Movements* (commentator and co-organizer). Cambridge Elements Book Launch for the book by Stefano Bigliardi. Ifrane, Morocco. September 2023. ([Recording](#))
- Remarks on Michael Ruse’s *What Makes Humans Special?* (2021). Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS) Conference on Religious Naturalism. Star Island, NH. July 2021.

Teaching Experience

Main/Sole Instructor

- Critical Reasoning and Analytic Writing (PHIL 2); introductory writing course focused on argumentation and the intellectual virtues; Clovis College: 2024
- Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1); introduction to philosophy via conceptual analysis of real-world and traditional topics (including knowledge, dairy, life, and race); Clovis College: 2024
- Ethics (PHIL 1C); introduction to major ethical theories and philosophical approaches to real-world ethical dilemmas; Clovis College: 2024 (including online)
- Religion and Philosophy of Science: Theory and Practice (RelStd 165/Philos 123); upper-level course on applying philosophy of science to real-world religion-science encounters; received a SET Foundations Course Development Prize (co-awarded with Brianne Donaldson); UCI: 2024
- Making Modern Science (LPS/HIST 60); introductory history/philosophy of science course, featuring a non-standard, points-based structure I developed; I received an Outstanding Teaching Award for this class; UCI: 2023
- Critical Reasoning (LPS 29); introductory course covering sentential logic and informal fallacies with real-world applications; UCI: 2022

Teaching Assistant

- Race, Gender, and Science (ATHRO 128B); UCI: W23 (50 students)
- World History: Innovations (HIST 21A); UCI: F22 (60 students)
- An Economic Approach to Religion (ECON/REL STD 17); UCI: W22* (80 students)
- Intro. Sociology (SOCIO 1); UCI: F21* (90 students)
- Intro. Socio-Cultural Anthro (Anthro 2A); UCI: W20, W21*, Sp21*, Sp22 (90 students)
- Honours Causal Reasoning (SOCSCI H1G); UCI: F20* (40 students)
- Making Modern Science (LPS/HIST 60); UCI: Sp20* (80 students)
- Critical Reasoning (LPS/PHIL 29); UCI: F19 (90 students)
- Intro. Symbolic Logic (LPS/PHIL 30); UCI: Sp19 (60 students)
- Scientific Inquiry (LPS/PHIL 40); UCI: W19 (60 students)
- Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (PHIL 31); UCSD: F17 (80 students)

Guest Lecturer

- *Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche on Religion* (online video lecture series) for S. Ferarello's "Modern Philosophy" (undergraduate). Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, California State University, East Bay.
- *Science and Scientists in Gulliver's Travels and Contemporary Media* for S. Felder's "The Culture of the Modern World: 1700 to the Present" (undergraduate). Department of History, Humanities, and Philosophy, Irvine Valley College.
- *Typologies in Religion-and-Science** for C. Mitsch's "Introduction to Philosophy" (undergraduate). Department of Philosophy and Religion, Nebraska Wesleyan University.

(* online)

Pedagogical Training

- Inclusive Course Design Institute (April-May 2023, UCI)
- California Community College Internship Program (Irvine Valley College; 2022-23; along with a \$7,500 stipend)
- CSU Pre-Professor Program (CSU East Bay; Spring 2023)
- Certificate in Inclusive Excellence (December 2021, UCI)
- Certificate in Inclusive Hybrid Teaching (October 2021, UCI)
- Certificate in Teaching Excellence (December 2020, UCI)
- Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning—Associate Level Certificate (December 2020, UCI)
- Division of Teaching Excellence and Inclusion (DTEI) Course Design Certificate (August 2020, UCI)
- Certificate in Remote Teaching (August 2020, UCI)
- Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (March 2018, UCSD Extension)

Awards and Fellowships

- 2024 Award for Pedagogical Innovation and Mentorship; Logic and Philosophy of Science (UCI; \$750)
- Outstanding Teaching Award; for the course Making Modern Science (LPS/HISTORY 60), taught in Spring 2023 (UCI)
- Graduate Service Award, 2022-2023; Logic and Philosophy of Science (UCI; \$150)
- SET Foundations Course Development Prize; awarded one of two prizes to run the course “Religion and Philosophy of Science: Theory and Practice” (with Brianne Donaldson, UCI Religious Studies) (2023-2026; \$25,000)
- UCI Pedagogical Fellowship; received but declined (UCI, 2022-2023)
- Division of Teaching Excellence and Inclusion Summer Fellowship (UCI, 2021, 2022; \$5,000)
- Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS) Summer Conference Student Scholarship (June 2021; room and board, approx. \$2,500)
- Social Science Dean’s Reading Group Grant, Science and Religion RG (UCI, 2020-21, 2021-22; \$300, \$250)
- Social Science Dean’s Reading Group Grant, Philosophy of Physics RG (UCI, 2020-21; \$300)
- Graduate Dean’s Recruitment Fellowship (UCI, 2018-19; \$10,000)
- Social Science Merit Scholarship (UCI, 2018-2024)
- Eric Paul Allison Memorial Award (UCSD, 2018)

Academic Service

- **Coordinator** Ad hoc committee on faculty and student AI policy (Clovis College; 2024-present)
- **Club Adviser** BridgeUSA, a national organization aiming to bring diverse viewpoints into productive, respectful discussion (Clovis College; 2024-present)
- **Creator and Coordinator** LPS Kent Johnson Memorial Teaching Workshop, consisting of one-off workshops and three continuous programs for both the department of Logic and Philosophy of Science and the Department of Philosophy (UCI; 2022-2024):
 - Teaching Reflections: regular meetings to discuss previous weeks’ teaching experiences, consult about issues/questions, and exchange advice; for both TAs and graduate teaching associates
 - Syllabus Design: regular meetings to design inclusive syllabi, featuring time for collaborative working as well as a feedback forum
 - TA Shadowing: participants shadow or are shadowed by other participants to learn new teaching techniques and provide suggestions/feedback to each other; especially focused on helping new TAs feel more comfortable in the classroom
- **Creator and Coordinator** Religion and Science Reading Group (UCI)(2019-2024)
- **Coordinator and Presenter** LPS Kent Johnson Memorial Teaching Workshop: The Teaching Statement Exchange (UCI; Summer 2023); presented the aims and structure of Teaching Statements and organized a peer-review exchange of statements
- **Seminar Leader** LPS Summer Diversity Program (UCI; 2023); led an hour-long discussion on the topic *Wait, What is Science?* with program participants
- **Co-Director** LPS Summer Diversity Program (UCI; 2023); week-long program designed to help undergraduates from traditionally-underrepresented backgrounds learn about academic philosophy of science; helped in admission decisions, to design schedule, arrange room assignments, and provide mentorship throughout program duration

- **Coordinator and Presenter** LPS Kent Johnson Memorial Teaching Workshop: Making and Interpreting Mid-Quarter Teaching Evaluations (UCI; Spring 2023); presented the pedagogical value of gathering mid-quarter/semester feedback and how to do so using UCI's evaluation system and Canvas quizzes
- **Co-Director** LPS Summer Diversity Program (UCI; 2022); week-long program designed to help undergraduates from traditionally-underrepresented backgrounds learn about academic philosophy of science; helped to design schedule, arrange room assignments, and provide mentorship throughout program duration
- **Presenter** "Religion vs. Science", a guided discussion in UCI's "Religion vs. X" sessions, part of the Meaning of Life lunch series put on by the Religious Studies department (UCI; March 2023)
- **Panelist** Religious Studies Info Session (UCI; March 2023); shared the value I find in studying religion(s) and offered advice/encouragement to current and potential religious studies majors/minors
- **Coordinator and Presenter** LPS Kent Johnson Memorial Canvas Workshop; designed and organized a workshop on the LMS Canvas (UCI; Winter 2023)
- **Panelist and Moderator** WonderPhilosophy Workshop (UCI; Aug. 2022); three-day program designed to help undergraduates from traditionally-underrepresented backgrounds (especially transfer students) learn about applying to graduate school in philosophy
- **Local Organizing Committee** History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) 2022 conference (UCI; 2022); sent email updates about the conference to relevant mailing lists, helped to obtain and arrange conference venue, ran sound and technology checks and provided support throughout the hybrid conference
- **Graduate Student Researcher** for Lauren Ross (UCI); gathered data on how analogies were used in public-facing science writing for the NSF Career Award: Causal Explanation in Biology and the Diversity of Causal Concepts (Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022);
- **Graduate Student Representative** (LPS, UCI; 2021-22); acted as liaison between department's faculty and graduate students; organized social events for graduate students; created, used, and analyzed surveys of graduate students regarding departmental requirements and preferences regarding hiring a new faculty member; organized all aspects of the visit weekend for prospective students (held entirely online)
- **Creator and Coordinator** History of Philosophy of Science Reading Group (UCI; 2021)
- **Coordinator and Presenter** WonderPhilosophy Workshop (UCI Sept. 2021); three-day program designed to help undergraduates from traditionally-underrepresented backgrounds (especially transfer students) learn about applying to graduate school in philosophy
- **Coordinator and Presenter** WonderPhilosophy Workshop (UCI; Sept. 2020); three-day program designed to help undergraduates from traditionally-underrepresented backgrounds (especially transfer students) learn about applying to graduate school in philosophy
- **Coordinator** Philosophy of Physics Reading/Research Group (UCI; 2019-2020)
- **Co-organizer** APA Pedagogy Workshop (UCI; Nov. 2019); helped with room-set-up, tech support, and food procurement
- **Panelist** WonderPhilosophy (UCI; Sept. 2019); three-day program designed to help undergraduates from traditionally-underrepresented backgrounds (especially transfer students) learn about applying to graduate school in philosophy
- **Vice President** Philosophy Club (UCSD; 2017-2018)
- **Creator and Coordinator** Undergraduate Philosophy and History of Science Reading Group (UCSD; 2017-2018)

Media Pieces

- “Fighting Fire with Fire.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 23 June 2021.
- “Asteroid Blaster.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 24 March 2021.
- “Virtual Exca-Vacation.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 17 March 2021.
- “Brushing Basics.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 12 March 2021.
- “Rivers of Colors.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 11 March 2021.
- “Grandma’s Hands.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 4 January 2021.
- “Doggy Bags.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 2 August 2021.
- “Piano, Man.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 31 May 2021.
- “Big Screen, Small Sight.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 10 May 2021.
- “Outside/In.” *The Loh Down on Science*, an NPR podcast. 29 June 2021.

Service (Other)

- **Volunteer** at the Discovery Cube Orange County; training on all permanent exhibits; special training to give presentations using the NOAA-developed Science on a Sphere system (2019-2024)
- **Speaker** for Studies of Science Speaker Series (“Why are We at a Science Museum?”) at the Discovery Cube, Orange County. Santa Ana, CA. September 2023.
- **Speaker** for Studies of Science Speaker Series (“The Humanities are Dumb (and Why I Came to Study Them)”) at the Discovery Cube, Orange County. Santa Ana, CA. July 2022.
- **Co-Organizer** of Studies of Science Speaker Series; help organize a graduate student speaker series (especially highlighting women and people of colour) on the academic study of science for teen volunteers at the Discovery Cube Orange County (Summer 2022-present)
- **Training** in QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper (October 2022, UCI)
- **Writer** for *The Loh Down on Science*; wrote short scripts to be used on the NPR science communication show (Sept. 2020-March 2021)
- **Conversation Leader** in TH!NK Program (UCI); led discussions with small groups of 5th and 6th graders on various philosophical topics (Winter 2020)
- **Volunteer** for Ask a Philosopher Booth (UCI); helped to set-up and run public philosophy outreach events in Long Beach, CA (Winter 2020)

References

- Jeremy Heis (jheis@uci.edu), Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California at Irvine
- Penelope Maddy (pjmaddy@uci.edu), Professor Emeritus of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California at Irvine
- Lauren Ross (rossl@uci.edu), Associate Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of California at Irvine
- Renee Raphael (rjraphae@uci.edu), Associate Professor of History, University of California at Irvine

Graduate Coursework

Philosophy	Realism and Quantum Physics	C. Callender & C. Sebens	UCSD	2017
of	Demarcation and Pseudo-Science	K. McKenzie	UCSD	2017
Science	Spacetime Singularities	J. Manchak & J. Weatherall	UCI	2018
	Spacetime Geometry	J. Manchak	UCI	2019
	Realism and Historical Sciences	K. Stanford	UCI	2019
	Foundations of Quantum Mechanics*	J. Barrett	UCI	2020
	Philosophy of Cosmology*	J. Weatherall & C. Smeenk	UCI	2020
	Analogy in Science*	L. Ross	UCI	2021
	Space and Geometry*	J. Heis	UCI	2022
History	Encounters b/w Science and Religion	R. Westman	UCSD	2018
and/of	Kant's Philosophy of Science	J. Heis	UCI	2018
Philosophy	Du Châtelet's <i>Foundations of Physics</i>	J. Weatherall	UCI	2019
of	Locke and Reid	J. Schatz	UCI	2019
Science	Global History of Science?*	R. Raphael	UCI	2019
	Malebranche*	S. Greenberg	UCI	2020
	Science Worlds	M. Fortun	UCI	2020
	Primary/Secondary Qualities	P. Maddy	UCI	2021
	Prosem. Medicine, Science, Tech. Studies	M. Zhan	UCI	2021
	Gender, Empire, Archive	D. Fujita-Rony	UCI	2021
	Early Modern Tech. & Colonialism	R. Raphael	UCI	2022
	Anthropologies of Race	D. T. Goldberg	UCI	2024
Other	Greek Political Philosophy	G. Anagnostopoulos	UCSD	2017
	Set Theory	T. Meadows	UCI	2018
	Speech Ethics	A. James	UCI	2018
	Chance	B. Skyrms	UCI	2019
	Metalogic	K. Wehmeier	UCI	2019
	Undecidability and Incompleteness	T. Meadows	UCI	2019
	Mathematics and Representation in 18 th c.	A. Henderson	UCI	2020
	English Literature*			
	Developing Teaching Excellence	A. Hooper	UCI	2020
	University Teaching (x3)	B. Sarnecka	UCI	2021, 2022

(* formally audited)

Dissertation Abstract

My dissertation analyzes the ways in which scholars talk about the relation between religion and science. In the late 1980s, the physicist and theologian Ian Barbour proposed that we approach this massive scholarship through the lens of a fourfold typology: scholars tend to conceive of the religion-science relationship (RSR) as one of Conflict, Independence, Dialogue, or Integration. This model, though acknowledged as problematic, still dominates the field of religion-and-science studies—an interdisciplinary field with hundreds of specialists drawn from philosophy, history, and the natural and social sciences. Extant work which analyzes the discipline as a whole either extends or slightly modifies Barbour’s four original categories. In my dissertation, I propose an entirely new way of approaching the religion-and-science literature, by focusing on the methods that scholars employ to reach their conclusions about the RSR rather than focusing on the conclusions themselves. Doing so, I argue, will help to resolve the current widespread feeling that scholars are talking past one another and also help public readerships of the literature clarify what is actually going on in the literature by highlighting the modes of reasoning being used.

I identify four main methods that scholars tend to use when characterizing the RSR: conceptual analysis, (historical) case studies, deconstruction, and fieldwork. Conceptual analysis focuses on the definitions of ‘religion’ and ‘science,’ and seeks to derive their relation logically from those definitions. The method of case studies instead proceeds by first surveying a variety of of historical encounters between religion and science and then arguing, via induction, for some general characterization of the RSR. Deconstruction, on the other hand, emphasizes the contingency of the concepts “religion” and “science”, either historically or cross-culturally, and explains the emergence of the current RSR on the basis of that contingency. Finally, scholars employing fieldwork extract their characterization of the RSR from empirical data gathered from scientists and religious folk themselves. Although these different methods often draw from particular disciplinary backgrounds, they can be—and are—used by scholars in any discipline.

Each of these methods faces unique issues and challenges which I discuss and further develop, proposing recommendations for those who use these methods in light of the critiques. I argue that no method is better “on the whole” than any other, for such a determination will depend essentially on the aims, goals, and values scholars and other readers may have in trying to understand the RSR. Thus, I also explain what kinds of audiences may find the different methods relevant, with an especial focus on non-academic audiences.

Throughout the dissertation, I pay especial attention to scholarship in public-facing contexts. Hence, the main sources I consider are academic, book-length tracts written by scholars with public-facing aims. The various critiques I discuss also focus on the public-facing nature of the works examined. An issue all of the current scholarship faces, which has so far gone unrecognized in the literature, revolves around the question, “Whose ‘science,’ whose ‘religion’?” Scholars almost always focus on religion and (especially) science as practiced among elites. Standard treatments of science, for instance, draw on the large-scale theories produced by famous scientists, or examine the personal beliefs of scientists employed at prestigious research universities. Left out are the vast majority of practicing scientists which members of the public may interact with (or be), many of

whom work in non-research, non-theory-oriented spaces. This leads to a sense in which prevailing accounts of the RSR work with notions of science which fail to accurately reflect the nature of science as practiced in the world. I thus show how the religion-and-science scholarship can be improved by taking these non-research, non-theory-oriented sciences seriously—not only will it make the work more relevant to the publics scholars often wish to reach, but it will also open up new avenues of research in understanding how religion and science are related by real-world actors, not just in the minds of academics.

Overall, my dissertation provides a novel approach to the field of religion-and-science by providing a high-level, overview analysis of the methods used in the literature on the religion-science relationship. The first chapter, which proposes my typology of methods, has been published in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, the leading journal of the field. Likewise, my second chapter (focused on the method of conceptual analysis) has also been published in *Zygon*. I plan to publish the other chapters of the dissertation individually as well.