

CURRICULUM VITAE

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RESEARCH & TEACHING FOCI

Modern Western philosophical & religious thought | History of Christian theology | Social & political theory | Theory & method in Religious Studies | Kant & Kierkegaard | Religion & conspiracy theories

EDUCATION

27.5/2021 **PhD Religious Studies** (Philosophy of Religion), Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)

Thesis: *Kierkegaard on Faith and Desire: The Limits of Christianity and the Human Heart* (defended 9.11/2020); committee: David C. Lamberth (advisor), Amy Hollywood, Charles M. Stang

9/2018–11/2020, Guest PhD student, Centre for Theology & Religious Studies (CTR), Lund University (SE)

8/2016–8/2018, Visiting scholar, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, University of Copenhagen (DK)

6–7/2015, Fellow, Hong Kierkegaard Library, St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN)

12.8/2010 **MA Religious Studies** (Religious Ethics), University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA)

03.5/2008 **BA Religious Studies** (honors), **BS Biology**, minors in Mathematics and Sociology, Indiana University (Bloomington, IN); *highest distinction*

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

3/2021– **Research fellow, Centre for Theology & Religious Studies, Lund University (SE)**
50% full-time, 3–8/2021; 65%, 9/2021–10/2022; 100%, 11/2022–present

Additional affiliations:

- Guest lecturer, University of Copenhagen (UCPH) Faculty of Theology; planned 7/2024
- Guest researcher, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, UCPH; 1–6/2023
- Member, Lund University (LU) research profile in *Human Rights*; since 1/2023
- Affiliated scholar, *Christianity & Nationalism* research platform, CTR, LU; since 9/2021

Participation in funded research projects:

- 1/2023–12/2028: Researcher, secretary (1–12/2023), & steering board member, *At the End of the World: A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Apocalyptic Imaginary in the Past & Present* (PI: Jayne Svenungsson; RJ-funded)
- 7/2024–6/2025: Researcher & PI, *Chance Encounters with Our (Evolutionary) Past: Implications of Evolutionary Historicity on Environmental Ethics* (Erik Philip-Sørensen- & Åke Wiberg-funded)
- 2/2023–12/2024: Researcher, *Beyond Truth & Lies: Conspiracy Theories, Post-Truth & the Conditions of Public Debate* (PI: Patrik Fridlund; LMK-funded)
- 3/2021–1/2024: Researcher, *Kierkegaard, Modernity & Critique* (PI: Johanna Gustafsson Lundberg; Crafoord-funded)
- 1–6/2023: Researcher & PI, *Resources in Kierkegaard for Rethinking the Religious & the Secular* (funded by American Scandinavian Foundation and Lund University's HT-Faculties)
- 9/2021–12/2022: Researcher & steering committee member, *Christianity & Nationalism* (PI: Jayne Svenungsson; funded by Lund University's HT-Faculties)

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Goldman, Aaron James. 2024 (*accepted and in press*). "Exceptions (to Exceptions) and Decisions (about Decisions) in Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling* and Schmitt's *Political Theology*," in Panu-Matti Pöykkö, Pamela Slotte and Viljami O. Salo (eds.), *Political Violence: Historical, Philosophical and Theological Perspectives* (series: Helsinki Yearbook of Intellectual History). Berlin & Boston: De Gruyter. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110990645-008>. [Peer-reviewed chapter in volume]

Goldman, Aaron James. 2022. "Post-Truth Implications for COVID-Era Healthcare: Verification, Trust, and Vaccine Skepticism." In Sepehr Ehsani, Patrick Glauner, Philipp Plugmann & Florian M. Thieringer (eds.), *The Future Circle of Healthcare: AI, 3D Printing, Longevity, Ethics and Uncertainty Mitigation*. Cham, CH: Springer. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-99838-7_8. [Non-peer-reviewed contribution to scientific/professional book]

Goldman, Aaron James & Tornike Metreveli. 2022. "Borders, Boundaries, Backdrops: An Introduction to the Special Issue on Christianity and Nationalism." *Svensk Teologisk Kvartalskrift* [Swedish Theological Quarterly] 98(2). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51619/stk.v98i2.24617>. [Non-peer-reviewed writing in scientific journal]

Goldman, Aaron James & Tornike Metreveli, eds. 2022. Special Issue on Christianity and Nationalism. *Svensk Teologisk Kvartalskrift* 98(2). Issue available at <https://journals.lub.lu.se/STK/issue/view/3367>. [Edited special issue of peer-reviewed journal]

Goldman, Aaron James. 2021. *Kierkegaard on Faith and Desire: The Limits of Christianity and the Human Heart*. PhD dissertation. Harvard University, ProQuest Dissertations. <https://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:HUL.INSTREPOS:37368192>

Goldman, Aaron J. 2020. "On *Fear and Trembling's* Motif of the Promise: Faith, Ethics & the Politics of Tragedy." *Kierkegaard Studies Yearbook* 25: 57–84. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/kierke-2020-0004>. [Peer-reviewed scientific article]

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND PODCASTS (selected)

Public lecture, "Donald Trump, Conspiracy Theories, and Professional Wrestling," Lund Kulturnatten, 16.9/2023; and Lund HT-Faculties lunchtime lecture series, 13.12/2023

Seminar paper, "The Truth of Implausible Conspiracy Theories: Myth, Taboo, and Critique of Power," for *Populism & Religion* webinar series, Lund University, 27.11/2023

Invited lecture for course *Søren Kierkegaard and the Challenge of Existence* (Instructor: Cæcilie Varslev-Pedersen), Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen (DK), 26.4/2023 & 20.11/2023

Podcast interview, "QAnon as a Quasi-Religious Movement," *HT-Samtal* podcast, Lund University Joint Faculties of the Humanities and Theology, published 5.9/2023

Conference paper, "'Roko's Basilisk,' an (Accidental) Attempt at Rational Theology: Contagious Ideas Among AI Enthusiasts & in the History of Religious Thought," for panel *Will AI transform religion? Can theology transform AI?*, European Academy of Religion, St Andrews (UK), 23.6/2023

Conference paper, "Can the Word be 'Thwarted by Nature'?": Cosmology and Anthropology in Manegold of Lautenbach's *Liber contra Wolfelmum* and Kierkegaard's *Philosophical Fragments*," for Nordic Society for Philosophy of Religion conference, University of Oslo (NO), 7.6/2023

Respondent (Zoom) to paper "Biblical and Barometric Reading in the Work of Richard Mead (1673–1754)," by Julia Reed, Max Planck Research Group Colloquium – *Experience in the Premodern Sciences of Soul and Body*, Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science, Berlin (DE), 26.5/2023

Podcast episode, “Donald Trump as a Religious Hero,” *Religion & teologi* podcast, Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University, published 10.5/2023

Public lecture, “Investigating QAnon as a Quasi-Religious Movement: Donald Trump as a Religious Hero,” ‘Humanities-Theology Days’ open conference, Lund University, 14.4/2023

Conference paper, “Is there a tension between de-anthropocentrism and sustainability?: On one potential pitfall of eco-theologies’ use of empirical science,” at conference *At the Margins of Life: Exploring Existential Sustainability – Technology, Health, & Death*, Lund University, 25.11/22

Conference paper, “De-Anthropocentrism and Geological Time: A Serious Tension in the Ethics of Ecological Theologies?” European Society for Phil. & Religion, Oxford University (UK), 05.9/22

Conference paper, “The Historicity of Evolution and the Destiny of *Homo sapiens*: Implications of Evolutionary Determinism for Theology and Ethics,” Nordic Conference for Systematic Theology, Aarhus University (DK), 18.06/22

Conference paper, “Faith, Violence & Exceptions (to Exceptions) in Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*,” Academy of Finland Center of Excellence conference about Historical, Philosophical & Theological Perspectives on Political Violence, University of Helsinki (FI), 31.3/22

Invited lecture, “Religion & radical right-wing populism in contemporary American politics,” with co-presenter Aron Engberg, *Christianity & Nationalism* seminar series, Lund University, 09.11/21

Conference paper, “QAnon, Donald Trump & the Kayfabe of U.S. Politics,” panel on *Religion and Conspiracy Theories*, European Academy of Religion, Münster (DE), 02.9/21

Conference paper (Zoom), “The Pantheological Apocalypse of Jeff VanderMeer’s *Southern Reach*: Ecological Catastrophe and the Shattering of Distinctions,” for *Alternative Ontologies and Queering Religion* panel of the Religion and Science Fiction Unit, American Academy of Religion, 08.12/20

Conference paper, ““Your wife must first and foremost be to you the neighbor”: Preferences, Otherness, & the Problem of Special Relationships in Kierkegaard’s *Works of Love*,” *Kierkegaard, Religion & Culture* unit, American Academy of Religion, San Diego (CA), 23.11/19

Conference paper, “Where is Kierkegaard’s Critique of Government?: Assessing *Works of Love & Fear and Trembling* as Ethical / Political Texts,” SKC Annual Conference, University of Copenhagen, 16.08/18

Invited public lecture, “Two Promises of Work and Bread: On *Fear and Trembling*’s Articulation of the Ethical,” SKC, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen, 27.10/17

ACQUIRED RESEARCH FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIPS (selected)

At postdoctoral level

- 1/2023–12/2028 *At the End of the World: A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Apocalyptic Imaginary in the Past & Present*; competitive research program grant from Sweden’s **Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ)**, **50,232,000 SEK**
As sole co-author, I developed the grant application with the PI Jayne Svenungsson. With Svenungsson and 2 others among the 22 researchers, I defended the proposal in Stockholm before a jury on 22.9/2022.
- 7/2024–6/2025 *Chance Encounters with Our (Evolutionary) Past: Implications of Evolutionary Historicity on Environmental Ethics*; competitive grant for personal pilot project from **Erik Philip-Sörensen’s Foundation (390,000 SEK)** and **Åke Wiberg’s Foundation (50,000 SEK)**

- 2/2023–12/2024 *Beyond Truth & Lies: Conspiracy Theories, Post-Truth, & the Conditions of Public Debate*; competitive project grant from **LMK-Stiftelsen, 2,990,250 SEK**
I was sole co-author of the grant application with the PI Patrik Fridlund.
- 3/2021–12/2023 *Kierkegaard, Modernity & Critique* prolongation; competitive research project grant (**1,000,000 SEK**) and competitive prolongation (**400,000 SEK**) from the **Crafoord Foundation**
I was applications' sole author for the PI Johanna Gustafsson Lundberg.
- 1–6/2023 *Resources in Kierkegaard for Rethinking the Religious & the Secular*; competitive personal grants for research, teaching, and project development from the **American Scandinavian Foundation (\$10,300)** and Lund University's Joint Faculties of Humanities & Theology (**76,000 SEK**)
Funds pilot project and workshop design/implementation at the University of Copenhagen's Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre.

At postgraduate level

- 8/2018–7/2019 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS), Harvard University, **\$30,986**
- 8/2017–7/2018 Harvard University Merit / Graduate Society Term-Time research fellowship, **\$15,400**
- 8/2016–7/2017 American Scandinavian Foundation fellowship for PhD thesis research in Copenhagen, **\$23,000**
- 5/2011–8/2014 Harvard University PhD student summer research awards, totaling **\$19,432**
- 8/2010–5/2014 Harvard University PhD student fellowship toward tuition, **\$109,414**
- 8/2010–5/2014 Harvard University PhD student fellowship and living stipend, **\$52,597**
- 8/2009–5/2010 BB&T Fellowship for Research on Ethics at the University of Virginia, **\$18,000**
- 8/2008–5/2009 University of Virginia PhD student fellowship, **\$18,000**
- 7/2008 1st place, Theta Alpha Kappa honors society fellowship competition, **\$1,000**

SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

Lund University: co-supervisor for 1 PhD thesis in Philosophy of Religion (ongoing)

Harvard University: co-supervisor for 3 BA-level honors theses in Religion, all passes with honors

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

Complete list of courses, evaluations, and workshops available upon request.

Pedagogical training and contributions to pedagogy

- 1–5/2024 Enrolled in *Teaching & Learning in Higher Ed – Extension*, LU (1 ECTS)
- 5–8/2023 Passed *Teaching Portfolio* course, Lund University (LU) (1.5 ECTS)
- 9/2022–3/2023 Passed *Course Design in Higher Ed*, LU (4.5 ECTS)
- 1–6/2022 Passed *Teaching & Learning in Higher Ed*, LU (3 ECTS)

- 8/2012–1/2016 Participated in 9 pedagogy workshops, conferences, & other activities at Harvard University, ranging from administrative training to gender equity
- 21.10/14 and 26.8/14 Co-led 2 pedagogy workshops for teaching assistants in global health, Harvard Global Health Institute & Harvard College Program in General Education

Classroom teaching roles (estimated 360 total classroom hours completed)

University of Copenhagen

- Summer 2024 Lecturer & course designer, summer course: *Søren Kierkegaard: The Individual Between the Religious and the Secular* (15 credits)

Lund University

- Spring 2024 Lecturer & course co-designer, CTRB57: *Antisemitism, Islamophobia and Constructing the Enemy* (7.5 credits)

Harvard University

- Spring 2021 Junior tutorial leader, *Time, History & Timelessness in Religious Thought*
- Spring 2016 Teaching fellow, *Theism & Moral Reasoning**
- Fall 2015 Interim head instructor, *19th-Century Religious Thought*
- Fall 2015 Teaching fellow, *Arts of Contemplative Care*
- Spring 2015 Junior tutorial leader, *Introduction to Kant & Hegel*
- Spring 2015 Teaching fellow, *Faith & Authenticity**
- Spring 2015 Head teaching fellow, *Global Health Challenges*
- Fall 2014 Teaching fellow, *Liberalism: Theology, Ethics, Politics*
- Fall 2014 Teaching fellow, *Social Ethics Today*
- Spring 2014 Head teaching fellow, *Global Health Challenges**
- Fall 2013 Teaching fellow, *Social Ethics in the Making*
- Fall 2013 Teaching fellow, *Introduction to Hermeneutics and Theology*
- Spring 2013 Teaching fellow, *Ethical Reasoning: Nature*
- Fall 2012 Head teaching fellow, *World's Religions in Multicultural America**
- Fall 2012 Junior tutorial leader, *From Christian Existentialism to Social Justice*

***For these four courses, received the Certificate for Distinction in Teaching from the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University**

University of Virginia

- Spring 2010 Teaching assistant, *Religion in America Since 1865*
- Fall 2009 Teaching assistant, *Theology, Ethics & Health Care*

Indiana University

- Spring 2007 Undergraduate teaching intern, *Genetics*
- Fall 2006 Undergraduate teaching intern, *Molecular Biology*

Curriculum development and online course instruction

- 9/2014–5/2021 Course developer (remote), HarvardX, for 44 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), including *World Religions and Their Scriptures* series
- 8/2018–9/2019 Course developer (remote), Harvard Business Analytics Program, Harvard Business School Online (HBX), for 3 online courses
- 6/2014–6/2015 Curriculum development assistant, *Global Health Challenges and Entrepreneurship & Healthcare in Emerging Economies*, Harvard College

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION (selected)

- 1/2023–12/2023 Secretary and webmaster for 23-person research program *At the End of the World*, CTR, Lund University

- 16.11/2023 Co-organizer of workshop with guest expert Alexandre Duchêne (University of Fribourg), *Theoretical Approaches to Discourse and Power*, Lund University
- 6–7.11/2023 Retreat co-planner, *At the End of the World* fall 2023 ‘internat,’ Håckeberga Slott, Lund University
- 8/2022–12/2023 Subcommittee member and moderator, *Populism & Religion* seminar series, *Christianity & Nationalism* research platform, CTR, Lund University
- 27–28.4/2023 Retreat co-planner, *At the End of the World* ‘internat,’ Flädie Mat och Vingård, Lund University
- 17.4/2023 Workshop co-organizer, *Conspiracy Theories — What, Why and How?*, for *Beyond Truth and Lies* project, Lund University
- 17.4/2023 Public panel discussion co-organizer, *Konspiration och politik. Perspektiv på konspirationsteorier idag*, Lund University
- 9/2021–12/2022 Steering committee member, research platform in *Christianity & Nationalism*, CTR, Lund University
- 28–29.10/2022 Conference co-organizer: *Christianity and Crisis in European Contexts*, financed by Lund University *Christianity & Nationalism* research platform in conjunction with St. Gallen University (CH), CTR, Lund University
- 2022 Peer reviewer, *Danish Yearbook of Philosophy* (1 article)
- 11/2021– Moderator for conference paper panels, public seminars, and keynote lectures
 –3 public webinars, *At the End of the World* webinar series, Lund University
 –8 public seminars, *Populism & Religion* webinar series, Lund University
 –2 public seminars, *Christianity & Nationalism* seminar series, Lund University
 –4 public seminars, *Studies in Faith & Worldviews* series, Lund University
 –1 paper panel, *European Society for Phil. of Religion* conference, Oxford (UK)
 –1 keynote lecture by José Casanova, Lund University

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English: native

Danish, Spanish & Swedish: excellent reading & translation; informal speech and writing

French, German & Latin: good reading & translation only

PROFESSIONAL AND HONORARY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS (selected)

International Network for Experimental Philosophy and Theology

Resonans: A Nordic Network for Theology, Philosophy and Politics

Nordic Society for Philosophy of Religion (NSPR)

European Society for Philosophy of Religion (ESPR)

European Academy of Religion (EuARe)

Søren Kierkegaard Society, U.S.A.

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Friends of the Hong Kierkegaard Library

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, inducted spring 2007

Theta Alpha Kappa Honors Society for Religious Studies and Theology, inducted spring 2007