

David Z. Kratz, PhD

Formerly David Kratz Mathies
Né David B Kratz II

Department of Social Sciences & Humanities
Missouri Western State University

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Popplewell Hall 212M
4525 Downs Dr.
St. Joseph, MO 64507

816-271-4686
dmathies@missouriwestern.edu

DEGREES AWARDED:

MAT: Secondary Education. May 2025.
Missouri Western State University, St Joseph, Mo.

PhD: Philosophy of Religion (Religious Studies). May 2008.
Division of Religious and Theological Studies, Boston University, Boston, Mass.

MATS: Theology and Ethics. May 1995.
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.

BA: English and Mathematics. Aug. 1989.
Goshen College, Goshen, Ind.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

Adjunct Faculty
Dept. of Social Sciences & Humanities, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Mo. 2021-present.

Professor of Philosophy and Religion
Dept. of Social Sciences & Humanities, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Mo. 2020-2021.

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion
Dept. of Philosophy & Religion, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Mo. 2015-2020.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion
Dept. of Philosophy & Religion, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Mo. 2009-15.

Adjunct Faculty
Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va. 2008-09.

Adjunct Faculty

Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Va. Fall 2008.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Va. 2007-08.

Adjunct Faculty

Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va. 2006-07.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion

Dept. of Bible and Religion, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va. 2005-06.

Adjunct Faculty

Dept. of Theology, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass. 2004-05.

PUBLICATIONS:**Book:**

Common Grounds without Foundations: A Pragmatic Approach to Ethical Disagreements across Cultural, Philosophical, and Religious Traditions. Gorgias Press, 2015.

Journal Articles:

‘Should I Help the Empire with my Hand? Confucian Resources for a Paradigm of Just Peacemaking’. *Journal of Religion, Conflict, and Peace*. 4.2 (Spring 2011). [Published 12 March 2012]. Available <http://www.religionconflictpeace.org/node/96>

“‘Holding Fast’ to Principles or Drawing Boundaries of Exclusion? The Use and Misuse of the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*”. *Conrad Grebel Review*. 25.3 (Fall 2007): 68-85. Available <https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/publications/conrad-grebel-review/issues/fall-2007/holding-fast-principles-or-drawing-boundaries-exclusion-use>

‘Reading the Moral Law: A Hermeneutical Approach to Religious Moral Epistemology’ *Conrad Grebel Review*. 23.3 (Fall 2005): 74-84. Available <https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/publications/conrad-grebel-review/issues/fall-2005/reading-moral-law-hermeneutical-approach-religious-moral>

‘Does the Ballot Box Lie Outside the Perfection of Christ?’ *Conrad Grebel Review*. 21.2 (Spring 2003): 106-13. Available <https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/publications/conrad-grebel-review/issues/spring-2003/does-ballot-box-lie-outside-perfection-christ>

PRESENTATIONS:

‘Pacifist Epistemology: Does Nonviolent Resistance Have a Bias Towards Justice?’

The Pacific Northwest Political Science Association annual meeting, Peace & Conflict Studies Panel, Seattle, Wash., 12-14 October 2017.

‘Analogues, Embeddedness, and Comparative Soteriologies: An Outline for a Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Textbook’

The American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Session on the theme ‘Toward an Undergraduate Textbook in Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion: Learning Objectives, Content, Structure’, sponsored by the Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion Seminar, San Antonio, Tx., 19-22 November 2016.

Invited panelist for the Roundtable on Applied Learning in Peace and Conflict Studies

8th Annual Conference on Applied Learning in Higher Education (CALHE), Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Mo. 22 March 2013.

‘Inequality and a Just Political Order: Roles and Principles in Classical Confucian Texts’

The American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Panel on ‘Scriptural Texts and a Just Political Order’, sponsored by the Scriptural/Contextual Ethics Consultation, Chicago, Ill. 16-20 November 2012.

‘Shining Heaven’s Light on the Qualities of Maya: The Purpose and Pursuit of Equanimity in the *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Zhuangzi*’

The American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Panel on ‘Engagement of *Bhagavad Gita* and Chinese Thought’, sponsored by Religions in Chinese and Indian Cultures: A Comparative Perspective Consultation, San Francisco, Cal., 19 November 2011.

‘Should I Help the Empire with My Hand? Confucian Resources for a Paradigm of Just Peacemaking from the *Book of Mencius*’

The American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Panel on ‘Scriptural Resources for a Global Just Peacemaking Ethic’, sponsored by the Scriptural/Contextual Ethics Consultation, Atlanta, Ga., 31 October 2010.

“Holding Fast” to Principles or Drawing Boundaries of Exclusion?’

The Institute of Mennonite Studies Consultation on the Mennonite Confession of Faith: ‘Holding Fast to the Confession of Our Hope: The *Confession of Faith* Ten Years Later’. Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind., 8-10 June 2006.

‘*Loka-samgraha*, *Tianming*, and *Nachfolge Christi*: Comparative Lessons for a Christian Peace Theology’

The Third Boston College Graduate Student Conference on Comparative Theology: ‘Engaging Particularities III’. Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass., 1-3 April 2005.

‘Reading the Moral Law: A Hermeneutical Approach to Religious Moral Epistemology’

The Second Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre Graduate Student Conference: ‘Reading Religious Texts’. Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind., 18-20 June 2004.

‘Does the Ballot Box Lie Outside the Perfection of Christ?’

The First Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre Graduate Student Conference: ‘The Future of Anabaptist Scholarship’. Toronto School of Theology, Toronto, Ont., 21-22 November 2002.

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Pacifist Hermeneutics: Reading Scripture Like a Satyagrahi. [Book manuscript in progress]

A Relational Theory of Atonement: An Understanding of the Bible's Good News with Roots in Anabaptist Theology, Restorative Justice, and the Ethics of Care. [Book manuscript in progress]

'Serendipitous Creativity': Gordon Kaufman's Conception of God in a Comparative Context. [Book outlined, research in progress]

COURSES TAUGHT:

Missouri Western State University

- Religions of the World (*previously* Comparative Religions)
- Addams, Weil, Day: Women Peace & Social Justice Activists
- Perspectives on Evil
- Satyagraha*: Nonviolent Strategies for Social Justice
- Chinese Philosophy
- The Radical Reformers
- Contemporary Political Philosophy
- Metaethics
- Mysticism & Transcendence
- Indian Philosophy
- American Pragmatism
- The Axial Age
- Socially Engaged Buddhism
- War, Peace, & Religion
- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion & Nature
- Religions of South Asia and Africa (*previously* Comparative Religions: Southern Traditions)
- Tolstoy, Gandhi, King
- Religions of the West (*previously* Comparative Religions: Western Traditions)
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Humanities: Ancient and Medieval
- Women & Religion
- Religions of East Asia and Oceania (*previously* Comparative Religions: Eastern Traditions)
- Humanities: American Revolution to the Present
- Ethics

James Madison University

- War, Peace, and Religion
- God, Meaning, and Morality
- Chinese Philosophy
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Religions of the World

Bridgewater College

- Conflict Transformation
- The Classical Mind
- Christian Perspectives on Violence and Peace
- Christian Social Ethics
- Religions of the Far East
- Contemporary Moral and Political Problems
- Logic

Introduction to the New Testament
Topics in Philosophy and Religion

Eastern Mennonite University
Comparative Asian Religions
Sociology of Religion
Living Faith
Anthropology and Christian Mission
Introduction to Philosophy
World Religions

Boston College
The Religious Quest II: Christianity, Hinduism, and Confucianism
The Religious Quest I: Christianity, Hinduism, and Confucianism