

# GALEN WATTS

galen.watts@queensu.ca

## EDUCATION

**PhD Candidate in Cultural Studies**, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario (began September 2016)

Supervisor: Dr. Will Kymlicka (Philosophy/Political Studies)

Committee Members: Dr. Simon Coleman (Religious Studies/Anthropology, University of Toronto),  
Dr. Sharday C. Mosurinjohn (Religious/Cultural Studies)

**Master of Arts in Cultural Studies**, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario (September 2014 - April 2016)

Supervisor: Dr. James Miller (Religious Studies)

**Bachelor of Arts (Hons)**, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

- Medial in Philosophy – Drama 2008-2010, 2012-2014
- Dean's Honour List (2013, 2014)

## AWARDS, DISTINCTIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier (CGS) Doctoral Scholarship (2017-2020)
- Henry Mandelbaum Graduate Fellowship - Doctoral (2018)
- SSHRC Storytellers Competition – Top 5 Finalist (2018)
- Andrina McCulloch Prize in Public Speaking – Second Place (2018)
- Honorable mention for a Teaching Assistant Award (2016-2017)
- Nominated by Queen's University for the Trudeau Scholarship (advanced to the semi-final stage) (2016-2017 & 2017-2018)
- Alfred Bader Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities (2016-2017)
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship-PhD (OGS) (2016-2017)
- SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's (CGS-M) (2015-2016)
- Queen's Graduate Award (2014)
- The Pall Ardal Moral Philosophy Prize (2013)
- St. George Cathedral Choral Scholarship (2013)

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- Visiting Graduate Student, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University (Lent Term 2019)
- Visiting Scholar, Woolf Institute, Cambridge University (Lent Term 2019)
- Research Associate, Cambridge Institute for Applied Psychology & Religion (Summer 2017 – Present)
- Visiting Graduate Student, Religious Studies Department, University of Toronto (2017/2018).

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- "Missing the Forest for the Trees: 'Spiritual' Religion in a Secular Age." (forthcoming).  
*University of Toronto Journal of Theology*. In press.

- “Recovering Enchantment: Addiction, Spirituality, and Charles Taylor’s Malaise of Modernity.” (forthcoming). *Journal of Contemporary Religion*. In press.
- “On the Politics of Self-Spirituality: A Canadian Case Study.” 2018. *Studies in Religion*. Volume 47, Issue 3. Pgs. 345-372.
- “‘Of’ or ‘For’: The Study of Spirituality and the Problems Therein.” 2017. In *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*. Volume 7, Issue 1. Pgs. 64-71.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Cultural Disenchantment and the Rise of Holistic Spirituality.” (In press). In *Mutual Enrichment Between Psychology and Theology*, edited by Russell Re Manning, published by Routledge.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *The Road to Character* by David Brooks. 2017. In *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*. Volume 29, Issue 1.

## NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- “Talking Politics at the Family Dinner Table” *Areo Magazine*, December 2018.
- “Why Multiculturalism Is Not At Odds With Integration” *Areo Magazine*, December 2018.
- “Pioneering sociologist foresaw our current chaos 100 years ago” *The Conversation*, November 2018.
- “Emile Durkheim, the Sacred, and the Nonreligious” *Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network blog*, November 2018.
- “What the Right and Left can learn from each other” *Areo Magazine*, November 2018.
- “Self-Help in the ‘age of responsibility’ denies unequal realities” *The Conversation*, September 2018.
- “‘Cultural Marxism’ Explained and Re-Evaluated” *Quillette*, June 2018.
- “Being a Progressive Christian shouldn’t be an oxymoron” *The Conversation*, May 2018.
- “Is Alcoholics Anonymous a Religion?” *Religion Dispatches*, May 2018.
- “Spirituality: Secular or Religious?” *Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN) blog*, March 2018.

- “Millennials abandon hope for religion but revere human rights” *The Conversation*, February 5, 2018.
- “What does it mean to be spiritual?” *The Conversation*, November 16, 2017.
- “‘Of’ or ‘For’: Studying Spirituality and the Problems Therein,” *Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN) blog*, December 2016.
- “Is Bernie Sanders ‘Spiritual but not Religious’?” *Queen’s School of Religion blog*, October 2016.
- “A Lunchtime Exchange on ‘Spirituality in Contemporary Cultural Contexts’”, co-authored with Ian Alexander Cuthbertson, *Undisciplined Collective*, Kingston, ON (2015).

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Making Sense of the Study of Spirituality: Disenchantment and the Legacies of Liberal Modernity.” *Religion*. (Re-Submitted for Review).

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS / PANELS

- “A Global Ethic Without Guidance: ‘Spiritual but not Religious’ Millennials and the Search for Justice”, *2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions*, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON (November 6, 2018)
- “Spirituality and Discipline: (Re)producing and Challenging the (Neo)liberal Order”, *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Conference*, Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, NV (October 27, 2018).
- “The Gender Puzzle Revisited: Contemporary Spirituality and the Rise of the Feminine”, *XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology*, Metropolitan Toronto Convention Center, ON (July 16, 2018).
- “Millennials, Higher Education, and the “Spiritual but not Religious”, *Religion and Education: British Sociological Association - Sociology of Religion study group (Socrel)*, University of Strathclyde, UK (July 11, 2018).
- “The ‘Religious’ and ‘Secular’ Nature of Self-Spirituality: Insights from the Field”, *Worldviews in World View: Particularizing Secularism, Secularity, and Nonreligion: NSRN Conference*, King’s College London, UK (July 6, 2018).
- “The Gender Puzzle Revisited: Contemporary Spirituality and the Rise of the Feminine”, *Congress 2018: Canadian Society for the Study of Religion*, University of Regina, ON (May 27, 2018).
- “‘Spiritual but not Religious’ Millennials in Canada: Liberal Cosmopolitanism and the Politics

- of Community”, *Globalization and its Critics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Toronto Centre for Ethics Graduate Conference*, University of Toronto, (May 11, 2018).
- “Disney and Self-Spirituality: A Match Made in Hollywood Heaven”, *International Conference on Religion & Film*, University of Toronto, (May 4, 2018).
  - “‘Spiritual but not Religious’ and the Antinomies of Contemporary Liberalism”, *British Sociological Association (BSA) Annual Conference*, Northumbria University, UK (April 11, 2018)
  - A Respondent on the “Social Networks” Panel, *Planetary Humanities, Cosmopolitan Philosophies, Social Networks: Perspectives from China and the West – Public Workshop*, Duke University, North Carolina, US (March 26, 2018).
  - “‘Spiritual but not Religious’ Millennials in Canada”, *Annual Meeting of the American Academy for the Study of Religion (AAR)*, Boston, MA, US (November 19, 2017)
  - “A Quite New Predicament – The Rise of the ‘Spiritual but not Religious’ in a Secular Age”, *Problematizing Religious Diversity in a Secular Age*, McGill CREOR Graduate Student Conference (September 16, 2017).
  - “Rethinking the Social Study of Spirituality”, *British Sociological Association - Sociology of Religion study group (Socrel)*, University of Leeds, UK (July 13, 2017).
  - “Spirituality and Social Justice Among Canadian Millennials”, *Religion, Cooperation and Conflict in Diverse Societies: International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR)*, University of Lausanne, Switzerland (July 7, 2017).
  - “The Politics of Self-Spirituality: A Canadian Case Study”, *Congress 2017: Canadian Society for the Study of Religion*, Ryerson University, ON (May 30, 2017).
  - “A Spiritual Pedagogy for the Twenty-First Century”, *Philosophy of Education 2017: Tradition and Revolution: Interrogating Canadian Higher Education in Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> year*, George Brown College, ON (May 26, 2017).
  - “Finding the Spiritual in Nature: So What?”, *Unravelling Religion 4*, Queen’s University School of Religion, ON (May 13, 2017).
  - “Social Inquiry on the Brink: Why the Ecological Crisis Requires Us to Rethink How and Why We Study Spirituality”, *Enabling Constraints: A Symposium on the Demands of Frameworks and Data in the Study of Religion*, University of Toronto Department for the Study of Religion, ON (April 27, 2017).
  - “The Politics of Self-Spirituality: A Canadian Case Study”, *Seventh International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society*, Imperial College London, London, UK (April 17, 2017).
  - “Spirituality, Identity, and Modernity”, *UnDisciplined*, Queen’s University Cultural Studies Graduate Program, ON (March 31, 2017).

- “Spirituality, Identity, and Modernity”, *Work in Progress*, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures of the University of Ottawa, ON (February 10, 2017).
- “Addiction, Spirituality and the Search for Meaning”, *The British Association for the Study of Spirituality Fourth Biennial Conference*, Manchester, England (May 25, 2016).
- “On the Politics of Spirituality: Moving Beyond Consumptive Capitalism”, *Unravelling Religion 3*, Queen’s University School of Religion, ON (May 14, 2016).
- “Addiction, Spirituality and the Search for Meaning”, *Les représentations du religieux dans les sociétés plurielles contemporaines*, Université De Sherbrooke, QC (April 29, 2016).
- “Addiction, Spirituality and the Search for Meaning”, *UnDisciplined*, Queen’s University Cultural Studies Graduate Program, ON (April 1, 2016).
- “On the Lived Nature of Contemporary Spirituality”, *Unravelling Religion 2*, Queen’s University School of Religion, ON (March 7, 2015).
- “On the Lived Nature of Contemporary Spirituality”, *UnDisciplined*, Queen’s University Cultural Studies Graduate Program, ON (March 28, 2015).
- “Equality: A Reasonable Limit for the Restriction of Pornography”, *I@Q Undergraduate conference*, Queen’s University, ON (March 6, 2014).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Teaching Assistant:** PHIL 296 (‘Animals and Society’) Philosophy Department, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON  
Winter 2018

- This course introduces students to historical and contemporary debates regarding the treatment of nonhuman animals within Western societies, and explores our ethical responsibilities toward them. The course examines a range of human- animal relations, involving domesticated, working, research subjects and wild animals.

**Teaching Assistant:** PHIL 347 (‘Moral Responsibility’) Philosophy Department, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON  
Fall 2017

- This course focuses on contemporary work on the nature of moral responsibility. Questions considered include responsibility for attitudes, the nature of blame, the relevance of personal history to a person’s blameworthiness, the difference between being and holding responsible, and whether moral ignorance is at least a partial excuse for morally wrong conduct.

**Teaching Assistant:** PHIL 259 ('Critical Thinking') Philosophy Department, Queen's University, Kingston, ON  
Fall 2017

- This online course aims to help students to think critically. Students learn how to evaluate arguments, claims, beliefs, and so on as well as how to make solid arguments of their own.

**Teaching Assistant:** RELS 401 ('Spiritual but not Religious – Honours Seminar') School of Religion, Queen's University, Kingston, ON  
Winter 2017

- This is a fourth-year honours seminar with a focus on critically engaging with contemporary 'Spiritual but not Religious' (SBNR) discourses.

**Teaching Assistant:** PHIL 275 ('Thinking Gender, Sex and Love') Philosophy Department, Queen's University, Kingston, ON  
Fall 2016

- This course seeks to examine what is at stake in how we think about gender, sex, and love. Using classical and contemporary philosophical texts we will examine presuppositions and alternative possibilities. Old and new insights are explored.

**Teaching Assistant:** RELS 161 ('Problems in Religion and Culture'), Religious Studies Department, Queen's University, Kingston, ON  
Fall/Winter 2016-2017

- This course explores religious issues in culture, literature, politics and social ethics

**Teaching Assistant:** PHIL 201 ('Philosophy and Medicine'), Philosophy Department, Queen's University, Kingston, ON  
Winter 2016

- This course is about evidence, diseases and the practice of medicine. Working closely with empirical examples, we will look at some big questions concerning medicine.

**Teaching Assistant:** RELS 401 ('Spiritual But Not Religious – Honours Seminar'), School of Religion, Queen's University, Kingston, ON  
Winter 2015

- This is a fourth-year honours seminar with a focus on critically engaging with contemporary 'Spiritual but not Religious' (SBNR) discourses.

**Teaching Assistant:** PHIL 115 ('New Eyes on Ancient Problems'), Philosophy Department, Queen's University, Kingston, ON  
Fall/Winter 2014-2015

- This course offers an introduction to some of the fundamental problems, concepts and arguments of philosophy. It seeks to explore issues including the scope of, human knowledge, the nature of mind, personal identity, free will, the nature of morality, and political theory.

**Guest Lecturer:** RELS 161, School of Religion, Queen's University, Kingston

Instructor: Ian Cuthbertson

Date(s): February 24, 2015; February 22, 2016; February 15, 2017

- Gave a lecture on the history, and social and political implications, of the category 'Spiritual but not Religious' in the contemporary West.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant for Dr. Fraser Watts (Psychology/Theology), University of Lincoln, UK, studying contemporary spirituality among millennials (2016 - Present)
- Research Assistant for Dr. Ann Mullen (Sociology), University of Toronto, studying the contemporary art world (Summer 2018)
- Participant in the 2017 Universitair Centrum Sint-Ignatius Antwerpen (UCSIA) Summer School on Religion, Culture and Society in Antwerp, Belgium (August 27 – September 2, 2017)

## RESEARCH FUNDING

- Received a SSHRC Michael Smith Foreign Supplement (to cover 2019 Winter Term in Cambridge) (Amount of \$5700.00)
- Received travel funding from the Queen's University Principal's Student Initiative Fund (Amount of \$500.00) (July 2018)
- Received CSSR Graduate Student Award (2018)
- Received travel funding from the Queen's University Principal's Student Initiative Fund (Amount of \$500.00) (July 2017)
- Received travel funding from the Queen's University Principal's Student Initiative Fund (Amount of \$350.00) (September 2017)

## TEACHING EXPERTISE

- Theory and Method in Religious Studies
- Social and Cultural Theory
- Ethics/Moral Philosophy
- Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Religion

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITY

- Associate Editor for the *Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network* (NSRN) blog (2017/2018)
- Head of Graduate Research for SNC-Lab and Senior Editor of the SNC-Lab blog (2017/2018)
- Cultural Studies Student Representative on QNS 'Philosophy and Prisons' Hiring Committee

(2017)

- Cultural Studies General Research Ethics Board (GREB) Committee Member (2016/2017)
- Cultural Studies Communications Committee Member (2016/2017)
- DSC Representative in courses: PHIL 263 (2013), PHIL 466 (2014)

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

- Global Kingston Morning Show (TV); interviewed by Bill Welychka about “Spirituality and the Holidays” (aired December 20, 2018 @ 10-10:10am EST)
- Zoomer Radio “Good Friday Free For All” – was the “Religion and Culture Expert” with host Jane Brown, taking listeners questions (aired March 30, 2018 @ 12-1pm EST)
- Global News Radio 770 CHQR Christmas Special; interviewed by Andrea Montgomery about “Millennials, Religion and Spirituality” (aired December 24, 2017 @ 8-8:30am EST)

## **PROFESSIONAL / ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR)
- The British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group (BSA Socrel)
- Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR)
- Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR)

## **NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Head Researcher and Consultant at Re-Tribe ([www.re-tribe.com](http://www.re-tribe.com)) (June 2017- August 2018)

## **LANGUAGES**

- Strong speaking and listening knowledge in French; improving reading and writing abilities

## **REFERENCES**

- 1) Will Kymlicka, Professor of Philosophy, Queen’s University (email: [kymlicka@queensu.ca](mailto:kymlicka@queensu.ca))
- 2) James Miller, Professor of Religious Studies, Queen’s University (email: [james.miller@queensu.ca](mailto:james.miller@queensu.ca))
- 3) Simon Coleman, Professor of Religious Studies, University of Toronto (email: [simon.coleman@utoronto.ca](mailto:simon.coleman@utoronto.ca))
- 4) Fraser Watts (no relation), Professor of Religion and Psychology, University of Lincoln (email: [fraser.watts@cantab.net](mailto:fraser.watts@cantab.net))