

Mia E. Theocharis, PhD

mia.theocharis@mail.utoronto.ca • 416-302-0745 • Toronto, ON • miateocharis.com

DEGREES

PhD

University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto | Toronto ON, Canada | November 2025

- Dissertation: "The Development and Influence of Gregory Baum's Theological Thought on the Post-Vatican II Relationship Between Christians and Jews in Canada and Internationally." **This research project was awarded a \$40,000 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship.**
- Committee Members: Dr. Michael Attridge (Advisor), Dr. Darren Dias and Dr. Mark McGowan.

MA

University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto | Toronto ON, Canada

- Theological Studies
- Major Research Paper: "Mission to Jews: The D'Costa, Kessler and Pawlikowski Exchange and the Unresolved Questions in "Gifts and Calling.""

BA (Hons.)

King's University College, Western University | London ON, Canada

- Double-Major in Religious Studies and History
- Dean's Honor List 2016-2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Advocacy, Emerging Campuses

Hillel Ontario | Full-Time | April 2025–Present

Founded and lead Hillel Anywhere, Hillel Ontario's province-wide initiative supporting Jewish student life across 20+ campuses without a staffed Hillel, building student leadership, campus organizations, and institutional relationships from the ground up.

- Lead cross-campus advocacy on student governance, antisemitism, and institutional accountability, advising campus teams on student union processes, academic concerns, Holocaust education, and interfaith engagement.
- Develop and advance formal advocacy initiatives across Ontario universities, including student governance appeals, complaints to academic departments and senior administrators, and policy submissions addressing institutional anti-racism frameworks and Bill 166 implementation.

- Author of Hillel Ontario's advocacy and engagement handbook for campus staff; co-designed and deliver antisemitism education workshops in partnership with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for campus and community audiences.
- Apply doctoral expertise in antisemitism and Jewish-Christian relations to provincial advocacy strategy, institutional engagement, and educational programming. Contribute as a community research partner to a qualitative study of Jewish student experiences at the University of Toronto.

Senior Writer

Outlier | Part-Time | 2024–2025

- Optimized large language models (LLMs) through Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF), evaluating outputs for instruction adherence, factuality, clarity, safety, and style, and providing structured justification for rankings.

Graduate Assistant

Toronto School of Theology | Contract Part-Time | 2021–2022

- Reported to the Executive Director to prepare graduate appointment letters and provide research work for the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Program (UTQAP) committee on graduate student funding at TST.

Instructor

Sinica Education | Contract Part-Time | 2021–2022

- Tutored students across Grades 7–12 and undergraduate levels in World History, Canadian History, Religious Studies, and Theology, adapting instruction for students working in English as an additional language and navigating an unfamiliar curriculum.

Administrative Assistant to Director

University of St. Michael's College | Contract Part-Time | 2019–2022

- Provided research and administrative support for the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Self-Study process, including data organization and research, document preparation, and meeting coordination.

Recording Secretary

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops | Contract Part-Time | 2018–2020

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- English (Native)
- Modern Greek (Intermediate)
- French (Reading Proficiency)
- German (Reading Proficiency)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion | Member | 2020–Present
- Association of Canadian Jewish Studies | Member | 2026–Present
- Canadian Catholic Historical Association | Member | 2020–Present
- Canadian Theological Society | Member | 2020–Present
- Catholic Theological Society of America | Member | 2022–Present
- College Theology Society | Member | 2020–Present

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Community Partner Lead & Research Team Member

Jewish Student Life at the University of Toronto | Lab for the Global Study of Antisemitism, University of Toronto, in partnership with Hillel Ontario | 2026–Present

- Co-designed a qualitative interview study examining Jewish undergraduate experiences across the University of Toronto’s three campuses, including the stratified sampling framework and staged interview protocol. Lead Hillel Ontario’s research partnership, overseeing participant recruitment strategy and inquiries, with planned contributions to qualitative data analysis. **Principal Investigator: Dr. Ron Levi.**

Research Assistant

University of St. Michael’s College | 2019–2021

- Assisted in academic research and publication development, contributing to project design, methodology, and editorial processes; supported publications including *The Church, Migration, and Global (In) Difference* (Springer, 2021).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor

University of St. Michael’s College | SMCE3000-Foundations of Interfaith Communication and Dialogue (Continuing Education) | 2025–Present

- Instructor for the required foundational course in the Interfaith Dialogue Diploma program. Adapt and deliver the curriculum in both in-person and online formats, integrating theoretical and practical approaches to interreligious engagement. Emphasize theological exchange, communication strategies, and lived religious experiences through discussion, case studies, and applied learning. **Syllabus available upon request.**

Course Instructor

Regis St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology | SMT3540H-Interfaith in the City (Graduate) | Summer 2024

- Designed and taught a graduate-level course on interfaith dialogue and urban religious diversity, incorporating experiential learning through guided visits to non-Christian places of worship. **Syllabus available upon request.**

Sessional Lecturer

Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology | RGP3281HS-Religious Experience in the World's Religions (Undergrad & Graduate) | Winter–Spring 2024

- Developed and delivered lectures on comparative religious experience across traditions, emphasizing cross-cultural analysis and interdisciplinary approaches to interfaith engagement. **Syllabus available upon request.**

Harvard BOK Higher Education Teaching Certificate

The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University | 2023

- Completed advanced training in higher education pedagogy, including evidence-based approaches to student learning, course design, and instructional practice. **Teaching portfolio available upon request. [See certificate here.](#)**

Theological Encounters of Race, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust in Transatlantic Context

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Mandel Center, Programs on Ethics, Religion and the Holocaust | June 17–24, 2022

- Selected participant in the Annual Faculty Seminar on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust; examined Black American Christian-Jewish encounters and theological responses to persecution. Completed pedagogy training in teaching the Holocaust and other histories of oppression, including primary source methodologies, and developed a curriculum-based assignment.

Course Instructor

University of St. Michael's College | SMD101-Catholic Perspectives on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (Continuing Education) | November 2021

- Designed and delivered an intensive course on Catholic theology, ecumenism, and interreligious dialogue, with emphasis on *Nostra aetate* and contemporary issues; facilitated discussion on the Church's role in fostering interfaith understanding. **Syllabus available upon request.**

Area Studies and Course Design

Toronto School of Theology | 2020

- Completed professional development training in pedagogy, focusing on course design, syllabus development, learning outcomes, and the relationship between subject knowledge and teaching practice.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Theodore Ratisbonne Education Grant

Sisters of Our Lady of Sion | 2024 | \$3,000

Graduate Centre for Theological Studies (GCTS) Conference Award

Toronto School of Theology | 2023 | \$325

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council | 2022 | \$40,000

- Highly competitive national award recognizing outstanding doctoral research and scholarly potential.

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies | 2020–2022 | \$45,000

- OGS excellence in graduate studies and provides merit-based scholarships to Ontario's best graduate students in all disciplines of academic study.

John M. Kelly Award

Toronto School of Theology | 2021–2022 | \$2,000

- The award is given in honour of Fr. John M. Kelly. It is given to a student who, through his or her service to the TST community, has made significant and excellent contributions to TST's common life.

GCTS Conference Award

Toronto School of Theology | 2022 | \$1,000

Order of St. Lazarus Bursary

Toronto School of Theology | 2022 | \$2,200

The Professor Anne Anderson, c.s.j., Scholarship in Theology

University of St. Michael's College | 2021 | \$3,000

Gershon and Roza Lewkowicz Award

Saeculum Undergraduate Academic Journal for the Study of Christianity and Culture | 2020 | \$1,000

- Paper title: "The Issue of Fulfillment in Gifts and Calling." The Lewkowicz Award is a monetary prize awarded by an evaluation committee for best essay written on Jewish-Christian relations.

Gordon M. Farquharson Scholarship

Toronto School of Theology | 2020 | \$13,200

PhD Multi-Year Admission Scholarship

University of St. Michael's College | 2019 | \$60,000

MA Admission Scholarship

University of St. Michael's College | 2018 | \$10,000

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Theocharis, Mia. “The Issue of Fulfillment in Gifts and Calling.” *Saeculum Undergraduate Academic Journal*, vol. 15 (2020): 51-69.

Review Essays

Theocharis, Mia. “Constructing Otherness: Shulamit Volkov’s Thematic and Historical Insights on Antisemitism.” Review of *Interpreting Antisemitism: Studies and Essays on the German Case*, by Shulamit Volkov. *Religious Studies Review* 51, no. 1 (March 2025): 117-124.

Book Reviews

Theocharis, Mia. Review of *Memorialising the Holocaust in Human Rights Museums*, by Katrin Antweiler. *Religious Studies Review* 51, no. 1 (March 2025): 190.

Theocharis, Mia. Review of the 7 *Deadly Myths: Antisemitism from the Time of Christ to Kanye West*, by Alex Ryvchin. *Religious Studies Review* 50, no. 1 (March 2024): 195-196.

Theocharis, Mia. Review of *Understanding Zionism: History and Perspectives*, by Anne Perez. *Religious Studies Review* 50, no. 1 (March 2024): 196.

Theocharis, Mia. Review of *Antisemitism on the Rise: The 1930s and Today*, edited by Ari Kohen and Gerald J. Steinacher. *Religious Studies Review* 50, no. 1 (March 2024): 187.

SCHOLARLY & PROFESSIONAL WORK

Conferences

Theocharis, Mia, and Héctor A. Acero Ferrer. “Repair in Practice: Confronting Antisemitism in Academic and Interreligious Campus Life.” Repentance, Repair, and Reconciliation: Religious Resources for Tumultuous Times, International Conference of Christians and Jews, July 12–July 15, 2026, Hanover, Germany.

Theocharis, Mia. “Dialogue after Vatican II: Gregory Baum and the Canadian Jewish-Christian Encounter.” 92nd Annual Conference, Canadian Catholic Historical Association, University of Prince Edward Island, June 2–June 4, 2026, Charlottetown, PEI, Canada.

Theocharis, Mia. “Shared Responsibility: The Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and the Postwar Struggle Against Antisemitism in Ontario and Quebec.” Fifty Years of Canadian Jewish Studies, Association of Canadian Jewish Studies, York University, May 31–June 2, 2026, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Theocharis, Mia. “The Resurgence of Antisemitism: An Examination of Anti-Zionism as a Modern Iteration of Antisemitism in Light of *Nostra aetate*, No. 4.” The Legacy and Limits of Vatican II in an Age of Crisis: Gender, Race, Abuse, and the Living Catholic Tradition, Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University. November 30–December 2, 2023, Villanova, Pennsylvania, United States.

Theocharis, Mia. “Franz Rosenzweig: An Alternative to the Issue of Fulfillment in “Gifts and Calling.”” Catholic Theological Society of America Convention for the Christianity and Judaism Consultation. June 9–12, 2022, Atlanta, Georgia, United States. [CTSA Proceedings 76/2022](#).

Campus or Departmental Talks

Theocharis, Mia. “Gregory Baum and the Post-Vatican II Transformation of Jewish-Christian Relations.” Dissertation Presentation, Advanced Degree Pro-Seminar, University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto ON, November 2025.

Theocharis, Mia. “Mastering SSHRC: Insights, Tips, and Broader Applications.” Presentation, Research and Scholarship (TSJ5021HF), Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto, Toronto ON, September 2024 & 2025.

Theocharis, Mia. “Mission to Jews: The D’Costa, Kessler, and Pawlikowski Exchange and the Unresolved Issues in Gifts and Calling.” Paper Presentation, Advanced Degree Pro-Seminar, University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto ON, November 2019.

Invited Talks

Theocharis, Mia. “Skills for Communicating Across Difference: Navigating Difficult Conversations in an Inclusive Workplace.” Workshop, City of Vaughan, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Vaughan, ON, February 2027 (forthcoming).

Theocharis, Mia, and Zach Sadowski. “Unpacking and Dismantling Antisemitism on Campus.” Workshop presented by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC), St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, November 10, 2026 (forthcoming).

Theocharis, Mia. “Inside the Ideas the Academy Values Most: Jules Isaac’s Question for the Contemporary University.” Panel Presentation, Openly Jewish Symposium, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON, October 20, 2026.

Theocharis, Mia, Zach Sadowski, and Jacqui Dressler. “Unpacking and Dismantling Antisemitism on Campus.” Joint workshop presented by Hillel Ontario and Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC), Knox College, Toronto, ON, October 15, 2026.

Theocharis, Mia. “In Our Time: Sixty Years of *Nostra aetate* and the Call to Dialogue.” Presentation, 60th Anniversary Celebration of *Nostra aetate*, Relations & Encounter, Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, Virtual Event, October 2025.

Theocharis, Mia. “Envisioning Our Future.” Panel Discussion, Celebrating 50 Years of Interfaith Dialogue, Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto ON, October 2025.

Theocharis, Mia. “Key Moments in Jewish-Catholic Relations.” Workshop Presentation. Closer Than We Think: 60 Years of Jewish-Christian Relations & Their importance to the Church. Relations & Encounter, Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, Joan of Arc Parish, Toronto ON, March 2025.

Theocharis, Mia. “Antisemitism: Teaching Catholic Theology in the Current Political Moment.” Panel Discussion, Catholic Theological Society of America, Virtual Event, October 2024.

Theocharis, Mia. “Mission to Jews: The D’Costa, Kessler and Pawlikowski Exchange and the Unresolved Issues in “Gifts and Calling.” Paper Presentation, Presentation Manner Senior Living, Toronto ON, March 2020.

Interviews

Mia Theocharis, interview by Daniel Kemerov, “Interview with Dr. Mia Theocharis, Canadian Scholar and Educator,” *Keeping the Faith*, YouTube podcast, September 2026.

Mia Theocharis, interview by Jillian Kaster, “RSM Summer Courses Offer Students Experiential Learning,” Regis St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology, News & Events, June 26, 2024.

Mia Theocharis, interview by Kevin O’Rourke McColl, “Doctoral Candidate Has Virtual Meeting with Pope,” University of St. Michael’s College in the University of Toronto Alumni Magazine, May 3, 2022.

Mia Theocharis, interview by Melissa Cedillo, “Meet the US students set to talk to Pope Francis on Feb. 24,” National Catholic Reporter, February 24, 2022.

Mia Theocharis, interview by Michael Swan, “Pope Francis asks students to build synodal bridges,” The Catholic Register, March 4, 2022.

Mia Theocharis, interview by University of St. Michael's College, "St. Mike's Doctoral Candidate To Attend Virtual Synod Meeting with Pope Francis," University of St. Michael's College, News & Updates, February 15, 2022.

Mia Theocharis, interview by Michael Swan, "Theology schools step closer to merger," The Catholic Register, June 27, 2021.

Mia Theocharis, interview by Michael Swan, "Dissertation will explore Christianity and the Holocaust," The Catholic Register, February 28, 2021.

Mia Theocharis, interview by Isaac Soon, "Interview: Mia Theocharis," PhD Students to Follow, February 2, 2021.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

President

Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students' Association | 2020–2022

- Led the graduate student association as Chief Administrative Officer; acted as liaison between students and faculty/administration, oversaw programming and advocacy initiatives, and managed operations including budget, communications, and events.

Graduate Studies Council Student Representative

Toronto School of Theology | 2020–2022

- Voting member contributing to academic policy and program development.

Board of Trustees Student Representative

Toronto School of Theology | 2020–2022

- Invited (non-voting) participant in Board of Trustees meetings.

Treasurer

University of St. Michael's College, Faculty of Theology, Student Life Committee | 2022–2023

- Managed budget planning, financial reporting, and funding allocations for student initiatives.

Committee Roles (Selected)

Toronto School of Theology | 2020–2023

- Appeals Committee Student Representative (2020, 2023)
- Hiring Committee Student Representative (Executive Director; Assistant Registrar positions, 2021–2022)
- Library Committee Student Representative (2020–2021)

Graduate Student ‘Co-Curricular Opportunities’ Report

Toronto School of Theology | University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) | June 2020

- Authored institutional report analyzing a decade of co-curricular and professional development initiatives.

Secretary

Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students’ Association | 2019–2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Catholic Theological Society of America, Christianity and Judaism Consultation | 2023–Present

- **Convener | 2025–2026**
 - Convened the 2026 Christianity and Judaism Consultation at the CTSA annual convention (St. Louis, MO), developing the session theme on synodality and Jewish-Catholic relations in alignment with the Society’s annual focus.
 - Recruited and coordinated presenters, respondents, and moderators, structuring a program that paired scholarly papers with critical response and moderated discussion on antisemitism and contemporary interfaith concerns.
 - Authored the session’s published report for the CTSA Proceedings.
- **Administrative Team Member | 2024–2025**
 - Contributed to consultation planning and program design, including coordination of panelists, session development, and on-site event logistics and facilitation.
- **Moderator | Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States | June 8–11, 2023**
 - Moderated panel discussion at the annual convention ([CTSA Proceedings 77 / 2023](#)).

Canada-USA Region, Relations & Encounter Team, Sisters of Our Lady of Sion | 2024–Present

- **Associate**
 - Design and deliver interfaith programming for parishes and the Sisters of Sion across the Canada–USA region; represent the organization at national and international conferences and interreligious gatherings. Oversee program funding and budget allocation, coordinate logistics, and support the development of regional initiatives.

Building Bridges North-South: A Synodal Encounter Between Pope Francis and University Students

Loyola University Chicago & Pontifical Institute for South America | February 2022

- Selected as one of three Canadian student representatives; participated in international synodal dialogue on migration and the Church’s global response.