

# Mia E. Theocharis, PhD

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## ABOUT

My area of research is historical theology, with a specialization in Jewish-Christian relations. I focus on the 19th to 21st century, particularly as it concerns the Holocaust, antisemitism, and contemporary issues. I am especially interested in the encounter between Judaism and Christianity (particularly Catholicism) within the context of the Second World War, both before and after. My work examines the history of Christian anti-Judaism, the fundamental revision of Catholic theology following the Holocaust, and the Church's ongoing role in addressing antisemitism today. Applying historical methodology, critical analysis, and interdisciplinary research, I aim to confront antisemitism, foster interreligious and interideological understanding, and ensure the lessons of the Holocaust inform our present. Through my publications, presentations, and teaching, I strive to preserve memory and historical consciousness for future generations while encouraging inclusive, reflective dialogue in the areas of theology, religious studies, and history.

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## 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

# **EMPLOYMENT**

## **Director of Advocacy, Emerging Campuses**

Hillel Ontario | Full-Time | April 2025–Present

- I drive Jewish advocacy on campuses in Ontario without a formal Hillel presence. I identify and engage Jewish students and allies, develop leadership through targeted programming, and collaborate with university administrators and external organizations to address issues like antisemitism and misinformation. By closely monitoring campus climates and quickly reacting to emerging issues, I help build a sustainable, inclusive advocacy network that both protects and enriches the Jewish student community.

## **Senior Writer**

Outlier | Part-Time | 2024–2025

- I enhanced AI models through human feedback, optimizing Large Language Models (LLMs) for better prompt responses. I trained LLMs using Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF) and evaluated model responses on instruction following, factuality, verbosity, brevity, formatting, harmfulness, and writing style, providing detailed justifications for rankings.

## **Graduate Assistant**

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

- Limited term appointment with the Toronto School of Theology (TST) and reporting 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 Chinese students seeking high-quality Western education (Grade 7-12/University) in the areas of World History, Canadian History, Religious Studies and Theology.

## **Administrative Assistant to Director**

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

- Administrative Assistant to Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Self-Study Director. Duties and responsibilities included but were not limited to the following: Researching data to support the ATS Self-Study process; photocopying and assembling materials; creating indexes for an extensive amount of data; minute-taking at meetings; and other tasks assigned by the Director.

## **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

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Research Assistant

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

- Assisted in academic research and publication development, including formulating research questions, refining methodologies, and supporting editorial processes. Contributed to major projects such as *The Church, Migration, and Global (In) Difference* (Springer, 2021) and Dr. Darren Dias's forthcoming article, "Framing the Reception of Nostra Aetate in North America."

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Course Instructor

University of St. Michael's College | SMCE3000-Foundations of Interfaith Communication and Dialogue | 2025–Present (Fall/Winter)

- Teaching a core course in the Interfaith Dialogue Diploma program for the 2025/2026 academic year, equipping students with practical tools for meaningful interreligious engagement. Designed and facilitated in-person and online sessions exploring communication strategies, theological exchange, and lived experiences across diverse faith traditions. **Syllabus available upon request.**

### Course Instructor

Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology | SMT3540H-Interfaith in the City | Summer 2024

- Designed and led lecture sessions focusing on interfaith dialogue and religious diversity in the city of Toronto. Guided students in reflective site visits to non-Christian places of worship to foster interreligious understanding. **Syllabus available upon request.**

### **Sessional Lecturer**

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

- Developed and presented engaging lectures comparative religious experiences, emphasizing cross-cultural and interfaith perspectives. **Syllabus available upon request.**

### **Harvard BOK Higher Education Teaching Certificate**

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

- Explored various approaches to pedagogy, discovered the most relevant research on how students learn, broadened my range of teaching skills; and adopted a more conscious, collaborative, and refined approach to my teaching 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

- Participated in the 2022 Annual Faculty Seminar on Ethics, Religion and the Holocaust, examining Black American Christian and Jewish encounters and the exchange of ideas shaping theological responses to persecution before, during, and after the Holocaust. Engaged in pedagogy sessions on *Teaching the Holocaust and Other Histories of Oppression* and *Teaching with Primary Sources*, and developed a curriculum assignment on these themes.

### **Course Instructor**

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

- Crafted and delivered an intensive course on Catholic theology, ecumenism, and interreligious dialogue, emphasizing *Nostra aetate* and contemporary issues. Facilitated discussions on the Church's role in fostering interfaith understanding today and the importance of dialogue. **Syllabus available upon request.**

### **Area Studies and Course Design**

Toronto School of Theology | 2020

- Successfully completed a professional development course on pedagogy offered by TST. This course addressed the relationship between subject knowledge and teaching. Topics included: course design and delivery (i.e., syllabus construction, assignments, development of outcomes; objectives); and broader pedagogical issues (i.e., education for [trans]formation, relationships between classroom and context, professional identity).

## **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

- SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships support high-calibre students engaged in doctoral programs in the social sciences and humanities. This support allows scholars to fully focus on their doctoral studies, to seek out the best research mentors in their chosen fields, and to contribute to the Canadian research ecosystem during and beyond the tenure of their awards.

### **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**

(all items peer-reviewed)

**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.

**Works in Progress**

Theocharis, Mia. *Bridging the Divide: Gregory Baum and the Reimagining of Jewish-Christian Relations*. Book manuscript, adapted from doctoral dissertation, in preparation for proposal submission to McGill-Queen's University Press (2026).

Theocharis, Mia. "Diagnosing Structure and Symbol: Re-reading Gregory Baum's Social Sin in the Analysis of Contemporary Antisemitism." Article manuscript in progress for submission to *Antisemitism Studies* (2026).

Theocharis, Mia. “Teaching Antisemitism After Vatican II: Catholic Theology, Anti-Zionism, and the Classroom Today.” Article manuscript in progress for submission to *Teaching Theology and Religion* (2026).

## **SCHOLARLY & PROFESSIONAL WORK**

### **Conferences**

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. “In Our Time: Sixty Years of *Nostra aetate* and the Call to Dialogue.” Presentation, 60<sup>th</sup> 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 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**

## **Appeals Committee Student Representative**

Toronto School of Theology | 2023

- Appointed to provide a student perspective in an academic appeal review. Collaborated with faculty and administration to ensure a fair, balanced decision while maintaining confidentiality and integrity.

## **Treasurer**

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

- Managed budget planning and financial records, overseeing allocations for student life initiatives. Ensured accurate reporting and compliance with university guidelines, supporting events and activities that enhance student engagement.

## **Hiring Committee Student Representative**

Toronto School of Theology | Executive Director Position | 2021–2022

- Represented student interests in the selection process for the Executive Director, providing input on candidate evaluations and collaborating with faculty and administration.

## **President**

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

- Served as Chief Administrative Officer of the Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students' Association, part of the University of Toronto Students' Union. Acted as liaison between students and faculty/staff; oversaw events, workshops, and student advocacy; managed the annual budget; and maintained the association's website, email list, and social media.

## **Graduate Studies Council Student Representative**

Toronto School of Theology | 2020–2022

- Served as a voting member on the TST Graduate Studies Council, advocating for student interests and contributing to policy development and academic improvements.

## **Board of Trustees Student Representative**

Toronto School of Theology | 2020–2022

- Student representative and invited guest (non-voting) to all TST Board of Trustees meetings.

## **Hiring Committee Student Representative**

Toronto School of Theology | Assistant Registrar Graduate Programs and Institutional Research Co-ordinator Position | 2021

### **Library Committee Student Representative**

Toronto School of Theology | 2020–2021

- Advocated for TST graduate students during the University of Toronto library closures in March 2020, ensuring a smooth transition to online resources. Communicated student concerns about access to materials, online databases, and mailing books for remote students.

### **Graduate Student ‘Co-Curricular Opportunities’ Report**

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

- Authored a statement for the UTQAP report, analyzing a decade of co-curricular and professional development support for TST graduate students. Conducted in-depth data collection and review of previous TGSA initiatives.

### **Appeals Committee Student Representative**

Toronto School of Theology | 2020

### **Secretary**

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

## **EXTRACURRICULAR SERVICE**

### **Convener**

Catholic Theological Society of America, Christianity and Judaism Consultation | 2025–Present

- Leading the planning and coordination of the 2026 Christianity and Judaism Consultation at the CTSA Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.
- This includes developing the consultation topic in conjunction with the CTSA’s broader theme, as well as coordinating panelists, speakers, moderators, and overall session structure to ensure it fosters meaningful dialogue and engagement with diverse audiences.

### **Team Member**

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

- Collaborate on initiatives to promote interfaith understanding and dialogue across the Canada-USA region. Oversee an annual budget to fund interfaith programming and regional activities, ensuring strategic allocation of resources. Responsibilities include coordinating program logistics, managing budgets effectively, and working closely with team members to achieve shared objectives and foster meaningful engagement.

### **Administrative Team**

Catholic Theological Society of America, Christianity and Judaism Consultation | 2022–2025

- Member of the administrative team planning the Christianity and Judaism Consultation for the CTSA annual conference. Responsibilities include organizing panelists, speakers, and moderators and managing the program design for this session in alignment with the conference theme.

### **Moderator**

Catholic Theological Society of America, Christianity and Judaism Consultation | Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States | June 8–11, 2023

- Served as a moderator for the Christianity and Judaism Consultation at the CTSA annual conference on the topic of “Freedom.” This role involved facilitating discussions, guiding panel interactions, and ensuring alignment with the consultation’s focus on fostering dialogue and understanding between Christian and Jewish communities. [CTSA Proceedings 77 / 2023](#).

### **Book Proposal Evaluation**

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Religion & Spirituality | November 2022

- Reviewed a book proposal for *Enmity or Embrace? A Brief Guide to Christian Israelology* by Dr. Ellen Charry, assessing its significance, methodology, and field contribution. Provided detailed feedback to the publisher; the book is slated for publication in 2025–2026.

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

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

- Represented the University of St. Michael’s College and one of only three Canadian students in this synodal event. Students from across the seven regions in North, Central, and South America met online in advance of the virtual gathering with Pope Francis to develop ideas on how to respond to migration challenges, reflect on various causes behind migration and how the Church should respond. [See event here](#).