

James A. Van Slyke, Ph.D.  
*Curriculum Vitae*

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**Contact Information**

*Work:*

James A. Van Slyke, PhD.  
Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Fresno Pacific University  
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School of Humanities, Religion, & Social Sciences  
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**Education**

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California  
*School of Theology and Psychology*  
**Degree:** Ph.D., June 2008, *superior dissertation rating*  
**Dissertation:** *Theology in Mind: Reduction, Emergence, and Cognitive Science*  
**Committee:** Nancey Murphy, Ph.D., Warren S. Brown, Ph.D., Malcolm Jeeves, Ph.D.  
**Area of Specialization:** Psychology of Religion, Religion and Science

*School of Theology*

**Degree:** Master of Arts, March 2002  
**Major:** Biblical Studies and Theology

*School of Psychology*

**Degree:** Master of Science, June 2001  
**Major:** Marriage and Family Therapy

Missouri State University; Springfield, Missouri

**Degree:** Bachelor of Science, May 1995  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Minor:** Social Work

**Professional Experience**

School of Humanities, Religion, and Social Science, Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, CA (2011 - current)  
**Position:** Assistant Professor  
**Classes Taught:**  
Psy 300 Statistics

Psy 370 Cognitive Psychology  
Psy 460 Psychology of Religion  
Psy 120 General Psychology  
Psy 320L Experimental Psychology Lab  
Psy 495 Psychology Research Project  
Phil 100 Introduction to Philosophy

Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality, University of California, Irvine,  
CA (2011 - current)

**Position:** Tobis Research Fellow

**Duties:** Grant Writing and Research

Travis Research Institute, School of Psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary,  
Pasadena, CA (2008 - current)

**Position:** Assistant Research Professor

**Duties:** Grant Writing, Research, and Teaching

**Courses Taught:**

FS510 Human Development in Context

Undergraduate School of Psychology, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA (2003 -  
current)

**Position:** Adjunct Instructor

**Classes Taught:**

Psyc 110 - General Psychology

Psyc 290 - Human Growth & Development

Psyc 299 - Applied Statistics

Psyc 360 - Abnormal Psychology

Psyc 362 - Research Methods in Psychology

Psyc 390 - Cognition

Psyc 440 - Psychology of Religion

Psyc 470 - Physiological Psychology

Undergraduate School of Psychology, La Sierra University, Riverside, CA (2003-04)

**Position:** Adjunct Instructor

**Classes Taught:**

Psyc 451 Physiological Psychology

### **Selected Publications**

**Van Slyke, J.** (2014). Religion is easy, but science is hard ... Understanding  
McCauley's thesis. *Zygon* 49 (3) 696-707.

**Van Slyke, J.** (In press, 2014). "Why Religion is Natural and Science is Not" Book  
Review. *Journal of Religion*.

- Brown, W. S., **Van Slyke, J.**, Garrels S. (In press 2014). Intrinsic or situated religiousness: A Girardian solution. In Antonello, P. and Gifford, P. (Eds.) *How We Became Human: Mimetic Theory and the Science of Evolutionary Origins*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press.
- D. Jason Slone & **Van Slyke, J.** (Eds.) (In Press 2014). *The Attraction of Religion: A New Evolutionary Psychology of Religion*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Van Slyke, J.** (In press 2014). Identifying casual variables in the emerging study of religion and sexual selection theory. In D. Jason Slone and **Van Slyke, J.** (Eds.) *The Attraction of Religion: A New Evolutionary Psychology of Religion*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2014). Moral psychology, neuroscience, and virtue: From moral judgment to moral character. In Timpe, K. and Boyd, C. A. (Eds.) *Virtues and their vices: Contemporary essays*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Van Slyke, J.**, Peterson, G., Reimer, K., Brown, W., Spezio, M. (Eds.) (2012). *Theology and the Science of Morality: Virtue Ethics, Exemplarity, and Cognitive Neuroscience*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2012). Naturalizing moral exemplarity: Contemporary science and human nature. In Van Slyke, J., Peterson, G., Reimer, K., Brown, W., Spezio M. (Eds.) *Theology and the Science of Morality: Virtue Ethics Exemplarity, and Cognitive Neuroscience*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Reimer, K. S., Spezio, M. L., Brown, W. S., **Van Slyke, J.** Peterson, G. R. (2011). Virtuous courage: New methods for the interdisciplinary study of virtue. In K. R. Monroe (Ed.). *Science, Ethics, and Politics: Conversations and Investigations*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Press.
- Reimer, K. S., Young, C., Birath, B., Spezio, M. L., Peterson, G. **Van Slyke, J.**, Brown, W. S. (2011). Maturity is explicit: Self-importance of traits in humanitarian moral identity. *The Journal of Positive Psychology* 7 (1), 36-44.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2011) *The Cognitive Science of Religion: Religion and Science Series*. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing.
- Spezio, M. S., Peterson, G., Brown, W. S., Reimer, K. S., **Van Slyke J.** (2011). Personality's role in moral action. *Science* 332, 1380-1381.

**Van Slyke, J.** (2010). Evolutionary and cognitive factors in the emergence of human altruism. *Zygon*, 45(4), 841-860.

**Van Slyke, J.** (2010). Challenging the by-product theory of religion in the cognitive science of religion. *Theology & Science*, 8(2), 163-180.

Peterson, G., **Van Slyke, J.**, Spezio, M. L., Brown, W. S. & Reimer, K. S. (2010). The rationality of ultimate concern: Moral exemplars, theological ethics, and the science of moral cognition. *Theology & Science*, 8(2), 139-161.

**Van Slyke, J.** (2010). Creation, belief, and cognitive science: Reduction and the cognitive science of religion. In M. K. Armistead, B. Strawn, & R. Wright (Eds.) *Wesleyan Theology and Social Science: The Dance of Practical Divinity and Discovery* (pp. 69-82). Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

**Van Slyke, J.** (2008). *Theology in Mind: Reduction, Emergence, and Cognitive Science*. PhD. Dissertation (*passed with distinction*), Pasadena: Fuller Theological Seminary.

**Van Slyke, J.** (2005). Reinhold Niebuhr. In E. M. Dowling and W. G. Scarlett (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

**Van Slyke, J.** (2005). Martin Buber. In E. M. Dowling and W. G. Scarlett (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

### **Grants and Awards**

*Fundamental Practices for Intellectual Formation: Exploring Avenues for Developing the Habit of Humility*. (2014, March). The Philosophy and Theology of Intellectual Humility Project. Saint Louis University. (\$97,000). Role: Co-Investigator. <http://people.nnu.edu/ktimpe/humility.htm>

*Understanding Virtue: New Directions Bridging Neuroscience and Philosophy*. (2011, May). Role: Conference Organizer and Panelist. Fuller Theological Seminary and California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA

*Science and Values*. (2010, May). The Venice Summer School on Science and Religion. Paper Title: "Sexy theology: The role of evolution in the formation of a theological concept of the value of sexuality." Selected Participant: Travel Award. Istituto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, Venice, IT.

*Darwin, Peirce, and God*. (2010, June) STARS Summer Workshop. Selected Participant: Travel Award. University of California, Berkeley, CA.

*The Rationality of Ultimate Value: Emotion, Awareness, and Causality in Virtue Ethics and Decision Neuroscience.* (2009, May – 2011, June) Science and Transcendence Advanced Research Series. Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Research Grant (\$200,000): Renewal Grant. Role: Co-Investigator.

*Evolution and Human Uniqueness.* (2009, May). The Venice Summer School on Science and Religion. Paper title: “The expression of compassion: Cognitive and evolutionary factors in the emergence of human altruism.” Selected Participant: Travel Award. Instituto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, Venice, IT.

*Integrating Theology and Cognition: Theological and Philosophical Issues in the Cognitive Science of Religion.* (2008, September – 2009, July) Cognition, Religion and Theology Project: Empirical Expansion in Cognitive Science of Religion and Theology. University of Oxford Research Grant (\$25,000). Role: Principal Investigator.

*The Rationality of Ultimate Value: Emotion, Awareness, and Causality in Virtue Ethics and Decision Neuroscience.* (2008, January – 2009, January). Science and Transcendence Advanced Research Series. Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Research Grant (\$100,000). Role: Co-Investigator.

*The Rationality of Ultimate Value: Emotion, Awareness, and Causality in Virtue Ethics and Decision Neuroscience.* (2007, January – 2008, January). Science and Transcendence Advanced Research Series. Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences Research Planning Grant (\$20,000). Role: Co-Investigator.

*Complexity Theory, Emergence, and the Influence of Life on Matter.* Science and Transcendence Advanced Research Series. A conference sponsored by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences. Selected Participant: Travel Award, 2007.

### **Professional Presentations and Guest Positions**

**Van Slyke, J.** (2014, May). *Investigating the Role of Virtuous Habits in the Process of Spiritual Transformation.* Paper presentation at the Psychology & Spiritual Transformation Conference: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Center For Christian Thought at Biola University, La Mirada, CA.

**Van Slyke, J.** (2014, April) *Moral psychology, neuroscience, and virtue: Considerations for a new paradigm.* Paper presentation at the Western Psychological Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

- Moore, L. & **Van Slyke, J.** (2014, April) *Moral judgments and in-group and out-group bias*. Poster presentation at the Western Psychological Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR.
- Peterson, G., Van Slyke, J., Spezio, M.** (2014, February). *Virtue, Exemplarity and the Science of Morality*. Panel Presentation at Common Day of Learning: Jesus and Justice 2014. Northwestern College, Orange City, IA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2013, November). *Why Religion is Natural and Science is Not (Oxford University Press, 2011): Critical Engagement with Robert N. McCauley's New Book*. Panel Organizer and Panelist at the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2013, April). *Virtue, Exemplarity, and the Science of Morality*. Plenary Panel Presentation at the Upper Midwest American Academy of Religion Regional Conference, St. Paul, MN.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2012, November). *Does Religion Exploit Mating Cognition? Exploring Sexual Selection Theory as a New Path in the Cognitive Science of Religion*. Panel Presentation at the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2012, April). *Neuroscience and Ethics: How Do We Make Moral Decisions?* Paper presentation at the UCI Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality, University of California, Irvine, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2012, February). *Theological Incorrectness and the Causal Relevance of Religious Beliefs*. Presentation of book chapter at the Southern California Working Group on the Cognition, Culture, and Religion, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.
- Van Slyke, J., Monroe, K. Zak, P. Shults, L.** (2011, May). *Studying Moral Averages and Moral Exemplarity Across Cultures*. Moderator at Understanding Virtue: New Directions Bridging Neuroscience and Philosophy, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.
- Peterson, G., **Van Slyke, J.**, Spezio, M. S., Narvaez, D., Boyd, C. (2011, May). *Generating Hypotheses: Evolutionary Theory and the Virtues*. Panelist at Understanding Virtue: New Directions Bridging Neuroscience and Philosophy. Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA
- Van Slyke, J., Shults, L., Narvaez, D., Ditto, P., Quartz, S.** (2011, May). *The Relation of Religion and Morality: Empirical Considerations*. Moderator at Understanding Virtue: New Directions Bridging Neuroscience and Philosophy. Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.

- Van Slyke, J.** (2011, May). *Neuroscience, Virtue Ethics, and the Possibility of Moral Exemplarity*. Paper presentation at the Southern California Working Group in Cognition, Culture, and Religion, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.,** Thomas, K., & Bennett, K. (2011, March). *Embodied wisdom: An interaction of theological ethics, neuroscience, and psychology*. Paper presentation given at the Common Day of Learning, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.,** Dunaetz, D., & Martin, L. (2011, February). *Is Plantinga right about evolutionary psychology?* Paper presentation given at the Philosophy Colloquium, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2011, February). *Evolution, sexuality, and religion: Toward a multi-level model of the emergence of religion*. Paper presentation given at the Southern California Working Group in Cognition, Culture, and Religion at the University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2010, August). *Between a sponge and a Swiss army knife: Toward an emergent view of cognition*. Response given at Psychology of Religion: Intensive Summer Seminar, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.
- Spezio, M. L., Reimer, K. S., Brown, W. S., **Van Slyke, J.,** & Peterson, G. (2010, June). *The neuroscience of moral action: A focus on virtuous exemplars*. Poster presented at the Human Brain Mapping Annual Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
- Young, C., Reimer, K. S., Spezio, M. L., **Van Slyke, J.,** Peterson, G., & Brown, W. S. (2010, May). *Social schemas of moral exemplars: Latent semantic analysis of L'Arche caregiver interviews*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.
- Van Slyke, J.,** Reimer, K. S., & Dueck, A. (2010, May). *Divine parent, partner, or something else? Limitations for attachment theory in religious cognition of monotheist exemplars*. Paper presented at the Southern California Working Group on Culture, Cognition, and Religion, Santa Barbara, CA.
- Brown, W. S., **Van Slyke, J.,** Reimer, K., Spezio, M. S., & Peterson, G. (2010, March) *Virtue Ethics and Decision Neuroscience: Theory and Research*. Plenary Presentation at the Society for the Study of Psychology and Wesleyan Theology, Azusa, CA.
- Adelchanow, L., Muto, J., Reimer, K., Spezio, M., Brown, W., Peterson, G., **Van Slyke, J.** (2009, August). *Moderating value of guiding life principles on the moral personality*. Poster presented at the 117th Annual American Psychological Association Convention. Toronto, ON.

- Van Slyke, J.** & Reimer, K. S. (2009, July). *Working models of divine and human attachment in computational semantic space*. Paper presented at the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion: a pre-conference workshop for the Cognitive Science Society, Amsterdam, NL.
- Peterson, G., **Van Slyke, J.**, Spezio, M. L., Brown, W. S., & Reimer, K. S. (2008, November). *Neuroscience, transcendence, and moral exemplars*. Panel Presentation at the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2008, March). *Creation, belief, and cognitive science: reduction and the cognitive science of religion*. Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Psychology and Wesleyan Theology, Durham, NC.
- Spezio, M. L., Brown, W. S., Peterson, G., Reimer, K. S. & **Van Slyke, J.** (2008, September). *Virtuous decisions: Exemplarity in and out of the laboratory*. Poster presented at the Society for Neuroeconomics Annual Conference, Park City, UT.
- Brown, W. S., Reimer, K. S., Spezio, M. L., Peterson, G., & **Van Slyke, J.** (2008, July). *A science of love: behavioral and neuroscience study of the virtue of compassion*. Paper presented at Law and Love: Philosophy, Religions Studies, and Sciences in China and the West, Heidelberg, DE.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2007, February). *Religion and cognitive science: Cognitive constraints and top-down causation*. Society of Christian Philosophers Western Regional Conference, Azusa, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2007, July). *Therapeutic relationships*. Guest lecturer for Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling. Fuller Summer Intensive, San Diego, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2006, February). *Neural correlates of visual consciousness in the occipital lobe*. Commentary on presented paper at the Society of Christian Philosophers Western Regional Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2005, November). *Religious concepts and explicit cognitive systems: Rethinking the modular view of mind and the development of religious beliefs and actions*. Paper presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Rochester, NY.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2005, November). Panel organizer for *Evaluating Theological Incorrectness: Religious beliefs and human cognition. Theological incorrectness and explicit cognition: Challenging the modular view of the mind*. Paper presented at the North American Association for the Study of Religion, Philadelphia, PA.



- Van Slyke, J.** (2005, November). *Cognitive science and the emergence of symbolic thought: Semiotic theory and the development of religious cognition*. Poster presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2005, June). *Religion and cognitive science: Cognitive constraints and top-down causation*. Paper presented online at the Metanexus Conference on Science and Religion: Global Perspectives.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2005, March). *Top-down Causation, Cognitive Science, and Religion: Developing a Non-reductive View of the Cognitive Science of Religion*. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Regional Conference, Tempe, AZ.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2004, November). *Theology in the flesh: The role of the body in religious experience*. Poster presented at the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2004, March). *Theology in the flesh: Religious experience and the embodied soul*. Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Regional Conference, La Mirada, CA.
- Van Slyke, J.** (2003, June). *Losing our souls: Materialism in religious and therapeutic discourse*. Paper presented at the Christian Association for Psychological Studies, Anaheim, CA.

### **Professional Activities**

#### Ad-hoc reviewer

*Theology & Science*

*Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*

*Sage Open*

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

*Oxford University Press*

*Sage Publications*

*Zygon*

Steering committee member, *Cognitive Science of Religion Group*, American Academy of Religion (2012-Current)

Committee member, Institutional Review Board (IRB), Fresno Pacific University (2012-Current)

Committee member, Liberal Arts Learning Community, Fresno Pacific University (2013-Current)

Series Editor, *Philosophical Studies in Science and Religion*, Brill (2014-Current)