JOHN ALTON CHRISTMANN, Ph.D.

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Religion; Metaphysics; Metaethics; Epistemology; Philosophy of Mind; AI Epistemology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Ethics; Philosophy of Psychology; Philosophy of Science; Early Modern Philosophy; Philosophy of Technology; Logic; AI/LLM Systems Documentation

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Florida State University, 2022
Dissertation: Belief and its Discontents
Committee: John Piers Rawling, Michael Bukoski, Edward Hinchman, Randall Holcombe
Research areas: Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Ethics, Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

M.A., Philosophy, University of Colorado Boulder, 2018

B.A., Philosophy, Honors, University of Pittsburgh, 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Christmann, John A. 2026. "Why Spinozanism Looks False: Introspection, Folk Psychology, and the Cartesian Illusion of Belief." *Philosophical Psychology*. Forthcoming

Christmann, John A. 2026. "Recursive Intelligibility: An Argument for Classical Theism." *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*.

Christmann, John A. 2026. "Global Subject Pressure in Nontheistic Idealism." *Religious Studies*.

Christmann, John A. 2026. "Is Theism Compatible with Moral Error Theory? A Response to Lambert." *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*.

Christmann, John A. 2022. "We Believe the Error Theory." *Metaphilosophy*.

Christmann, John A. 2020. "Reliabilism and the New Evil Demon Problem." *Acta Analytica*.

Christmann, John A. 2020. "The Power of Negativity: A Theory of Abstract Objects." *Philosophia*.

RESEARCH PROFILE

My research examines how human and artificial agents represent, misrepresent, and navigate reality under conditions of dependence, error, and limited epistemic access. I work across philosophy of religion, metaphysics, metaethics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and AI epistemology. Current projects develop four related research strands: classical theism and intelligibility; moral error theory and the practical life of moral belief; Spinozan belief fixation and introspective distortion; and LLMs, deception, and prompt-mediated epistemic interfaces.

SELECTED RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Founder and Philosophical/Product Lead, OntologicAI / Sophia | Jan. 2025-Present

- Lead development of Sophia, a web-based AI system for philosophical dialogue, textual interpretation, thinker simulation, and ethical and epistemic analysis.
- Define product architecture around source-grounded retrieval, argument decomposition, assumption identification, competing-position comparison, and human-in-the-loop judgment.
- Translate philosophical requirements into product specifications, prompt/persona architectures, evaluation criteria, failure-mode tests, and implementation-ready tasks for a multidisciplinary team.
- Technical architecture includes Qdrant, LlamaIndex, ReAct-style retrieval and reasoning, structured persona profiles, and curated philosophical corpora.

AI, LLM, AND MODEL EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

AI Alignment, Evaluation, and Technical Documentation Contributor | OpenAI, Google Gemini, Meta, X/AI (Contract) | 2023-Present

- Evaluate and document model behavior across reasoning, instruction-following, safety, deception, adversarial robustness, and tool-use workflows.
- Develop structured rubrics, test cases, and technical briefs identifying unsupported inference, specification gaps, behavioral failure modes, and recurring model-output patterns.
- Analyze multi-agent workflows and tool-invocation chains, including how errors and misleading behavior propagate across model-mediated systems.

Senior Technical Writer - AI/LLM Education | Google (Contract) | 2025-2026

- Develop internal explanations of LLM behavior, retrieval systems, agent workflows, and system architecture for engineering and product audiences.
- Analyze and document model capabilities, limitations, edge cases, and behavioral changes across evolving systems and specifications.
- Convert complex engineering and research materials into structured resources that support informed and responsible use of generative AI.

TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Colorado Boulder | 2017-2018
Teaching Assistant, Florida State University | 2018-2022

TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Technical Writer - Enterprise Systems | W. L. Gore; Sanofi | 2023-2025

- Documented SAP ECC-to-S/4HANA migrations, Fiori role workflows, configuration logic, cross-system dependencies, and enterprise process harmonization.
- Translated complex operational requirements into structured process documentation, training materials, and implementation guidance.

Documentation Consultant - ISO and Technical Systems | Freelance | 2022-2024

- Produced ISO 9001, 14001, and 45001 documentation sets and maintained version-controlled, audit-ready repositories.

SELECTED SKILLS

AI and Epistemic Systems: LLM evaluation, adversarial testing, model-behavior analysis, RAG, source provenance, argument decomposition, human-in-the-loop inquiry

Product and Evaluation Design: prompt and persona architecture, evaluation rubrics, failure-mode analysis, research synthesis, product requirements, prototype specification

Technical Systems: Qdrant, LlamaIndex, ReAct-style retrieval, REST APIs, JSON, YAML, Markdown, docs-as-code, Vertex AI

LANGUAGES

English: native; Spanish: fluent/professional working proficiency

REFERENCES

References available upon request. Dissertation committee references available.