

Research Awards – The Beacon Project

Using a \$3.9 million grant from the Templeton Religion Trust, one of the largest received for social sciences research at Wake Forest University, The Beacon Project has funded 21 projects in psychology, philosophy and theology. A list of the awards:

Psychology

- “Hunter-Gatherers and the Origins of the Morally Exceptional” – Coren Lee Apicella and Kristopher Smith of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- “Moral Courage” – Anna Baumert and Anna Halmburger, University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany
- “Morally Exceptional in Unexceptional Circumstances: Identifying the Mechanisms and Consequences of Moral Exceptionality in Everyday Life” – Erika Carlson, University of Toronto at Mississauga; Lauren Human, McGill University, Montreal; and Matthew Feinberg, University of Toronto
- “Neurocognitive Profiles of the Morally Exceptional: Mechanisms for Decisions and Social Influence” – Molly Crockett, University of Oxford, England; Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Duke University, Durham, N.C.; Linda Skitka, University of Illinois at Chicago; Wilhelm Hofman, University of Cologne, Germany; and Hongbo Yu, Peking University, China
- “Think to the Past to Generate Concern for Future Generations: Environmental Moral Exemplars” – Geoffrey Goodwin, University of Pennsylvania; and Hanne Watkins, University of Melbourne, Australia
- “Identifying Morally Exceptional Future Business Leaders and Examining the Possibility of Moral Transmission” – Erik Helzer, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Taya Cohen and Brandy Aven, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- “Enlightened Compassion: Psychological, Behavioral, and Physiological Profiles” – Simon Laham, Luke Smillie, Stefan Bode and Yoshihisa Kashima, University of Melbourne
- “Antecedents, Dynamics and Consequences of Morally Exceptional Person-Situation Transactions” – John Rauthmann, University of Berlin at Humboldt; and Wilhelm Hofmann, University of Cologne

Philosophy

- “Identifying Morally Exceptional People” – Alfred Archer, Alan Thomas, Bart Engelen and Niels van de Ven, University of Tilburg, Netherlands
- “Human Vulnerability and the Exemplary Community” – Aaron Cobb, Auburn University at Montgomery, Ala.
- “Achieving Ethical Excellence: Classical Philosophy, Contemporary Psychology, and Moral Exemplars” – Heidi Giebel, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.
- “The Excellent Mind: Intellectual Virtue for Education and Everyday Life” – Nathan King, Whitworth University, Spokane, Wash.
- “Saints, Heroes and Ordinary People: What Thinking About the Morally Exceptional Can Teach the Rest of Us About How to Be Good” – Julia Markovits, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- “The Morally Exceptional in the Political Sphere: Anger, Outrage and Political Protest” – Emily McTernan, University College London
- “Moral Beauty and Moral Genius” – Kenneth Walden, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.

Theology

- “Sacrificing Self for Other: A Re-examination of the Christian Ideal” – T. Ryan Byerly, University of Sheffield, England
- “Ethical Ambitions and Their Formation of Character” – Amber Carpenter, Yale-NUS College, Singapore
- “The Hero and the Saint: A Theological Differentiation Between Two Common Conceptions of the Morally Exceptional” – Patrick Clark, University of Scranton, Penn.
- “Is Charisma Moral? Pneumatology, Social Theory and Moral Exemplars” – Vincent Lloyd, Villanova University, Penn.
- “Temptation and Virtue: Insights From Philosophy, Psychology and Theology” – Adam Pelser, U.S. Air Force Academy
- “Moral Exemplarity and Transformation in Ordinary Life: A Protestant Theological Perspective on the Cultivation of the Virtues” – Pieter Vos, Protestant Theological University, Netherlands