

# DR. JACK E. MULDER JR

Associate Professor of Philosophy

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Jack Mulder '00 joined the Hope College faculty in 2004. Jack currently chairs the Department of Philosophy at Hope, co-directs the Initium program for new Hope faculty and serves as a Faculty Fellow in the Center for Ministry Studies. He is also the assistant director of the Saint Benedict Forum, a Catholic organization serving Hope College.

Jack writes and teaches in the areas of philosophy of religion, Catholic thought, applied ethics and the thought of Søren Kierkegaard. His new book, *What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?*, will be published by Eerdmans in July. Many of his publications and presentations have been made possible by collaborative research with Hope students.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Jack specializes in the philosophy of religion, especially issues of Protestant-Catholic dialogue, interfaith dialogue and the thought of Søren Kierkegaard. He also has scholarly interests in sexual and reproductive ethics (especially the abortion debate) and the philosophy of race (especially issues of transracial adoption).

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Philosophy, 2004, Purdue University
- MA, Philosophy, 2003, Purdue University
- BA, Religion and Philosophy, 2000, Hope College

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- *What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015)
- *Kierkegaard and the Catholic Tradition* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010)

### Select Articles and Book Chapters

- "Grace and Rigor in Kierkegaard's Reception of the Church Fathers," in *A Companion to Kierkegaard*, ed. Jon Stewart (Oxford: Blackwell, forthcoming)
- "A Short Argument against Abortion Rights," *Think: Philosophy for Everyone*, 34 (2013): 57-68
- "Why More Christians Should Believe in Mary's Immaculate Conception," *Christian Scholar's Review*, 41 (2012): 117-134
- "On Being Afraid of Hell: Kierkegaard and Catholicism on Imperfect Contrition," in *Kierkegaard Studies: Yearbook 2007*, ed. Niels Jørgen Cappelørn and Hermann Deuser, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2007, pp. 96-122
- "Must All Be Saved? A Kierkegaardian Response to Theological Universalism," *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 59 (2006): 1-24

### Blog Posts or Popular Articles

- "What is Philosophy of Religion?" invited blog post on [philosophyofreligion.org](http://philosophyofreligion.org).
- "Catholic Because I'm a Sinner," *First Things*

[View all of Jack Mulder's published work at Digital Commons.](#)

## OUTSIDE THE COLLEGE


Jack is a member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Holland, where he teaches in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program for new Catholics. He is married to Melissa Mulder (Spanish) and has two kids, Maria and Lucas. He enjoys loud rock music, Chicago Cubs baseball and going to the beach with his family.



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