**Alison Forster**

B.Sc. B.Sc.(MRS) MRT(T) M.T.S. M.Phil.(c) PhD (c)

St. John’s, NL

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**EDUCATION**

**Doctor of Humanities and Social Sciences In Progress**

*Global Centre for Advanced Studies (Accredited), Dublin*

“Quantum Change in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy: A Philosophical Companion”

**Master of Philosophy (Humanities) (expected completion Sept 2025)**

*Memorial University Newfoundland*

“From ‘Touch, Feel, Listen’ to ‘Touching, Feeling and Listening’: The Phenomenological Mismatch Between Physicians and Patients” – supervised by Dr. J. Foster

**Master of Theological Studies** **(With Honours)** - **Thesis Stream** **2023**

*Queen’s College, Newfoundland*

“An Affirmative Sunyata: An Alternative Buddhist Reading of Meister Eckhart” - supervised by Dr. S. McGrath

**Bachelor of Science (MRS) and Advanced Diploma** **(With Honours)**  **2012**

*University of Toronto, Michener Institute*

Granted National License to Practice Radiation Therapy – MRT(T)

**Bachelor of Science (Honours Science)** **2004**

*University of Waterloo*

Biology Minor, Religious Studies Minor

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Memorial University Newfoundland (Winter 2024 – Winter 2025)**

Graduate Assistant – Introduction to Religious Ethics - Dr. M. Rebidoux

* + Graded 3 short essay assignments for 66 students
  + Identified and addressed academic misconduct
  + Met with students to address concerns, provide detailed feedback and support

Graduate Assistant – Introduction to World Religions - Dr. M. DeRoche

* + Graded short essay assignments for approximately 80 students
  + Identified and addressed incidents of academic misconduct
  + Met with students to address concerns, provide detailed feedback and support

Graduate Assistant - Introduction to World Religions - Dr. M. Rebidoux

* + Graded multiple choice and short answer exams for approximately 80 students

**University of Toronto/Michener Institute** **(2010-2011)**

Physics Tutor for Student Services

* + Provided one on one additional support on a weekly basis for first year students in Radiation Physics

**University of Waterloo (2004-2005)**

Teaching Assistant - Genetics (BIOL 239)

* Instructor for weekly didactic tutorials for approximately 30 students
* Graded assignments for all students within assigned section
* Met with students to address concerns, provide detailed feedback and support

Teaching Assistant - Human Physiology (BIOL 273L)

* Instructor for weekly laboratory sessions for approximately 30 students
* Graded laboratory reports for all assignments within assigned section
* Met with students to address concerns, provide detailed feedback and support

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

* Research Assistant for Dr. John Heikkila – *University of Waterloo* -- Investigated expression of heat shock proteins in Xenopus Laevis development (**Summer 2004)**
* Research Assistant for Dr. Andrew Bendall – *University of Guelph* -- Investigated regulation of gene expression during skeletal development in vertebrates (**Summer 2003**)
* Research Assistant - Advanced Center for the Detection of Cancer -- *Mount Sinai Hospital* – Assisted in identification of oncological antigens and monoclonal antibody evaluation (**Fall 2002**)
* Research Assistant - The Center for Applied Genomics -- *Hospital for Sick Children –* Performed screening of mouse BAC libraries and DNA sequencing (**Winter 2001**)

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

* “A Cataphatic Sūnyatā: A Pure Land Alternative to Dialogue Between Eckhart and Japanese Buddhism” (accepted) – ***Journal of Interreligious Studies***  **(2025)**
* Academic Blog Stories available at [www.alisonforsteronline.com](https://www.alisonforsteronline.com/)
* Presenter of “I am (Not) Robot: A Buddhist Critique of AI Consciousness Tests” at *Radical Impossibilities: Theology, Religion and AI* Symposium **(2023)**

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

* Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies – Memorial University  **(2025)**
* Alternate for SSHRC national grant – $22 500  **(2023-2024)**
* Featured Student Profile for Queen’s College Promotional Campaign **(2023)**