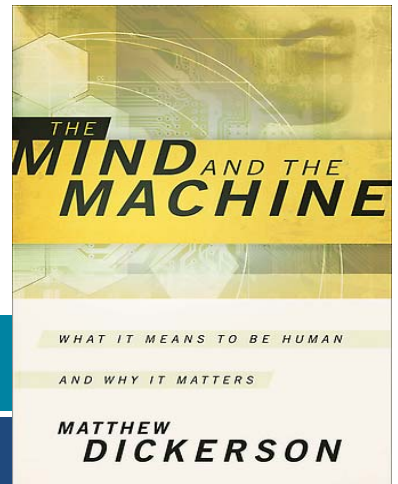


Dr. Matthew Dickerson

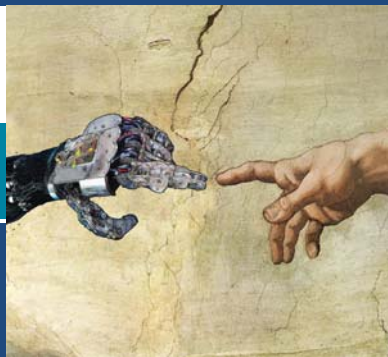
Professor of Computer Science
Middlebury College



Monday, October 21
3:30 PM Alexander Reading Room

Can Computers Reason? Perspectives on the Philosophy of Mind

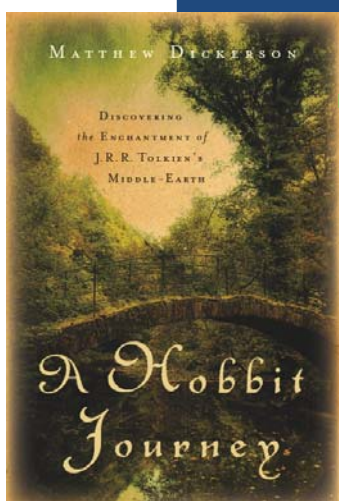
A Judeo-Christian worldview rooted in Genesis 1:26-27 understands humans as being in some way the image-bearers of God. But many modern physicalists such as the engineer-futurologists Ray Kurzweil, biologist Richard Dawkins, and philosopher Daniel Dennett instead proclaim that humans are nothing more than complex bio-chemical machines. Professor Matthew Dickerson, Professor of Computer Science at Middlebury College (VT) and author of *The Mind and the Machine: What it Means to be Human and Why it Matters* (Brazos Press, 2011) will critique the implications of the view that humans as mere computers, particularly with respect to the possibility of a reasoning human mind.



Monday, October 21
7:00 PM Alexander Reading Room

The Scouring of Middle-earth

From 'Dark Satanic mills' to the question of 'water-boarding', J.R.R. Tolkien's portrayal of exploitation and his exploration of issues of environmental and social justice gets close to what Tolkien scholar Tom Shippey would call the 'ideological core' of his works. Contrasting Hobbit agrarianism with the militarized agricultures of Sauron and Saruman, and a Gandalfian model for treating prisoners with a more orcish example, author Matthew Dickerson (*A Hobbit Journey* and *Ents, Elves and Eriador: the Environmental Vision of J.R.R. Tolkien*) will explore this ideological core.



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