

RYAN M. MILLER

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FOCUS AREAS

Areas of Specialization: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science

Areas of Competence: Value Theory, Logic, Philosophy of Religion, Ancient & Medieval

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate University of Geneva, Doctorant ès Lettres September 2020-Present

Thesis: “Quantum Considerations in the Metaphysics of Levels” (part of the SNF-funded project “The Metaphysics of Quantum Objects”)

Committee: Claudio Calosi (principal advisor, project leader), Christian Wüthrich (second advisor), Fabrice Correia (chair)

Research groups: Eidos (metaphysics), Symmetry (philosophy of physics), AMPhi (ancient and medieval philosophy)

Audited *Adv. Particle Physics II (The Standard Model)*, *Statistical Thermodynamics*, *Strongly Correlated Systems*

M.Litt. University of St Andrews, Master of Letters in Philosophy December 2019

With Distinction

Thesis: “The Mereology of Emergence”

Advisor: Aaron Cotnoir

Reading groups: Greek; Arché Conceptual Engineering, Metaphysics, Epistemology

Audited *Quantum Theory of Atoms in Molecules* and *Electronic Structure Theory*

Ph.L. The Catholic University of America, Licentiate in Philosophy May 2018

With Honors

Thesis: “The Unity of the Concept of Matter in Aristotle”

Oral Examination Committee: Jean De Groot (advisor), Thérèse-Anne Druart

(reader), Ignacio De Ribera-Martín, Jonathan Buttaci

Reading groups: German, Philosophy of Mathematics

B.A. Thomas Edison State University, Liberal Studies September 2013

Concentrations in Philosophy, Mathematics, and International Studies

REFEREED ARTICLES

“Artistic Truth Through the Ages: A Lonerganian Theory of Art History,” Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association 94, 2020.

“Perennial Symmetry Arguments: Aristotle’s Cosmology and Noether’s First Theorem,” Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association 93, 2019.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Descartes, Model-Based Scientist,” Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science Annual Meeting, University of Alberta, May 2021.

“Race as a Constructed Cause,” Notre Dame History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Values Graduate Student Conference, April 2021.

“Using a Case-Study Approach in Upper Division Courses for Non-Majors,” APA Eastern Division Teaching Hub, January 2021.

“Principled Centrism in an Unprincipled Age,” Lonergan on the Edge Graduate Student Conference at Marquette University, September 2020.

“From Practical Reason to Natural Law,” Lonergan on the Edge Graduate Student Conference at Marquette University, September 2012.

“The Periodic System as a Theory of the Elements,” The Third International Conference on the Periodic Table in Cusco, Peru, August 2012.

“Defining the Elements: A More Realist Internal Realism,” International Society for Philosophy of Chemistry Summer Symposium at KU Leuven, August 2012.

“The Aesthetic Pattern of Experience in Susan Sontag and Bernard Lonergan,” Lonergan on the Edge Graduate Student Conference at Marquette University, September 2011.

“The Diagram is More Important Than is Ordinarily Believed,” West Coast Methods Institute at Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles, March 2011.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Priority Monism’s Quantum Problems,” Symmetry (Philosophy of Physics) Group, University of Geneva, March 2021.

“Aquinas on the Good of Contemplation,” Comparative Philosophical Mysticism Seminar, Augustana College, January 2021.

“Aristotle’s Mixt Legacy: Prime and Elemental Matter,” Matter and its Semantic Correlations Conference, Catholic University of Milan, January 2021.

“The Real Aristotelian Answer to the Problem of Material Constitution,” Eidos Centre for Metaphysics, University of Geneva, December 2020.

“Aquinas on the Metaphysics of Separate Substances,” Beatrice Institute, University of Pittsburgh, October 2020.

“Aquinas on the Trinitarian Relations,” Trinitarian Theology in Global Christianities Panel, Augustana College, October 2020.

“Aquinas on the Origins of Sin,” Aquinas Study Group, St. John’s (MA), October 2020.

“Resources for Teaching Philosophy by Remote Learning,” Catholic Theological Institute Faculty Development Workshop, April 2020.

“Comments on ‘Thermal Substances: A Neo-Aristotelian Ontology of the Quantum World’ by Rob Koons,” American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference in Minneapolis, November 2019.

“Conceptual Engineering in Software Systems,” Arché Conceptual Engineering Seminar at the University of St Andrews, June 2019.

“The Limits of Charitable Reading,” Minorities and Philosophy Group at the University of St Andrews, June 2019.

“The Problem of Matter (for Neo-Aristotelians),” Arché Metaphysics Seminar at the University of St Andrews, May 2019.

“Evaluating Arguments Against the Existence of God,” Marymount University of Virginia, September 2016.

“Quantity Comes to it First: A Defense of Aquinas’ Super Boetium 5.3 Against Contemporary Objections in Philosophy of Mathematics,” Lonergan Institute at St. Anselm’s Abbey in Washington DC, March 2016.

“Defining Miracles: When Philosophy of Science and Philosophy of Religion Collide,” Templeton Honors College Colloquium, Eastern University, November 2012.

“Discovering Ontology in Chemistry,” Philopolis Applied Philosophy Conference at the University of Montreal, October 2012.

“A New Anti-Reductionist Approach in Philosophy of Chemistry,” Philopolis Applied Philosophy Conference at the University of Guelph, March 2012.

“An Atom is not a Composition Function of Particles from the Standard Model,” Philopolis Applied Philosophy Conference at McGill University, October 2011.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Catholic Theological Institute, Bomana, Papua New Guinea August 2019 to August 2020
Lecturer, Philosophy Department

PH203/4/5 *Diploma Thesis in Philosophy* (Spring/Summer/Fall 2020): advised the following three-credit undergraduate theses—

- Steven Berom, “The Purpose of Punishment: Retribution or Deterrence?”
- Jessreal Gautai, “Defending Kantian Ethics Against Contemporary Critics”
- Tyson Haroman, “Establishing a Hierarchy of Pleasures for Utilitarians”
- Jack Keskala Jr., “Liberal Correctives to Communitarianism in PNG”
- Job Migi, “Aristotelian Principles for Land Use Regulation in PNG”
- Constantine Ruarri, “Aquinas Among Thomists on our Natural Final End”
- Eugene Sakat, “How Christian is Kant’s Ethics?”

PH104 *Intro. Philosophy of Science* (Summer 2020): designed course to explore the mutual influence of philosophy and science over their shared history. In addition to the classic material on scientific methods (Aristotle, Popper, and Kuhn), the course focused on three major shifts in the history of science: the discovery of the expansion of the universe, the gradual shift from Aristotelian to modern chemistry, and the gradual growth of the chemical paradigm in biology. Assessment was based on short papers and in-class written exams.

PH208 *Intro. Ethics* (Summer 2020): designed course around the moral theories of Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume, Kant, and Mill. Students were assessed via a major project applying one of the studied theories to an ethics case from the University of Texas McCombs School of Business collection through an oral presentation and term paper.

PH202 *Contemporary Analytic Philosophy* (Spring 2020): designed course around the explanation, epistemology, and free-will sections of Nozick’s *Philosophical Explanations*, with student presentations contrasting the material to other widely-cited recent texts. Assessment included developing the presentation into a paper and an oral examination. Successfully converted course to a remote-learning model due to COVID-19.

PH302 *Formal Logic* (Spring 2020): designed course on both propositional and categorical logic, focusing on informal semantics, formal semantics, and natural deduction, using Hausman, Kahane, and Tidman’s *Logic and Philosophy* as the course text. Assessment was based on a traditional homework and written final exam model. Successfully converted course to a remote-learning model due to COVID-19.

PH102 *Informal Logic* (Spring 2020): designed course around the analysis and evaluation of arguments, informal fallacies, graphical methods for syllogistic reasoning, and applications to ethics and philosophy of religion, using Sinnott-Armstrong and Fogelin’s *Understanding Arguments* as the course text. Assessment was based on a traditional homework and in-class written exam model. Successfully converted course to a remote-learning model due to COVID-19.

PH210 *Political Philosophy* (Fall 2019): designed compressed six-week course, with special emphases on contrasts and syntheses of ancient and modern views and Melanesian applications of Western political thought. Assessment was based on an oral midterm and a term project applying political theory to a particular Melanesian political dispute, with oral and written components.

PH211 *Philosophy of Art and Beauty* (Fall 2019): designed team-taught course, with special emphases on the comparison of ancient, medieval, and modern views and applications to indigenous Melanesian art. Assessment was based on an oral midterm and a term project applying aesthetic theory to a particular work of art, with oral and written components.

C203 *Latin 3* (Fall 2019): third term Latin, including the perfect system and the transition to reading extant philosophical and theological texts.

St. Anselm's Abbey School, Washington DC
Teaching Assistant, Religion Department

September 2017 to May 2018

R068 *Philosophy of Religion* (Spring 2018): gave 30% of lectures, including basics of modal logic, Scotus's modal argument for God's existence, Aquinas's account of human freedom, Hume's argument against miracles, and Plantinga's account of warranted belief. Chose assigned readings for lectures; participated in design and evaluation of assessments.

R066 *Bioethics* (Fall 2017): gave 30% of lectures, including embryology, Thomson's argument for the justification of abortion, biological ontology, and rule utilitarianism. Chose assigned readings for lectures; participated in design and evaluation of assessments.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Specifications Grading

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, APA Central Division, 26 February 2021

Collaborative Assignments and Community in Online Classes

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, APA Central Division, 25 February 2021

Anti-Racist Pedagogy in the Philosophy Classroom

APA Member Webinar, 26 January 2021

Racism and Sexism in the Classroom

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, APA Eastern Division, 8 January 2021

Teaching Asian Philosophical Classics

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, APA Eastern Division, 8 January 2021

Designing Assessments to Build Writing Competence

Catholic Theological Institute Faculty Development Workshop, 16 July 2020

Teaching Informal Logic with Argument Diagrams

Association for Critical Thinking, APA Eastern Division, 10 January 2020

Teaching Core Texts: Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, APA Eastern Division, 9 January 2020

Building Student Curiosity in Introductory Courses

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, APA Eastern Division, 9 January 2020

Creating Inclusive Classrooms: Theory and Practice of Teaching Underrepresented Groups

Centre for Academic, Professional and Organisational Development at the University of Saint Andrews, 19 April 2019

Teaching Introductory Philosophy Courses: New Approaches

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, APA Eastern Division, 9 January 2019

Innovative Methods in Philosophical Pedagogy

American Association of Philosophy Teachers, APA Eastern Division, 4 January 2017

AWARDS

Swiss National Science Foundation Research Funds within Dr. Claudio Calosi's Eccellenza Professorship Grant "The Metaphysics of Quantum Objects," 2020-2024

Faculty Conference Travel Bursary, Catholic Theological Institute, 2019

Contributed Paper Travel Stipend, American Catholic Philosophical Association, 2019

Google Summer of Code Grant, 2005

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association

Philosophy of Science Association

European Philosophy of Science Association

The Aristotelian Society

Society for the Metaphysics of Science

International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry

American Catholic Philosophical Association

Lonergan Philosophical Society

Society for Science and the Public

AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Committee Member, *dialectica*

The Journal of the European Society for Analytic Philosophy, 2021-present

Acting Academic Dean (sabbatical coverage)

Catholic Theological Institute, Summer 2020

Faculty COVID-19 Response Coordinator

Catholic Theological Institute, Spring 2020

Writing Center Faculty Liaison

Catholic Theological Institute, 2019-20

Class Representative to the Philosophy Staff-Student Consultative Committee

University of St Andrews, 2018-19

Minorities and Philosophy Student Organizing Committee Member

University of St Andrews, 2018-19

Judge, John Stuart Mill Cup in Philosophy and Public Affairs for Secondary Students

Centre for Ethics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs at the University of St Andrews, June 2019

PEER REVIEWING

Aporia, St Andrews Minorities and Philosophy Conference

LANGUAGES

English (native fluency), Latin (advanced reading), German (intermediate reading), Greek (elementary reading), French (elementary reading)