

Dr. Rondo Keele

Morrison Hall 203
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497
318-357-4587; keeler@nsula.edu

Summary

I am an associate professor at the Louisiana Scholars' College, a liberal-arts honors college at Northwestern State University, where I teach a great-books sequence on the Western tradition, mediaeval philosophy, ancient philosophy, logic, and Latin poetry. My publications center on various ancient and mediaeval figures, but chiefly William of Ockham and his contemporaries, on topics ranging from semantic theory to theology to metaphysics. AOS: Mediaeval Philosophy, History of Philosophy. AOC: Logic, Philosophy of Religion, Ancient Philosophy, Islamic Philosophy.

Education

1. Ph.D. in Philosophy, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 2002.

My dissertation concerned the problem of ontological commitment in the work of Oxford philosopher Walter Chatton (d. 1343) and his life-long opponent, William Ockham. Title: "Formal Ontology in the Fourteenth Century: The Chatton Principle and Ockham's Razor." Dissertation Chair: Professor Paul Vincent Spade.

Certificate in Mediaeval Studies (granted by the Mediaeval Studies Institute at IU), Ph.D. minor in Religious Studies.

2. Master's in Philosophy, University of Utah, 1995.

Thesis Title: "The Perception of God: A Critical Examination of William Alston's Epistemology of Religious Experience." Thesis Chair: Professor Tom Reed.

3. B.A. Philosophy, University of Utah, 1992; B.S. Anthropology, University of Utah, 1992. Phi Beta Kappa

Research

Books and Anthologies

1. *Later Medieval Metaphysics: Ontology, Language, and Logic*. Edited with Charles Bolyard. Contributed essay: "Iteration and Infinite Regress in Walter Chatton's Metaphysics." Fordham University Press. February 2013. ISBN 13: 978-0823244737
2. *Ockham Explained*. Open Court Press. April 2010. ISBN 13: 978-0812696509

Refereed Articles: Journals, Book Chapters, and Encyclopedia Entries

3. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* entry, "Walter Chatton," first added June 2006, updated June 2018. Viewable at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/walter-chatton/> (Now co-authored with J. Pelletier.)
4. "The Early Reception of Peter Auriol at Oxford, Part 1: From Ockham to the Black Death," *Recherches de Théologie et Philosophie médiévales*, 82 (2015): 301-361.
5. "Walter Chatton," in *The Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine*, October 2013. ISBN 13: 978-0199299164
6. "The Logical and Scientific Treatises of John Chilmark," *Bulletin de philosophie médiévale* 49 (2007): 119-137.
7. "Oxford *Quodlibeta* from Ockham to Holcot," for *Theological Quodlibeta in the Middle Ages. The Fourteenth Century*, Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition 7, edited by Christopher Schabel, Leiden-Boston: 2007, pp. 651-692.
8. "Can God Make a Picasso? William Ockham and Walter Chatton on Divine Power and Real Relations," *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 45, no. 3 (July 2007): 395-411.
9. "Valentinus et Nomina: Saussure, Plato, and Signification," *Alif* 24 (2004): 68-92.
10. "The So-Called *Res* Theory of Walter Chatton," *Franciscan Studies* 61 (2003): 37-53.
11. "Let Them Eat (Barley) Cake: An Epicurean Recipe to Share with your Students," with Lisa Keele, *APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy*, vol. 02, no. 1 (Fall 2002): 208-210.

Translations and Critical Editions

12. A diplomatic edition of Peter of Candia's *Sentences Commentary*, Book II, question 3, article 2, on philosophy of mind, completed in October 2009. This work is part of the online Peter of Candia Project.
13. A diplomatic edition of Peter of Candia's *Sentences Commentary*, Book II, question 3, article 1, on the nature of the soul, completed in June 2005. Part of the Peter of Candia Project.
14. "Richard Lavenham's *De causis naturalibus*: A Critical Edition," *Traditio* 56 (2001): 113-147.
15. A translation of Ockham's short book on the virtues, *Circa virtutes et vitia*, 1998. Available on the web at <http://pvspade.com/Logic/docs/circavirtutes.htm>

Conference Proceedings

16. "Applied Logic and Mediaeval Reasoning: Iteration and Infinite Regress in Walter Chatton," *Proceedings of the Society for Mediaeval Logic and Metaphysics*, vol. 6, 2006.

Other Research Activities

Book Reviews

1. Review of *Ancicii Manlii Severni Boethii, De syllogismo categorico*, and *Ancicii Manlii Severni Boethii, Introductio ad syllogismos categoricos*, ed. Christina Thomsen Thörnqvist, for *The Journal of Medieval Latin*, 20 (2010): 335-388.
2. Review of *Walter Chatton: Lectura Super Sententias*, vol. 3, eds. Wey and Etkorn, for *The Journal of Medieval Latin*, 20 (2010): 344-345.
3. Review of *Walter Chatton: Lectura Super Sententias*, vols. 1 and 2, eds. Wey and Etkorn, for *The Journal of Medieval Latin*, 19 (2009): 304-308.
4. Review of *Ockham on Concepts*, Claude Panaccio, for *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 45, no. 4 (October 2007): 659-660.
5. Review of *The Cambridge Companion to Peter Abelard*, eds. Jeffery E. Bower and Kevin Guilfooy, for *Philosophy in Review*, vol. XXV (October 2005): 317-320.
6. Review of Ralph McInerney's *Aquinas*, for *Philosophy in Review*, vol. XXV (February 2005): 55-56.
7. Review of *The Cambridge Companion to Duns Scotus*, ed. Thomas Williams, for *Philosophy in Review*, vol. XXIV (April 2004): 154-156.
8. Review of *St. Thomas Aquinas: On Faith and Reason*, ed. Stephen F. Brown, and *St. Thomas Aquinas: On Human nature*, ed. Thomas S. Hibbs, for *Philosophy in Review*, vol. XX (February 2000): 3-5.

Research Presentations

9. "English Indivisibilism and Its Critics," Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, Inaugural Conference, (University of Notre Dame, Indiana). October 4, 2021.
10. "Logic in a Medieval Curriculum," for World Logic Day, (Louisiana Scholars' College, Louisiana). January 14, 2020.
11. "What Were They Thinking? What Were They Drinking?: English Indivisibilism and the Latin Maqasid," keynote speaker, Walter Chatton and His Intellectual Milieu, (The Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium). June 2, 2017.
12. "Syllogistic Matters: al-Ghazali and the Latin Logical Tradition," invited talk, Department of Philosophy and Religion (James Madison University, Harrisonburg Virginia), September 9, 2016.

Curriculum Vitae – Rondo Keele

13. "Can God make a Picasso? Divine Power and Ockham's Razor," invited talk, Visiting Scholar Program (James Madison University, Harrisonburg VA), September 7, 2016.
14. "Mind the Gap: Orientalism, Secularism, and the History of Philosophy," invited talk, sponsored by the Center of Ethics and Leadership (St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas), March 19, 2014.
15. "Doing What's Best: Walter Chatton and Peter Auriol on the Directive Imperium of Prudence," Sixth Annual Conference, Louisiana Consortium of Medieval and Renaissance Scholars (University of Lafayette, Louisiana). October 25, 2008.
16. "Applied Logic and Mediaeval Reasoning: Iteration and Infinite Regress in Walter Chatton," session sponsored by the Society for Mediaeval Logic and Metaphysics, ACPA Annual Conference (Denison University, Ohio). October 27-29, 2006.
17. "How Noble in Reason, How Infinite in Faculties: Two Mediaeval Christian Reactions to Averroism," Third Annual Conference, Louisiana Consortium of Medieval and Renaissance Scholars (Northwestern State University, Louisiana). October 21, 2005.
18. "In Defense of the Formal Distinction: Universals, Opacity, and Formal Predication," 31st Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association (Stetson University). September 29 – October 1, 2005.
19. "Continuity, Infinity, and Divine Power," *From Cairo to Calcutta: Theoretical, Philosophical, Literary, and Historical Perspectives on Sacred Space*, (The American University in Cairo). April, 2005.
20. "The Matter of Soul: Candia Contra Averroistas," International Workshop: Peter of Candia OFM (University of Cyprus). April 2005.
21. "The Epistemology of Dreams and Prophecy in al-Ghazali's *al-Mundqidh min al-Dalal*," Mediaeval Symposium, (Indiana University). November 1999.
22. "Five Grades of Moral Involvement: Freedom and Degrees of Virtue in Ockham's *De connexione virtutum*," (Franciscan University, Ohio). 1999.
23. "The Serpent and the Rainbow: A 14th Century Work on the Hidden Causes of Things," IU Philosophy Graduate Colloquium, (Indiana University). 1998.
24. Comment on "Antigone's Transgression: Hegel and Bataille on the Divine and the Human," Mid-South Philosophy Conference, (Memphis). 1998.
25. Comment on "Ockham, Scotus, and Henry of Ghent on the Eternity of the World," Mid-South Philosophy Conference, (Memphis). 1997.
26. "Meditations on First Philosophy," IU Philosophy Graduate Colloquium, (Indiana University). 1996.

Research Awards and Grants

27. NEH Summer Stipend, 2007. I used these funds for a visit to the Pontifical Institute to do research on the critical edition of Walter Chatton's *Quodlibet*.
28. Faculty Enrichment Grant, Northwestern State University, 2007. I used these funds for a visit to the Pontifical Institute to do research on the critical edition of Walter Chatton's *Quodlibet*.
29. Summer Research Grant, The American University in Cairo, 2004. I used these funds for a visit to Oxford and London to work on the unedited manuscripts of John Chilmark.
30. Summer Research Grant, The American University in Cairo, 2003. This grant took me to Paris for a month to work on Walter Chatton's *Quodlibet* manuscript at the Bibliothèque nationale de France.
31. University Research Fellowship, University of Utah, 1994-95. Awarded by the Graduate School at the University of Utah.

Refereeing Manuscripts for Peer-reviewed Journals

32. "Ockham on Time," to appear in *Ockhamism and Philosophy of Time: Semantic and Metaphysical issues Concerning Future Contingents*, for Synthese Library/Springer. Editor Alessio Santelli, reader report sent on February 16, 2020.
33. "Chatton on Extension," to appear in *Documenti e studi sulla tradizione filosofica medievale*. Editor Gabriele Galluzzo, reader report sent on April 6, 2018.
34. "Must the Relation of Substantial Composition Be a Mode: William of Ockham's Answers," to appear in *Res Philosophica*. Editor Christy Pogue, reader report sent on December 8, 2016.
35. "On How Not to Wield Ockham's Razor," to appear in *The Polish Journal of Philosophy*. Editor Joe Ulatowski, reader report sent on August 11, 2012.
36. "The Separation of the Interior and Exterior Act in Scotus and Ockham," to appear in *Medieval Studies*. Editor Jonathan Black, reader report sent on May 2, 2007.
37. Consulting editor for a Hackett compilation of the complete works of Baruch Spinoza. I checked over a translation of Spinoza's *Compendium Grammatices Linguae Hebraeae* for inclusion in that volume, and translated some brief text from his *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*, 2001.

Current Research Projects

38. A critical edition, translation and commentary of Walter Chatton's *Quodlibet*, with C. Schabel and G. Etzkorn.

Curriculum Vitae – Rondo Keele

39. "A Translation of the Latin Version of al-Ghazali's *Maqāṣid al-falāsifa*" an important conduit for Latin assimilation of Arabic science in the high Middle Ages, with S. El Nahhas.

Visiting Appointments

40. Visiting Fellow, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, University of Toronto. Summer, 2007.

Languages

Latin. I read mediaeval scribal abbreviations, I have published critical editions from manuscripts, and I teach Latin language courses. I have scholarly reading ability with ancient Greek.

Teaching

The bulk of my teaching is in ancient and mediaeval philosophy, great-books honors surveys, and mediaeval figures (e.g., William of Ockham). I also enjoy teaching predicate logic, and various interdisciplinary courses on religion, including philosophy of religion and gnostic Christianity. I teach advanced courses in Latin poetry as well. Finally, I have experience teaching a typical set of introductory philosophy courses: ethics, introduction to philosophy, critical thinking, and propositional logic.

Tenure-Track Positions

1. Currently Associate Professor of Philosophy, Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University, Louisiana. [Assistant professor, 2005-2009.]
2. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, American University in Cairo, 2002-2005.

Visiting and Adjunct Appointments

1. Adjunct Faculty, Philosophy Department, Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus, 2001-2002.
2. Adjunct Faculty, Philosophy Department, IUPUI Indianapolis, 2001-2002.
3. Adjunct Faculty, Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Indianapolis, 2001-2002.
4. Visiting Professor, Humanities and Fine Arts Division, Indiana University East, Richmond, 2000-2001.

Direction of Undergraduate Honors Theses as First Reader

1. *A Defense of the Holy Trinity Using the Formal Distinction*, Brandon S. Granger, 2019.
2. *A Fellowship from Two Perspectives: Uniting Americans from 1840-1860 with Communion and Poetry*, Kelli Hickerson, 2019.
3. *Not Holy, Not Roman, But Definitely the Empire*, Jacob Ware, 2019.
4. *The Possibility Implies the Necessity: Kurt Gödel's Proof for the Existence of God*, Kyle Bryant, 2018.
5. *In the Fiqh of It: An Analysis of Iman Al-Ghazali's Repair of Aristotle's Ethics*, Kristian Burrow, 2018.
6. *Da'esh's Validity as an Islamic Caliphate*, Conn Thomas McCandlish, 2017.
7. *Bringing Gnosticism Into United Methodist Adult Christian Education*, Ryan Ware, 2017.

Curriculum Vitae – Rondo Keele

8. *The Dark Lord, the Blind Demiurge: Valentinian Gnostic Sensibility in Tolkien's Silmarillion*, Zoe S. Barnett, 2016.
9. *Where Did It Come From? Where Did It Go?: A Memetic Look at Ockham's Razor*, Krista Broussard, 2016.
10. *The Adaptability of the Nation-State Illustrated through the Political and Social Transition of Turkey*, Mary Leddy, 2016.
11. *Ready, "Set," Flop: The Failure to Incorporate 19th Century Set Theory into the American Mathematics K-12 Curriculum*, Jennifer C. Pulsifer, 2016.
12. *An Analysis of Humanitarian Intervention in Kosovo and Libya Through the Lenses of Realism and Liberalism*, Paxson C. Guest, 2015.
13. *The Politicization of American Atheism*, Daniel Jones, 2015.
14. *Carl Jung's Individuation Process Applied to Frida Kahlo's Life and Work*, Megan Guidry, 2016.
15. *The Pathology of Evil: Violence and the Religious Institution*, Justin Woodard, 2013.
16. *Good God?: A Critical Analysis of the Consequences of the Euthyphro Dilemma*, Sylvester Willis, 2012.
17. *Neo-Conservatism: An Obituary for an Ideology*, Brenden Patrick Carrell, 2011.
18. *What Are Thoughts?*, Yaser Hany Elqutub, 2011.
19. *Platonism: A Thing of the Past?*, Rachelle Menard, 2011.
20. *Victory in the Peloponnesian War: The Downfall of Sparta*, Mark F. Springer, 2011.
21. *Legitimate Power and Illegitimate Acquisition*, Staci Kathryn Holloway, 2010.
22. *Atheistic Existentialism: The Search for Meaning*, Anna Raye Jennings, 2009.
23. *Medieval "Cliff's Notes?" Transcription and Analysis of Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli XIV-D-22 (a transcription and discussion of a mediaeval manuscript commentary on the Aeneid)*, Jennifer Jarnagin, 2007.
24. *Carl Jung's Psychoanalytic Theory Applied to Tibetan Buddhism*, James W. W. Pratt, 2007.

Direction of Undergraduate Honors Theses as Second Reader

1. *The Reconciliation of Classicism and Christianity in Renaissance Europe According to Essays by Michel de Montaigne*, Mary Catherine Sibley, 2020.
2. *A Study of the Systematic Dissolution of Native Tribal Bonds*, Alice Lynn Wilson, 2020.

Curriculum Vitae – Rondo Keele

3. *Existential Hells: A Look at Existentialist Themes in Confinement Films and Television Shows through the Lens of No Exit*, Ashley Marie Wisthoff, 2020.
4. *The Hindu 'Woman Question': An Analysis of Hinduism's Relationship to Women's Rights in India*, Megan Ulu-Lani Boyanton, 2017.
5. *An Investigation into Human Brain Mapping: Current Projects and Ethical Dilemmas*, Victoria Smith, 2015.
6. *A Theory of Intergenerational Rectification Under Nozick's Entitlement Conception of Property Rights*, Jules Guidry, 2015.
7. *Batman of Athens: Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight Trilogy Under Hobbes and Rousseau*, Tchissakid D. Player, 2014.
8. *For the Love of Dog: Bestiality in the Greco-Roman World*, Rebecca Kristin Hunt, 2013.
9. *The 35th President of Rome: Media Propaganda, and the Classical Image of John F. Kennedy*, Brianna N. Williams-Powell, 2010.
10. *Tenseless Time: Opportunities for Compatibilism*, Justin Robinson, 2010.
11. *Knowing the Unknown: A Jungian and Feminist Exploration of Said's Orientalism*, Eliane Spaar, 2008.

Teaching Awards

1. Selected three times for the Excellence in Teaching Award at Northwestern State University, in 2007, 2009, and 2017.
2. Future Faculty Fellowship, 2000-2001. A competitive teaching award, funded by a Lilly Endowment, which sends promising young scholars to teach on Indiana University's regional campuses.
3. Outstanding Associate Instructor, 1999-2000. Awarded by the Philosophy Department at Indiana University.

Courses Taught

Numerals in parentheses indicate the number of times I taught the course.

Texts and Traditions (a team-taught, honors-level, great-books survey of Western culture)

Ancient (16)

Sample Lectures: "Critical Method and the Old Testament," "Greek Atomism," "The Flowering of Ancient Mathematics," "The Structure of Plato's *Republic*," "Paul's Imminent Eschatology and Its Consequences."

Curriculum Vitae – Rondo Keele

Mediaeval and Renaissance (15)

Sample Lectures: "Boethius and Stoic Christianity," "Farid-Ud-Din Attar and *The Conference of the Birds*," "Fibonacci and the Mathematical Awakening of Europe," "Faith and Reason in Scholastic Method: Theology as a Science."

Advanced Undergraduate Philosophy Courses

Philosophy and Literature (medieval Islamic texts)	(1)
Thomas Aquinas	(1)
St. Augustine	(1)
William Ockham	(1)
Mediaeval Philosophy	(7)
Ancient Philosophy	(9)
The Problem of Universals	(1)
Symbolic Logic	(8)
Gnostic Christianity	(3)
Religious Philosophies of India and China	(3)
Social and Political Philosophy	(1)

Language Courses

Silver Age Latin Poetry: Juvenal and Martial	(2)
Golden Age Latin Poetry: Vergil	(2)
Latin Poetry (various authors)	(4)
Mediaeval Paleography and Critical Editing	(1)
Readings in Mediaeval Latin: Cicero	(1)
Philosophical Readings in Ancient Greek	(2)
Latin Grammar I	(1)
Latin Grammar II	(1)

Advanced Special Topics Courses (Independent studies, seminars)

Independent Study: Augustine's <i>City of God</i>	(1)
Islamic Political Philosophy	(1)
Seminar in Islamic Moral Philosophy	(1)
The History of Modal Logic	(1)

Introductory Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Philosophy	(30+)
Comparative Religion	(7)
Ethics	(8)
Propositional Logic	(11)
Critical Thinking	(5)
Applied Ethics	(5)

Service

University-Level Committees

1. Faculty Senate, Northwestern State University (henceforth “NSU”), 2007-10, 2011-2014, 2017-2021.
2. Served on promotion, retention and tenure committees for the Department of Engineering Technology at NSU in 2014, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.
3. Faculty Senate Library Committee, NSU, 2010.
4. Chaired the Faculty Senate elections committee, NSU, 2007 and 2008.
5. Core Advisory Committee, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, The American University in Cairo (henceforth “AUC”), 2003-2004. This committee reformed AUC's core curriculum across the university.
6. Academic Affairs Committee, AUC, 2002-4.
7. Curriculum Officer (graduate student representative) at Indiana University (henceforth “IU), 1997 and 1999.
8. Associate Instructor Training Seminar,, IU, 1996-1998.

College-Level Committees at NSU, Specifically for the Scholars' College

19. Distinguished alumni award committee, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21.
10. Ad hoc committee to revise our great books curriculum, 2013 (minor revisions), and in 2017-18 (major revisions).
11. Hiring committee for the Director of the College, 2015.
12. Committee to revise the undergraduate thesis handbook, 2008.
13. Committee to revise internal guidelines for promotion and tenure, 2006.
14. Hiring committee to replace the College's chemist, 2006.

Conference Organizing

15. Invited, organize, introduced, and dined the first speaker (Dr. David McCarty) for the Scholars' College's 20th Anniversary Lecture Series, Oct. 3rd, 2007.
16. Co-organizer of the Fourth Annual Conference, Louisiana Consortium of Medieval and Renaissance Scholars, at NSU, October 14th, 2006.

Curriculum Vitae – Rondo Keele

17. Co-organizer of the Third Annual Conference, Louisiana Consortium of Medieval and Renaissance Scholars, at NSU, October 21st, 2005.

Student Organizations

18. I organized and ran the AUC Foundations of Mathematics Reading Group, The American University in Cairo, 2003-2005.
19. Advisor to the Philosophy Club, The American University in Cairo, 2002-2003.
20. I organized ran the AUC Foundations of Mathematics Reading Group, The American University in Cairo, 2003.
21. I founded the Philosophy Reading Group at Indiana University East, and was a faculty advisor to the Humanities Club there, 2001.
22. Faculty Advisor. Supervised the research of a high school senior for his senior project at Harmony School, Bloomington, IN, 2000.

Presentations to Community Organizations and the Public

23. Presentation to a local honors high school class on Islam. 2016 and 2018.
24. Co-organizer and moderator for an annual panel discussion of the Book of Job, Louisiana Scholars' College, 2005-2007.
25. I was interviewed about Robert the Bruce, and fourteenth-century England generally, for the Egyptian television program "Based on a True Story." Taping date: December 10th, 2003; air date: December 18th, 2003.
26. Seminar teaching for "Ethics and Computing." Invited by DePauw University to lead discussions in a seminar on the ethical dimensions of information technology, 1997.