

EDUCATION

Dottorato in Philosophy, *Magna Cum Laude* – Dissertation “Action as Text, the Quest for Justice: Contributions from Emmanuel Levinas and Paul Ricoeur for an Analysis of Corporate Action”
Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Rome, Italy, June 2017

Licenza in Philosophy, *Magna Cum Laude* – Thesis “Love, going beyond the Subject-object relationship to the Subject-Subject relationship, man’s transcendence to God: based on writings of Karl Rahner” (Independently evaluated by Global Credential Evaluators, Inc. – equivalent of a Master’s Degree in the US)
Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Rome, Italy 2010

Baccelliarato in Philosophy, *Cum Laude*
Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Rome, Italy 2008

Bachelor of Arts Communications & Spanish
Loyola University New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 2001

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- 20th Century Contentinal Philosophy
- Emmanuel Levinas
- Paul Ricoeur
- Metaphysics
- Ethics – human action
- Hermeneutics

AREAS OF COMPENTENCY

- Person/Self
- Phenomenology
- Ontology
- Teleology
- Martin Heidegger
- Immanuel Kant
- Thomas Aquinas

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Ontology of time
- Experience of time
- Quantum physics & philosophy

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Loyola University Chicago

Chicago, IL - August 2017 to present

Lecturer – Loyola’s Mission: The Philosophical Vision and Introduction to Ethics

- Using Loyola’s *Sakai* system, developed plans lesson plans for in-class lessons while providing online resources for students to use in preparation for class, assignments and exams.
- Deliver lessons to approximately 35 students per class with the goal of increasing each student’s ability to think critically and articulate their arguments effectively.
- Creatively integrated Loyola’s mission and educational strategy into the curriculum so that the students learned to engage in philosophical dialogue while appreciating the Jesuit tradition of service and education.
- Engage each student as much as possible to ensure that the messages are being conveyed and received.
- Administer quizzes and assigned essays to evaluate the students’ progress in mastering the concepts that were being presented.
- Create a safe environment where students can express themselves freely and develop their skills in critical thinking, rhetoric and community building.

Richland Community College

Dallas, TX – September 2016 to July 2017

Adjunct Professor – Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to Ethics

- Using Blackboard (virtual learning environment), developed lesson plans for face-to-face class experiences that were informative, engaging and meaningful not just for the course but for the students’ everyday lives.
- Delivered lessons to approximately 20 students per class with the goal of increasing each student’s ability to think critically (and logically) and articulate their arguments intelligently and effectively.
- Created daily presentations that deliver on the course goals by using philosophical texts, articles from today’s media and Microsoft PowerPoint.

- Used superior verbal communication skills present complex philosophical concepts.
- Listened to the students as an audience to ensure that the messages are being conveyed and received.
- Administered standard methods of evaluation to determine the success of the presentations, activities and class discussions.
- Employed other creative means of evaluating whether the students have achieved the course goals.

St. John's University, Substitute Teaching

Rome Campus – Spring 2014

Introduction to Metaphysics

GRADUATE SEMINARS, COURSES AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Presentation

“The Metaphysics of Time: From Phenomenology to Ontology, Referring to St. Augustine and Paul Ricoeur to explore the human experience and nature of time”

Spring 2017, Richland College, Dallas, Texas

Metaphysics

- Today's Problems in Metaphysics and Analogy
- The question of self. And exploration into the identity, subjectivity and beyond the I
- Nothingness and the sense in the Philosophy of Religion, based on the writings of B. Welte
- Being and Freedom
- Metaphysics from the Medieval to the Modern Age: from the instruments to the system
- The Eternity of God: A Comparative Study of Bernard Lonergan and Richard Swineburne
- Interdisciplinary Issues in Contemporary Cosmology
- Descartes' Meditations on the First Things

Ethics

- Human Action, A study of Saint Thomas' ethics from *Summa Theologiae (quaestiones 18-21, from the prima secundae)* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
- “*Saggio sull'agire humana,*” (trans. “Essay on Human Action”), Joseph De Finance
- Problems of Philosophy and Bioethics
- Moral Virtue in the Ethics of Values
- Theology in Plato and Aristotle

LANGUAGES

English and Italian – fluent reading, writing and speaking

Spanish – basic conversation, advanced reading and writing

French, German, Latin and Portuguese – working knowledge

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Rome, Italy, September 2011 to August 2015

Special Programs and Communications Officer

- Strategy and Project Development/Management
 - Developed a communications strategy for Administrative Services Division, Medical Services and the Headquarters Security Service for enhancing their relations with the rest of staff at FAO Headquarters and field offices.
 - Engaged in problem solving exercises with colleagues and clients to ensure the smooth development and implementation of projects.
 - Managed client expectations by guiding those divisions as they implement various aspects of the strategy.
 - Conducted meetings with colleagues in the IT department to manage and coordinate the creation of new intranet and Internet sites for those divisions.

- Managed the renovation/reconstruction of the divisional pages as a part of the larger FAO website, which required great attention to detail; according to due diligence, reviewed the entire project at its completion for best practices and lessons learned.
- Risk Analysis and Crisis Management
 - Audited internal procedures for safety and security protocols.
 - Managed internal crises between divisional management and staff members; advised divisional director on best courses of action.
 - Conducted problem-solving exercises with colleagues and management to promote conflict resolution.
 - Provided communications strategies and media content for divisional managers and directors in moments of crises.
- Audit and Quality Control
 - Audited the services, processes, procedures and job requirements of the Car Import office to determine where changes could be made to garner savings and increase efficiency; developed recommendations and wrote an audit report of findings for senior management review.
 - Wrote the common code of conduct for the headquarter security services for IFAD, WFP and FAO.
 - Initiated and managed correspondence between the Organization and donor countries when seeking funds for special projects.
 - Worked with the internal communications department to ensure web pages (content and design) were within their regulations while maintaining the integrity of the content of the pages.
 - Consulted with managers on other projects as needed, including editing articles and providing feedback on candidates being considered for hire.
 - Analyzed data from various UN agencies to determine the best approach for a Capital Master Plan for FAO's Headquarter renovation.
- Communications Specialist
 - Developed the structure of the web pages for various divisions in consultation with the IT department and the internal communications department.
 - Worked with divisional managers to develop the content and architecture for the web pages.
- Public Relations
 - Developed and managed divisional logos for internal branding in accordance with FAO communications strategies.
 - Responsible for communications distributed by the various divisions to the rest of the Organization; maintained the divisions' intranet sites; drafted, edited and finalize official documents.
 - Served as advisor and speech writer to the director of Administrative Services, chief of Medical Services and chief of Headquarters Security Service.
 - Represented various divisions to develop a strategy for internal communications that would utilize the intranet, collaborative workspace and e-mails more efficiently.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Rome, Italy – July 2010 to July 2011

Administrative Liaison for Country Affairs

- Project Management
 - Coordinated and managed negotiations for host country agreements between IFAD and the various member nations where IFAD has country offices.
 - Interacted closely with ministries of foreign affairs around the world to negotiate the host country agreements and facilitated the finalization of those agreements ensuring the Legal Division was apprised of all new developments.

- Prioritized the various agreements to meet the respective deadlines for finalization and signature.
- Developed and implemented a SharePoint workspace on the IFAD intranet for staff from the country offices to communicate and work on documents in a collaborative, real-time.
- Manage Relationships
 - Managed the relationship between IFAD and its medical insurance carrier; negotiated policies for staff and consultants constantly seeking to improve the terms of the policy and the resulting coverage.
 - Managed the medical insurance plans and claims for timely and accurate reporting for senior management review; improved the process for evaluation and reporting thus reducing cost and increasing efficiency.
 - Managed IFAD's portfolio of pensioners as the relationship with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) was strengthened.
- Risk Management
 - Analyzed, evaluated and reported on the list of exceptions from the UNJSPF – provided resolutions or recommendations for the exceptions for either IFAD's action or for UNJSPF.

Fannie Mae

Dallas, Texas – February 2005 to September 2006

Default Loan Specialist

- Managed a portfolio of mortgage banks that had loans in default for which Fannie Mae was the investor.
- Implemented forbearance plans for defaulted loans or loans that would soon be in default due to the disaster(s).
- Developed new guidelines for natural disaster relief for Fannie Mae investment properties, which subsequently became industry standards. Disaster relief included relief for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- Coordinated the dissemination of the new guidelines to the mortgage servicers from around the country.
- Developed, wrote and presented web-based seminars on the default process (foreclosure and bankruptcy) according to Fannie Mae guidelines and strategies for dealing with the aftermath of natural disasters.
- Published a department-wide newsletter detailing accomplishments, future events and management expectations.

Countrywide Home Loans (now Bank of America)

Plano, Texas – July 2001 to February 2005

Assistant Team Leader, Foreclosure and Bankruptcy

- Managed a team of eight employees who were responsible for loans going through the foreclosure process throughout the United States.
- Managed partner relations between Countrywide, HUD/FHA and the foreclosure attorneys.
- Evaluated the financial risk of each defaulted loan to ensure appropriate action was taken for the best resolution.
- Analyzed portfolios of defaulted loans for any irregularities in either the legal process or the financial history.
- Managed foreclosures as individual projects, coordinating legal actions with attorneys, managing risk and planning strategically the best action for each defaulted loan.
- Met with colleagues for training opportunities, discuss best practices, lesson learned and conflict resolution.

AVERY MERRIEL SMITH

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OTHER EXPERIENCE (ENTREPRENEURIAL, FREELANCE & VOLUNTEER WORK)

Communications Specialist and Graphic Designer for a private security firm Spring 2014

- Created brochures and designed business cards using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator
- Developed the layout and design according to the client's specifications and in line with the tone of the project
- Provided a communications plan and advice on how to proceed with the project (a communications strategy)

Graphic Designer for the American Women's Association of Rome Fall 2013

- Researched and designed the annual handbook for the American Women's Association
- Combined the concept of the traditional handbook with a catalogue of artwork by members of the Association
- Designed the handbook in Adobe Illustrator while editing (adjusting size and correcting tone) the photos of the artwork in Adobe Photoshop.

Volunteer at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas – Intensive Care Burn Unit 2005-2006

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

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