

Benjamin Robert Koons

Curriculum Vitae (last updated June 10, 2025)

Center for Thomistic Studies
University of St. Thomas
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Academic Appointments

University of St. Thomas Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the Center for Thomistic Studies
Fall 2023–

Education

Yale University Ph.D. in Philosophy and Classics, May 2024
Dissertation Title: *Aristotle on Privations* (committee: David Charles, Verity Harte, Michael Della Rocca, Laura Castelli)
M.A. in Philosophy and Classics, 2022
M.Phil. in Philosophy and Classics, 2022

Oxford University B.Phil. in Philosophy, 2017
Thesis (with distinction): *Aristotle's Cosmological Argument in Physics 8* (adviser: Lindsay Judson)

Princeton University A.B. in Philosophy, 2015 (*magna cum laude*)
Thesis Title: *The Definition of Soul in De Anima 2.1-3* (adviser: Benjamin Morison)
Medieval Studies Certificate

Areas of Specialization: Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy

Areas of Teaching Competence: Medieval Philosophy; Religious Epistemology

Publications

Refereed

1. "Warranted Group Belief," *Erkenntnis* (2025).
2. "The Four Causes of Sex," *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association 2024* (Forthcoming).
3. "Aristotle's Many Lives," *BioCosmos* 5 (2025): 29–40.
4. "Warranted Catholic Belief," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 97.1 (Winter 2023): 1–28.
5. "Aristotle's Infallible Perception," *Apeiron* 52.4 (October 2019): 415–43.

Reviews

6. David Riesbeck, *Aristotle on Political Community (Politics & Poetics 2*, June 2017)

Work under Review

A paper defending the justice of punitive wars

A contributed chapter for a book on Catholic postliberalism

Presentations

As speaker

“Aristotle’s Four Causes of Tragedy”

Invited Paper, “Greek Writing Genres” conference at University of South Florida, April 2025

“The Four Causes of Sex”

Contributed Paper, American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, November 2024

“Aristotle on Efficient Causation”

Aristotelian Metaphysics Panel, American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, November 2024

“Aristotle’s Privations and Our Omissions”

“Philosophising with the Greats” conference, University of Oxford, March 2022

Baylor University, January 2023

University of St. Thomas, January 2023

“What gives the layperson in the pews warrant? A Catholic model of group warrant and its rivals”

“Warranted Catholic Belief” conference, St. Joseph’s University, Macao, March 2022

“Warranted Catholic Belief”

Tenth Annual Aquinas Workshop: *Aquinas on Knowledge and Truth*, June 2021

“Warranted Group Belief”

UT-Austin Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, March 2019

“The Justice of Punitive Wars”

UConn Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 2019

“Heidegger and Plantinga on Other Minds”

CUNY Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, March 2017

As workshop presenter

“Aristotle’s *De Motu Animalium* 6” (with Tim Clarke)

Aristotle’s *Parva Naturalia* Workshop, Yale, June 2023

“Aristotle’s *On Generation and Corruption* II.8” (with Sadie McCloud)

Cornell Ancient Philosophy Workshop, August 2022

“Aristotle’s *On Dreams* 458a33–b25” (with Christopher Shields, University of Notre Dame)

Aristotle’s *Parva Naturalia* Workshop, Yale, June 2022

“Courage in Plato’s *Protagoras*” (with Jessica Moss, NYU)

Plato’s *Protagoras* Workshop, Yale, Summer 2021

“Aristotle’s *On Memory* 452b6–453a4” (with Emily Kress, Brown University)

Aristotle’s *Parva Naturalia* Workshop, Yale, June 2019

As respondent

Comments on James Kintz (Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology), “Person without Relation? A Non-Aristotelian (but Thomistic) Response”

American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, November 2023

Comments on Joshua Hochschild (Mount St. Mary’s), “‘Real Presence’ Isn’t Enough”

Eucharistic Metaphysics workshop led by Gyula Klima (Fordham), Thomistic Institute, July 2022

Comments on Christopher Shields (Notre Dame), “Aquinas on Subsistent Being”

History of Hylomorphism Conference, Yale, April 2019

Comments on Miira Tuominen (University of Jyväskylä), “Varieties of Hylomorphism in Commentaries on Aristotle’s *De Anima*?”

History of Hylomorphism Conference, Yale, April 2019

Comments on Stephen Menn (Humboldt), “Sophisms, One-Many Problems, and the Argument-Structure of *Metaphysics Z.6*”

Aristotle’s *Metaphysics* Zeta 1–6 Conference, Oxford, June 2016

TeachingAs instructor of record

University of St. Thomas

Epistemology (Fall 2024)

Aristotle’s *De Anima* (Fall 2024)

Philosophy of Nature and the Human Person (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)

Philosophy of Aristotle (Fall 2023)

Yale

Medieval Metaphysics (Spring 2023)

As teaching fellow

Introduction to Ancient Philosophy, Fall 2022 (Brad Inwood)

Introduction to Ancient Philosophy, Fall 2021 (Brad Inwood)

Philosophy of Religion, Spring 2021 (John Pittard)

Student supervising

Undergraduate capstone project for Odilo Vo, Fall 2023

Undergraduate senior essay for Marisol Carty, Spring 2023

Guest teaching

Class interview on “Virtue Ethics” for 200-level undergraduate course *Making Moral Decisions*, Felician University, Fall 2020 (Chet Duke)

Teaching training

Certificate of College Teaching Preparation at Yale’s Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning (in progress)

Other teaching experience

“The Presocratic Philosophers,” private tutoring sessions, Fall 2019–Fall 2020

“The Virtues,” Intercollegiate Summer English Camps, Summer 2012

English lessons for high-school age students in rural China and Beijing

Public Engagement

“Warranted Catholic Belief,” appeared on philosophy podcast

Languages

Ancient: Latin, Ancient Greek

Modern: German (intermediate), French (professional reading)

Graduate Coursework (*=audit)*Yale*

Aristotle on Choice and the Voluntary (David Charles and Brad Inwood)
 Plato's *Gorgias* (Verity Harte)
 What is Aristotelian Hylomorphism? (David Charles)
 Plato's *Theaetetus* (David Charles and Verity Harte)
 Cicero's *On Moral Ends* (Brad Inwood)
 *Aristotle on Friendship: *Nicomachean Ethics IX* (David Charles and Brad Inwood)
 *Plato's *Protagoras* (Verity Harte and Brad Inwood)
 Problem of Evil (Keith DeRose)
 Theological Predications and Divine Attributes (John Pittard)
 Philosophy of Mind and AI (Dan Greco)
 *Leibniz (Michael Della Rocca)
 Early Analytic Philosophy (Paul Franks)
 First-Year Seminar (Keith DeRose)
 Mathematical Logic (Sun-Joo Shin)
 Symptotic Culture (Egbert Bakker)
 Euripides' *Orestes* (Egbert Bakker)
 Latin Paleography (Raymond Clemens and Diane Ducharme)

Oxford

Form and Matter in Aristotle (Michail Peramatzis and Lindsay Judson)
 Knowledge and Belief in Plato and Aristotle (Michail Peramatzis and Thomas Johansen)
 Medieval Theories of Cognition (Cecilia Trifogli)
 First-Year BPhil Proseminar (Adrian Moore and Anita Avramides)
 Epistemology (Timothy Williamson and Elizabeth Fricker)
 Heidegger (Stephen Mulhall)
 Political Philosophy (Cecile Fabre)
 Death and Killing (Jeff McMahan)

Princeton

Euclid's *Elements* (Benjamin Morison)
 Medieval Theories of the Soul (Marilyn McCord Adams)
 Practical Reasoning (Jonathan Dancy)

Professional Service

Referee: *Philosophers' Imprint*

Editor, *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* (Fall 2024—)

Service to Philosophy Department, Yale University

Professionalization Representative, Spring–Fall 2020

Colloquium nominating committee member, Spring 2019
Prospective students committee, Spring 2019

Thomistic Institute, Yale University Grad Student Chapter
President, 2019–present
Politics & Poetics (peer-reviewed interdisciplinary humanities journal)
Assistant editor, Fall 2017–Spring 2018

Selected Honors, Awards, and Grants

Selected Scholarships and Grants

A. Bartlett Giamatti Memorial Graduate Fellowship, Yale University, 2018-2020 (additional financial awards for two years, reserved for the department’s “top candidates”)

MacMillan Fund conference scholarship, Yale University, 2019

Thomistic Institute graduate student scholarship, 2019, 2021

Richard Weaver Graduate Fellowship from the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2016-2017

Selected Honors and Awards

Honorable Mention for paper “The Justice of Punitive Wars” (Graduate Category), Oxford Uchiro Prize in Practical Ethics, 2016

Phi Beta Kappa, 2015

Princeton University’s Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence, 2013

Eagle Scout, 2011

