

# MICHAEL DEBORD-HALL

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Ph.D. Student, Department of Philosophy, Baylor University  
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## EDUCATION

### BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. Philosophy In Progress  
Department of Philosophy

### FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

M.A. Philosophy (*summa cum laude*) 2025  
Department of Philosophy  
Thesis Portfolio: *Refining Fine: Navigating Quantification and Ontology*  
Supervisor: Paul Symington  
Thesis Committee: Patrick Lee (Faculty Referee), Patrick Duffley (External Examiner)

### REFORMATION BIBLE COLLEGE

B.A. Theological Studies (*cum laude*) 2021  
Senior Thesis: *A Tautological Method of Human Life: Ethics, Language,  
and Activity in the Thought of Ludwig Wittgenstein*  
Abbreviated Version Published (2023)  
Revised Chapter Published (2024)  
Supervisor: Anthony Salangsang  
Committee: Keith Mathison (Primary Examiner), John Tweeddale (Secondary Examiner)

## PUBLICATIONS

- “Tractarian Ethics: A Transcendental Vision” 2024  
*Wittgenstein-Studien* 15: 1-15
- “The Question of Wittgensteinian Thomism: Grammar and Metaphysics” 2024  
*Southwest Philosophy Review* 40 (1): 217-28
- “Instantiating a Transcendental Vision: Recontextualizing Tractarian Ethics” 2023  
in *What Can be Shown Cannot be Said: Proceedings of International Ludwig  
Wittgenstein Symposium*, eds. Ines Skelac and Ante Belić. Berlin: Lit Verlag

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Refining Fine: Navigating Quantification and Ontology” 2026  
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division\*
- “What David Braine Can Offer Analytic Metaontology? Non-Quantified Ontological Pluralism” 2025  
American Catholic Philosophical Association, University of Notre Dame
- “Groundwork for Neo-Aristotelian Theories of Meaning” 2025

American Catholic Philosophical Association, University of Notre Dame	
“Two Concepts of Existence, or What David Braine Can Offer Analytic Metaontology” American Maritain Association, Ave Maria University	2025
“Actuality and Existential Quantity: Extending Geach’s Insight” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division	2025
“Divine Exemplarism: An Alternative Solution to the Problem of God and Abstract Objects” American Catholic Philosophical Association, Loyola University	2024
“Existence, Tense, and Quantification: Extending Sullivan’s Argument” Philosophy Graduate Student Association, Saint Louis University	2024
“Actuality and Existential Quantity: Extending Geach’s Insight” Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, University of Connecticut	2024
“Actuality and Existential Quantity: Extending Geach’s Insight” American Maritain Association, St. Bernard’s School of Theology	2024
“The Question of Wittgensteinian Thomism: Grammar and Metaphysics” Southwestern Philosophical Society, Baylor University	2023
“The Metaphysics of Moral Evil and Opposition to the Good: A Reply to Crosby” American Catholic Philosophical Association, University of St. Thomas (Houston)	2023
“Eternally Present Singularities: A Boethian Reply to MacIntyre” Philosophy Graduate Student Association, Saint Louis University	2023
“Individuality, Personality, and the Common Good between Maritain and De Koninck” American Maritain Association, University of Dallas	2023
“Tractarian Ethics: A Transcendental Vision” Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference, Harvard University	2023
“Instantiation a Transcendental Vision: Recontextualizing Tractarian Ethics” International Ludwig Wittgenstein Symposium, University of Zagreb	2021
<u>OTHER PRESENTATIONS</u>	
“Groundwork for Neo-Aristotelian Theories of Meaning” Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville	2025
“Existence, Tense, and Quantification: Extending Sullivan’s Argument” Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville	2024
“Does Geach’s Frege-Aquinas Parallel Secure Existence as a First-Order Predicate?” Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville	2024
“What’s Still Wrong with Tooley’s Argument from Evil”	2023

Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville

- “The Interplay of Being and Goodness: A Thomist–Scotist Synthesis” 2023  
Hounds of Heaven Philosophy Series, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “Eternally Present Singularities: A Boethian Reply to MacIntyre” 2023  
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “Wittgenstein’s Tractarian Ethics” 2023  
Hounds of Heaven Philosophy Series, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “Evil as Privation and Vice as Habitus in Aquinas” 2022  
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “After Polity: The Simulacra of Politics and Genuine Polity” 2022  
Veritas Society, Franciscan University of Steubenville

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

- “Does Neo-Quinean Metaontology Rest on a Mistake?”  
RESEARCHING
- “The Concept of Reality: Kit Fine and Alternative Reality Primitivisms”  
RESEARCHING
- “The Differentiation Problem for Possible Worlds and Neo-Aristotelian Ontological Frameworks”  
REVISING
- “Category Semantics Revisited,” with Paul Symington  
RESEARCHING
- “Wittgenstein’s Neglected Influence on Anscombe’s *Modern Moral Philosophy*”  
REVISING
- “From Practices to Virtue: Wittgenstein’s Influence in MacIntyre’s Account of the Virtues”  
DRAFTING
- “The Metaphysics of Moral Evil and Opposition to the Good: A Reply to Crosby”  
REVISING
- “The Purity of Tradition, or Why Truth-as-Subjectivity is Necessary for a Living Tradition,” with P. R. Knight  
RESEARCHING
- “Robertsian Thomism: Roberts *with* Aquinas on Emotions and the Virtues,” with Brandon Dahm  
DRAFTING
- “Quantum Hylomorphism: An Appraisal,” with Myles DeBord-Hall  
RESEARCHING

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Doubt, Faith & Questioning (Honors) (Charity Anderson) 2025

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Contemporary Political Philosophy (Caleb Henry) 2025

Philosophical Texts of Anscombe (Alex Plato) 2024

Foundations of Politics & Government (Caleb Henry) 2024

SUBSTITUTE LECTURING

Contemporary Philosophy (Alex Plato), Early and Later Wittgenstein 2024, 2025

Texts of Anscombe (Alex Plato), Modern Moral Philosophy 2024

Epistemology (Alex Plato), Testimony 2024

Logic (Alex Plato), Categorical Syllogisms 2023

Philosophy of the Human Person (Alex Plato), Materialism vs Dualism  
in Philosophy of Mind 2022

TUTORING SEMINARS

“How to Write a Research Paper” 2025

TUTOR POSITIONS

Graduate Assistant Student Mentor 2023

REFORMATION BIBLE COLLEGE

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Contemporary Philosophy (Paul Helm) 2021

TUTORING SEMINARS

“Learning to Read Well: Critical Reading Seminar” 2020

“Research Methodology Seminar” 2019, 2020

TUTOR POSITIONS

Study Center Tutor, Reformation Bible College 2019-2021

ROCK ACADEMY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

DIRECT TEACHING

Middle School History, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade 2021-2022

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

## BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Teaching Assistant to Charity Anderson, Department of Philosophy 2025

## FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

Graduate Assistant to Brandon Dahm, Department of Philosophy 2024-2025

Teaching Assistant to Caleb Henry, Department of Political Science 2024-2025

Teaching Assistant to Alex Plato, Department of Philosophy 2024

## AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION

Assistant to Matthew Miner, Secretary of American Maritain Association 2024-2025

## REFORMATION BIBLE COLLEGE

Research Assistant to Keith Mathison, Department of Theology 2018-2021

## ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

“The Philosophy of David Braine,” Satellite Session, American Catholic Philosophical Association 2025

“The Philosophy of David Braine,” Satellite Session, American Maritain Association 2025

Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville 2024-2025

Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus* Reading Group, Franciscan University of Steubenville 2024

## MEMBERSHIPS

American Catholic Philosophical Association (ACPA)

American Maritain Association (AMA)

American Philosophical Association (APA)

British Wittgenstein Society (BWS)

International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry (ISME)

Nordic Wittgenstein Society (NWS)

Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics (SMLM)

## COURSEWORK

### BAYLOR UNIVERSITY (\*-in progress)

Philosophical Writing (Charity Anderson)\*

Topics in Metaphysics: Philosophy of Time (Alexander Pruss)\*

Arabic & Syriac Aristotelianism (Bryan Reece)\*

### FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

Robert C. Roberts on Emotion and Virtue (Brandon Dahm)

Aquinas’s On Being and Essence (Paul Symington)

Unofficial Audit: Medieval Philosophy (Paul Symington)

Aristotelian Theory of Meaning (Paul Symington)

Directed Study: Geach on Logic, Language, and Metaphysics (Alex Plato)  
Contemporary Philosophy of Religion (Logan Gage)  
Unofficial Audit: Logic (Paul Symington)  
Unofficial Audit: Value of Life (Matthew Shea)  
Contemporary Ethics (Matthew Shea)  
Philosophy of Language (Paul Symington)  
Aquinas and the Problem of Evil (Brandon Dahm)  
Directed Study: Wittgenstein, Anscombe, and Geach (Alex Plato)  
Contemporary Metaphysics (Paul Symington)  
Survey of Epistemology (Logan Gage)  
Philosophical Texts of Boethius (Paul Symington)  
The Deadly Vices Tradition (Brandon Dahm)  
Philosophy of Community (John Crosby)

#### RELEVANT UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK

Directed Readings in Aristotle, Independent Study (Keith Mathison)  
Topics in Philosophy: Friendship, Independent Study (Anthony Salangsang)  
Anthropology & Ethics, Independent Study (Michael Sacasas)  
Contemporary Philosophy (John Wingard)  
Modern Philosophy (Michael Sacasas)  
Medieval Philosophy, Independent Study (Christopher Cleveland)  
Ancient Philosophy (Michael Sacasas)

#### REFERENCES

Dr. Paul Symington  
Department Chair & Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville  
[psymington@franciscan.edu](mailto:psymington@franciscan.edu)

Dr. Brandon Dahm  
MA Program Director & Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville  
[bdahm@franciscan.edu](mailto:bdahm@franciscan.edu)

Dr. Matthew Shea  
Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics,  
Center for Medical Ethics and Healthy Policy, Baylor College of Medicine  
[matthew.shea@bcm.edu](mailto:matthew.shea@bcm.edu)