

C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E

Area of Specialization

Thomas Aquinas,
Medieval Philosophy,
Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic,
Philosophy of Religion

Area of Competence

Ancient Philosophy,
Thomistic Ethics & Anthropology

ELLIOT T. POLSKY

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR | ST. JOHN VIANNEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 08/2025–Present** ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, St. John Vianney Theological Seminary (Denver, CO)
- 08/2024–07/2025** LECTURER, St. John Vianney Theological Seminary (Denver, CO)
- 05/2020–05/2024** ADJUNCT, University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)

EDUCATION

- 2019–2025** **PHD, PHILOSOPHY.** *Cumulative GPA: 4.0*
Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)
 - Dissertation: “Aquinas the Boethian: Interpreting *Quod est* and *Esse* in Aquinas in Light of His Sources.”
 - Committee: Brian Carl (dir.), Thomas Osborne, Domenic D’Ettore, Benjamin Koons, Fr. Stephen Brock, and Eric Mabry
- 2017–2019** **MA, PHILOSOPHY.** *Cumulative GPA: 3.889*
Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX)
- 2012–2017** **BA, PHILOSOPHY, ECONOMICS, AND CATHOLIC STUDIES.** *Summa cum laude.*
University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN)
 - Study abroad: Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (The Angelicum) | Rome, Italy | 09/2015–01/2016

PUBLISHED SCHOLARSHIP

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES (10x)

2025. “The Real Distinction Between Supposit and Nature in Angels in Thomas Aquinas.” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 97: 125–41. (~8,900 words)
2025. “Why are Accidents Included under Being *Per Se*?” *Nova et Vetera* [English ed.] 23, no. 3: 983–1012. [Winner of the 2023 Leo Elders Junior Scholar Essay Contest.] (~13,400 words)
2024. “The Modern Semantic Principles Behind Gilson’s Existential Interpretation of Aquinas [Part 2],” *Studia Gilsoniana* 13, no. 4: 721–58. (~12,600 words)
2024. “The Modern Semantic Principles Behind Gilson’s Existential Interpretation of Aquinas [Part 1],” *Studia Gilsoniana* 13, no. 2: 303–37. (~10,900 words)
2024. “The Semantics of Divine *Esse* in Boethius.” *Nova et Vetera* [English ed.] 22, no. 4: 1215–1264. (~24,400 words)
2022. “Secondary Substance and *Quod Quid Erat Esse*: Aquinas on Reconciling the Divisions of ‘Substance’ in the Categories and Metaphysics.” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 96, no. 1: 21–45. (~13,700 words)
2021. “*Secunda Operatio Respicit Ipsum Esse Rei*: An Evaluation of Jacques Maritain, Étienne Gilson, and Ralph McInerny on the Relation of *Esse* to the Intellect’s Two Operations.” *Nova et Vetera* [English Ed.] 19, no. 2: 895–932. (~18,200 words)
2021. “‘In as Many Ways as Something Is Predicated ... in That Many Ways Is Something Signified to Be’: The Logic Behind Thomas Aquinas’s Predication Thesis, *Esse Substantiale*, and *Esse in Rerum Natura*.” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 93: 263–92. (~17,200 words)
2021. “Thomas Aquinas on Grace as a Mysterious Kind of Creature.” *Studia Gilsoniana* 10, no. 3: 545–78. (~12,400 words)
2015. “Thomistic Special Relativity: Interpreting Length Contraction and Time Dilation without the Fourth Dimension.” *Proceedings: Sixth World Conference on Metaphysics*: 1157–1169. (~3,900 words)

PRESENTATIONS

COLLOQUIA

2025. “A Logical Reconstruction of Boethius’s Demonstration that Every Being is Substantially Good in *De hebdomadibus*.” Presented at the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary Colloquium Series, Denver (CO), October 2, 2025.
2025. “What ‘Is’ Is: Three Interpretations of Everyone’s Favorite Verb.” Presented at the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary Colloquium Series, Denver (CO), February 13, 2025.

2023. “Avicenna, Averroes, Boethius, and Aquinas: Which *Esse* is Composed with Creatures?” Presented at the Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium Series, University of St. Thomas (TX), September 29, 2023.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

2024. “Does God only Efficiently Cause through the Medium of a Formal Cause?” Presented at the *Sacra Doctrina* Project Annual Conference: All Things that Were Made, St. Paul, MN, June 8, 2024.
2024. “What is *Esse substantiale*? Aquinas with Boethius and Averroes against Avicenna and William of Auvergne.” Presented at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11, 2024.
2023. “The Real Distinction between Supposit and Nature in Angels in Thomas Aquinas.” Presented at American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, November 2023.
2023. “The Real Distinction between Supposit and Nature in Angels in Thomas Aquinas.” Presented at International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2023.
2019. “‘In as Many Ways as Something is Predicated ... in that Many Ways is Something Signified to Be’: The Logic Behind Thomas Aquinas’s Predication Thesis, *Esse substantiale*, and *Esse in rerum natura*.” Presented at American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, November 2019.
2017. “Either the Popular Free Will Defense or Aquinas, Not Both: Why Aquinas’s Ontology Entails Divine Sovereignty over the Created Will.” Presented at American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX, November 2017.
2015. “Thomistic Special Relativity: Interpreting Length Contraction and Time Dilation without the Fourth Dimension.” Presented at Sixth World Conference on Metaphysics, University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain, November 2015.

POPULAR MEDIA / VENUES

2025. “Theology and History II.” *Sed Contra: A Podcast of Catholic Theology*, hosted by Fr. Ambrose Dobrozsi, with guests, Elliot Polsky and John O’Neill. August 31, 2025.
2025. “What the Meaning of the Word ‘Is’ Is.” *Sed Contra: A Podcast of Catholic Theology*, hosted by Urban Hannon, with guest, Elliot Polsky. May 5, 2025.
2025. “The Modern Turn to the Subject.” *Sed Contra: A Podcast of Catholic Theology*, hosted by Fr. Ambrose Dobrozsi, with guests, Pater Edmund Waldstein and Elliot Polsky. March 10, 2025.

CURRENT RESEARCH & PROJECTS

MONOGRAPHS

Substance, Essence, and Being: Thomas Aquinas's Semantics and Metaphysics in His Medieval Context [In writing stage.]

TRANSLATIONS

Medieval Texts on Essence and Existence, 1274–1444. [In drafting and research stage.]

- Durandus of Saint-Pourçain. “[I, d. 8, q. 6:] Utrum in solo Deo essentia et esse sint idem realiter.” In *Durandi de Sancto Porciano Scriptum super IV libros Sententiarum*. Peeters, 2012–24.
- Henry of Ghent. “[Quodlibet I, q. 9:] Utrum ipsa essentia creaturae sit suum esse.” In *Quodlibet I*, edited by R. Macken. Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, De Wulf-Mansion Centre, Series 2. Opera Omnia 5. Leuven University Press, 1979.
- Hervaeus Natalis. “De esse et essentia.” In *De quattuor materiis, sive, Determinationes contra magistrum Henricum de Gandavo*, vol. 2 of 2, edited by Lambert-Marie De Rijk. *Studia Artistarum* 30, 35. Brepols, 2011. [Selections]
- John Capreolus. [I, d. 8, q. 1.] In *Defensiones theologiae divi Thomae Aquinatis*. Edited by Celsai Paban and Thomas Pègues. 7 vols. Minerva, 1967.
- Siger of Brabant. *Quaestiones in Metaphysicam: Édition revue de la reportation de Munich. Texte inédit de la reportation de Vienne*. Edited by William Dunphy. *Texte inédit de la reportation de Cambridge. Édition revue de la reportation de Paris. Édition revue de la reportation de Paris*. Edited by Armand Maurer. *Philosophes Médiévaux* 24–25. Éditions de l’Institut supérieur de philosophie, 1981, 1983. [Munich, intr. 7: Utrum esse in causatis pertineat ad essentiam causatorum; Cambridge, intr. 7: Utrum esse sit additum essentiae entium causatorum; Paris, intr. 2: De distinctione inter esse et essentiam.]
- . “Quaestio utrum haec sit vera: homo est animal, nullo homine existente.” In *Écrits de logique, de morale et de physique*, edited by Bernardo Bazán. Publications universitaires, 1974.
- Thomas Sutton. “Q. 26: Utrum in angelo sit realis compositio essentiae et esse existentiae, ita quod illud sit extra rationem essentiae aliquid absolutum additum essentiae.” In *Quaestiones ordinariae*. Edited by Johannes Schneider. Verlag der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1977.

ARTICLES

“What Does ‘Form’ Mean? Aquinas’s Analogies of ‘Cause’ and ‘Form’ From Composite Creatures to God.” [Under review.] (~14,400 words)

“Aquinas’s Changing View on Universals: Two Contrary Interpretations in the Tradition and Their Basis in His Text.” [Under review.] (~9000 words)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

* = Class taught for those studying for the permanent diaconate

08/2024–Present. ST. JOHN VIANNEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (DENVER, CO)

- *PD-PS-0101/2, Developing a Catholic Mind I & II (1x)
- PT-PH-1301, History of Ancient Philosophy (2x)
- PT-PH-1302, History of Medieval Philosophy (2x)
- PT-PS-1315, Philosophy of God (2x)
- PT-PH-1400, St. Thomas Aquinas Seminar [Topics course based on work by Aquinas] (2x)
 - Treatise on the Angels in the *Prima pars* (1x)
 - The Virtue of Religion in the *Secunda secundae* (1x)
- PT-PS-1410, Philosophy of Nature and Science (1x)
- PT-PT-1534, Topics (1x)
 - St. Thomas Aquinas: Life and Works (1x)

05/2020–05/2024. UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS (HOUSTON, TX)

- PHIL 1311, Philosophy of Human Nature (2x)
- PHIL 2301, Ethics (5x)
- PHIL 3301, Metaphysics (12x)

SERVICE WORK

St. John Vianney Theological Seminary (Denver, CO):

- Artificial Intelligence Committee: Chair Fall 2025–
- Development Committee: Chair Fall 2025– ; Member Fall 2024–
- Student Academic Advisor, Fall 2024–

Academic Refereeing / Peer Reviewing:

- Acta Philosophica: International Journal of Philosophy (1x)
- American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly (7x)
- European Journal for the Study of Thomas Aquinas (1x)
- Nova et Vetera [English ed.] (2x)

EDITORIAL WORK

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| Spring 2026 | Managing editor, <i>Evangelizare Noviter</i> |
| 11/2025 | Copyeditor, Word on Fire Publishing (1x) |
| 06/2020–05/2024 | Copyeditor, The Catholic University of America Press (12x) |
| 12/2023 et passim | Independent copy-editing (7x) |

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Latin (PhD proficiency exam, Spring 2018)

French (PhD proficiency exam, Spring 2021)

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- 2023–Present *The Sacra Doctrina Project*, affiliate member
- 2017 et passim *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, member

READING GROUPS & SEMINARS

- 08/2023–05/2024 *Speculative Philosophy Research Group (SPRG)*, Center for Thomistic Studies.
- 07/2023 *Uncertainty, Confidence, and Truth in the Sciences: Thomistic Philosophy and Natural Science Symposium*, sponsored by the Thomistic Institute, The Catholic University of America.
- 08/2022–05/2023 Aquinas and “the Arabs” International Working Group (AAIWG): Luis Xavier López-Farjeat, *Classical Islamic Philosophy: A Thematic Introduction*, organized by Atefe Esmaili, Seth Kreeger, Nicoletta Nativo, Pooya Heybatollahi, Richard Taylor.
- 06/2022 *The City of God and Modernity: Culture and Ecclesiology*, sponsored by the Institute for Human Ecology and the Thomistic Institute, The Catholic University of America.

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2023 LEO J. ELDERS JUNIOR SCHOLAR ESSAY CONTEST (\$750)**
Sponsor: The Leo J. Elders Foundation (Vogelenzang, The Netherlands)
Title: Why are Accidents Included under Being Per se?
- 2017 THOMAS D. SULLIVAN MEDAL FOR BEST UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAY (\$500)**
Sponsor: University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN), Philosophy Department
- 2017 DELTA EPSILON SIGMA NATIONAL RESEARCH ESSAY CONTEST (\$500)**
Sponsor: *Delta Epsilon Sigma* National Honor Society
- 2015 YOUNG SCHOLARS RESEARCH GRANT (\$4000)**
Sponsor: University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN), Office of Grants & Research
Faculty Mentor: Thomas Feeney, PhD, MPhil, MSt
Topic: Special Relativity without the Fourth Dimension: Interpreting Einstein’s Physics with Aristotle’s Definition of Motion
- 2015 COLLABORATIVE INQUIRY GRANT (\$1500)**
Sponsor: University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN), Office of Grants & Research
Faculty Mentor: Mark Spencer, PhD
Topic: Biology’s Accidental Species: The Compatibility of Multiple True Taxonomies with Aristotelian Essentialism