

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

PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

BOOK CHAPTERS (1X)

Accepted. “What Does ‘Form’ Mean? Aquinas’s Analogies of ‘Cause’ and ‘Form’ From Composite Creatures to God.” In *The Aristotelian Four Causes: Form and Formal Cause*. Edited by Boaz Schuman. Springer. (~14,400 words)

ARTICLES (11X)

Accepted. “Aquinas’s Changing View on Universals: Two Contrary Interpretations in the Tradition and Their Basis in His Text.” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*. (~11,000 words)

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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

PRE-THEOLOGY (PHILOSOPHY) COURSES (SEMINARIANS PURSUING BA OR BPHIL.):

- 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)
 - Treatise on Human Nature in the *Prima pars* (upcoming)
- PT-PS-1410, Philosophy of Nature and Science (1x)
- PT-PT-1513, Topics: John Henry Newman: Life and Works (upcoming)
- PT-PT-1534, Topics: St. Thomas Aquinas: Life and Works (1x)

MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV.) COURSES (LAY STUDENTS):

- TH-TT-2563, Introduction to the Philosophical Theology of Thomas Aquinas (upcoming)

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY FOR DEACONS (PERMANENT DEACONATE SCHOOL):

- PD-PS-0101, Developing a Catholic Mind I (1x)
- PD-PS-0102, Developing a Catholic Mind II (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

Spring 2026	Managing editor for establishing journal: <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 (8x)

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Latin (PhD proficiency exam, Spring 2018)
French (PhD proficiency exam, Spring 2021)

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2023–Present	<i>The Sacra Doctrina Project</i> , affiliate member
2017 et passim	<i>American Catholic Philosophical Association</i> , member

READING GROUPS & SEMINARS

08/2023–05/2024	<i>Speculative Philosophy Research Group (SPRG)</i> , Center for Thomistic Studies.
07/2023	<i>Uncertainty, Confidence, and Truth in the Sciences: Thomistic Philosophy and Natural Science Symposium</i> , 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, <i>Classical Islamic Philosophy: A Thematic Introduction</i> , organized by Atefe Esmaili, Seth Kreeger, Nicoletta Nativo, Pooya Heybatollahi, Richard Taylor.
06/2022	<i>The City of God and Modernity: Culture and Ecclesiology</i> , 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) <u>Sponsor</u> : The Leo J. Elders Foundation (Vogelenzang, The Netherlands) <u>Title</u> : Why are Accidents Included under Being Per se?
2017	THOMAS D. SULLIVAN MEDAL FOR BEST UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAY (\$500) <u>Sponsor</u> : 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