João Pinheiro da Silva

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PhilPeople
ORCID

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization: Metaphysics (esp. emergence, hylomorphism, neo-Aristotelianism, mereology), Philosophy of Science (esp. laws of nature, unity of science, philosophy of biology), Political Philosophy (esp. liberalism, postliberalism)

Areas of Competence: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (Aristotle, Aquinas), Philosophy of Religion, Mimetic Theory, Ethics

EDUCATION

PhD in Philosophy, University of St Andrews (SASP) October 2024 – Present
Thesis title (provisional): *Unity Beyond Reduction: A New Approach to the Unity of Science*
Supervisor: Aaron Cotnoir
Research student: UKRI Frontier Research Grant *Instruments of Unity: The Many Ways of Being One*

MA in Philosophy, Central European University (CEU) September 2021 – June 2023
With *Distinction*
Thesis: *A Hole Without the Whole: Hylomorphism Against Causal Closure of the Physical*
Supervisor: István Bodnár

BA in Philosophy, University of Porto, Faculty of Arts (FLUP) September 2017 – June 2020
With *Distinction*

BOOKS

1. [Under Contract] *Postliberalism: Three Paths Beyond Liberalism* (with Jacob Williams), Polity, 2028

ACADEMIC PAPERS

1. [Under Review] "Dispositional Essentialists Need Not Worry About (At Least Some) Conservation Laws" (with Ben Clark), The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science
2. [Accepted for Publication] "The First Postliberal Debate: The Unresolved Logic of Catholic (Anti-)Liberalism", Cosmos+Taxis, S.I.: *Conservatism, Postliberalism, and Islam*, 2027.
3. ⍟ "Hylomorphism and the Causal Closure of the Physical", Topoi (2026), *S.I.: Why Middle-Sized Matters*, doi: 10.1007/s11245-026-10419-0
4. "Postliberalism: A Genealogy" (with Jacob Williams), Telos 212 (Fall 2025): 60-90, doi: 10.3817/0925212060
    - This paper was the centre of a mini-Colloquium at Pusey House (Oxford) on March 4, 2026, with comments from John Milbank (Emeritus, Nottingham) and Paul Kelly (LSE).

5. "Uma Defesa da Eudaimonia Aristotélica" [A Defense of Aristotelian Eudaimonia], Controvérsia (UNISINOS), vol. 21, no. 2 (2025): 108-124, doi.org/10.4013/con.2025.212.07
6. "Popperian Hayek or Hayekian Popper?", Economic Thought: History, Philosophy, and Methodology, vol. 10, no.1 (2021): 46-60, http://et.worldeconomicsassociation.org/files/2021/07/WEA-ET-10.1-Silva.pdf
7. "Mau Humor ou Humor Mau? Dois Problemas na Ética do Humor" [Bad Humor or Bad Taste? Two Problems in the Ethics of Humor], Revista Ethic@, 19, no. 3 (2020): 811-830, doi: 10.5007/1677-2954.2020v19n3p811
8. "A Teoria da Escravidão Natural de Aristóteles a Francisco de Vitoria" [The Theory of Natural Slavery from Aristotle to Francisco de Vitoria], Revista Portuguesa de Filosofia, 75, no. 3 (2019): 1785-1800; doi: 10.17990/rpf/2019_75_3_1785

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. [Forthcoming] "Sin as False Incarnation in *Better Call Saul*." In *Religion and Peak TV*, edited by George Tsakiridis. Bloomsbury, 2027.
2. [Forthcoming] "Sá de Miranda e a Filosofia" [Sá de Miranda and Philosophy], in *Dicionário de Francisco Sá de Miranda*, coordinated by Sérgio Paulo Guimarães Sousa, Edições Húmus (2027)
3. "Livre Mercado e Meio Ambiente: Uma Resposta Local para um Problema Complexo" [Free Market and the Environment: A Local Response to a Complex Problem], in Ambientalismo: Uma Visão de Mercado, coordinated by Pedro Jorge Almeida, Alêtheia Editores (2022)

BOOK REVIEWS

1. *A Dynamic Theory of Hylomorphism: Form as Activity*, by Jeremy Skrzypek (Routledge, 2025, 206 pp.), *The Review of Metaphysics*, vol. 79, no. 4 (2026): 894-896, 10.1353/rvm.2026.a991882
2. *Theistic Evolution: A Contemporary Aristotelian-Thomistic Perspective*, by Mariusz Tabaczek (Cambridge University Press, 2024, 72 pp.), *The Heythrop Journal*, vol. 66, no. 2 (2025): 201-203, 10.1111/heyj.14412
3. *Hylomorphism*, by William M. R. Simpson (Cambridge University Press, 2023, 315 pp.), *Dialectica,* vol. 78, no. 2 (2024): 163-68, 10.48106/dial.v78.i2.06

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

1. Santander Career Support Award — May 2026
   Santander Open Academy
   Value: 250£
2. Travel Grant for 6th PPE Graduate Summer Workshop — April 2026
   University of Colorado, Boulder
   Value: $1.400
3. University of St Andrews Student Expenses — April 2026
   For 2026 Rotman Graduate Student Conference
   Value: $350
4. Canadian Research Council Connection Grant — February 2026
   For 2026 Rotman Graduate Student Conference
   Value: 600 CAD

5. Adam Smith Fellowship — August 2025 – March 2026
   Mercatus Center, George Mason University
   Value: $7.000
6. Humane Studies Fellowship — March 2025
   Institute for Humane Studies (IHS)
   For 2025 International Adam Smith Society Conference
   Value: $800
7. Young Scholars Initiative — March 27, 2025
   For pre-conference Workshop (2025 International Adam Smith Society Conference)
   Value: 800€
8. Calihan Academic Grant — January 2025
   Value: $500
9. ⍟ FCT PhD (Full) Studentship — October 2024 – Present
   Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT)
   Value: 87.000€ (currently)
10. ⍟ Handsel Tuition Fee Waiver Scholarship — September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2027
    University of St Andrews, Philosophy Anthropology Film
11. Calihan Academic Grant — May 2024
    For *REFORC Conference 2024*
    Value: $500
12. Don Lavoie Fellowship — January – May 2024
    Mercatus Center, George Mason University
    Value: $1.250
13. Accommodation Scholarship — 2024
    Conference of the Philosophy of Science Network (FICIRED)
14. ⍟ CEU Master's Scholarship — September 2021 – June 2023
    Value: 28.000€ (Profile)
15. ⍟ CEU Alumni Scholarship — September 2021 – June 2022
    Value: 2.500€ (Profile)
16. Huawei Scholarship for ÖJAB dormitories — 2022-2023
    Value: 3.000€ (Essay)
17. Instituto +Liberdade Essay Contest — 2021
    1st prize: 1.000€ (Essay)

TEACHING

- "Moralisation of Markets", Political Philosophy (Honours, PY4604, University of St Andrews)
  Guest Lecture (Semester 2, 2026)
- Ethics Cup Teaching (Semester 1, 2026)
- Foundations of Western Philosophy (PY 2011, University of St Andrews: Semester 1)
  Tutor; 2 groups (Semester 1, 2026)
- Reasoning (PY1012, University of St Andrews: Semester 2)
  Tutor; 4 groups (Semester 2, 2025)

REFEREEING

- International Journal of Philosophical Studies — September 2026
- Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science — July 2026
- *Dialectica* — November 2023
- *MISES: Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy, Law and Economics* — April 2020

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

1. Levels of Reality — February 18–19, 2027
Scottish Network for Metaphysics and Philosophy of Science
[Invited Speaker] Transmission Gallery, Glasgow

2. How Thin Can Form Be? — December 14, 2026
Unity Seminar
University of St Andrews, UK

3. Art as a Form of Attention — October 16, 2026
The Concept of Attention: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives
University of Coimbra, Portugal

4. Why Conservation Laws Need Not Worry Dispositionalists — September 15, 2026
With Ben Clark (Michigan State University)
New Directions in Law-Based Explanations in the Sciences
Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, London School of Economics, UK

5. Constraints and Causal Closure — July 18, 2026
I Brazilian Congress of Philosophy of Science
University of São Paulo (USP), São Paulo, Brazil (Online)

6. Hylomorphism and the Causal Closure of the Physical — July 15, 2026
10th Meeting of the Portuguese Society for Analytic Philosophy (ENFA 10)
University of Beira Interior (UBI), Covilhã, Portugal

7. Hilemorfismo e a Completude da Física — June 17, 2026
I International Colloquium of Post-graduate Studies in Philosophy
Instituto de Estudos Filosóficos (IEF), University of Coimbra, Portugal (Online)

8. Hylomorphism, Constraints and Closure — May 26, 2026
Society for the Metaphysics of Science 2026 Conference
University of Toronto, Canada (Official Schedule)

9. (Micro)Biology and Physical Causal Closure — May 2-3, 2026
2026 Rotman Graduate Student Conference: 'Philosophical Issues in the Life Sciences'
Western University (London, Ontario, Canada)

10. A Genealogy of Postliberalism — March 4, 2026
With Jacob Williams (University of Oxford)
Pusey House, Oxford
Mini-Colloquium centred on mine and Jacob's paper "Postliberalism: A Genealogy". Responses by Professor John Milbank (Emeritus, Nottingham) and Professor Paul Kelly (London School of Economics)

11. Smith, Aristotle and the Politics of Sympathy — May 30, 2025
2025 Summer Graduate Conference
Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University (Online)

12. Smith, Aristotle and the Politics of Sympathy March 28, 2025
with Mateus Martins Bruno (UFMG)
International Adam Smith Society
University of Salento, Lecce, Italy

13. Two Pictures of Nature July 12, 2024
9th National Meeting in Analytic Philosophy (ENFA 9)
Campolide Campus, NOVA Institute of Philosophy (IFILNOVA), Portugal

14. Philosophical and Cosmological June 27, 2024
Reflection in Cicero's *Somnium Scipionis*
V International Congress in Greek Philosophy
Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra, Portugal

15. Francisco de Vitoria's Rejection of Natural Slavery May 15, 2024
Thirteenth Annual REFORC Conference 2024
Palermo, Italy

16. Paulo Tunhas e a Filosofia em Sá de Miranda February 16, 2024
Colóquio de Homenagem a Paulo Tunhas
FLUP, University of Porto, Portugal

17. Hylomorphism and the Causal Closure of the Physical January 23, 2024
Conference of the Philosophy of Science Network (FICIRED)
Santiago de Compostela, Spain (Official Schedule) (Certificate)

18. Eudaimonia and Happiness: On Being Happy December 7, 2023
10th TMU Student Philosophy Conference
Tarbiat Modares University Tehrān, Iran (Online)

19. Hylomorphism and the Causal Closure of the Physical November 10, 2023
OFA 13 - Oficina de Filosofia Analítica
NOVA University, Lisbon, Portugal (Official Schedule)

20. Assessing Howard Robinson's Criticism of Hylomorphism September 6, 2023
SOPhiA 2023 - Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy 2023
Salzburg, Austria (Online) (Official Schedule)

21. Assessing Howard Robinson's Criticism of Hylomorphism August 12, 2023
Society for the Metaphysics of Science 2023 Conference
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada (Official Schedule)

22. Selected commentator for Matthew Tugby's August 13, 2023
"Functions, goals, and the problem of goal failure"
Society for the Metaphysics of Science 2023 Conference
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada (Official Schedule)

23. Popperian Hayek or Hayekian Popper? February 22, 2020
Austrian Student Scholars Conference
Grove City College, Pennsylvania, USA (Official Schedule)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. Art Beyond the Bubble, ZH Magazine, 1 (1), 2026, https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.24140217
2. No Man Can Serve Two Masters, Cracks in Postmodernity (June 2026)

3. Thiel's Diabolical Deviation from his Mentor, with Maurício G. Righi, Cracks in Postmodernity (December 2025)
4. Girard's Apocalypse, with Maurício G. Righi, Cracks in Postmodernity (November 2025)
5. Incêndios: o problema dos reacendimentos, with Rúben Leite, Observador (Portugal, September 2024)
6. Interview with Mark Lilla, Não É Imprensa (Brazil, July 2024)
7. Camões Filósofo, Não É Imprensa (Brazil, June 2024)
8. Introdução à tradução - Em louvor à frase longa e complicada, Revista Unamuno (Brazil, December 2023)
9. Aristotelian Hylomorphic Dualism, Thomistica (November 2023),
10. O Amor que Move o Sol e os Outros Astros: Filosofia, Cosmologia e Divinização em Platão e Cícero, Revista Unamuno (Brazil, November 2023)
11. A Arte Como Forma de Atenção", Revista Unamuno (Brazil, January 2023)
12. Intention and Representation: The Case of Thomas Aquinas, Thomistica (December 2022)
13. Art, Relevance and Saturated Phenomena, The Symbolic World Blog (September 2022)
14. Machado de Assis, Dostoievski e os limites da modernidade, Revista Unamuno (Brazil, June 2022)
15. On the Future of AI, Huawei University (Austria, April 2022)
16. What Popper Learned from Hayek, Austrian Economics Center (April 2022); reissued at Cobden Centre (May 2022)
17. Fé e Sacrifício em "Tenet" (2020), Revista Unamuno (Brazil, March 2022)
18. Was Popper von Hayek gelernt hat, Hayek Institut (Austria, March 2022)
19. Tick-Tock goes the East, with Scott B. Nelson, Austrian Economics Center (March 2022)
20. O Ocidente não entende Putin, with Scott B. Nelson, Observador (Portugal, March 2022)
21. Voar Sem Sair do Chão: as virtudes e os limites de *The Good Place*, Revista Unamuno (Brazil, February 2022)
22. O Mau Humor e o Humor Mau, Opinião +Liberdade (Portugal, November 2021), reissued at Diário de Aveiro, Diário de Leiria, Diário de Coimbra and Diário de Viseu
23. Livre mercado e meio ambiente: Uma resposta local para um problema complexo, Eco (Portugal, June 6, 2021)
24. Nenhum dos Seus Ossos Será Quebrado, Nova Cidadania 73 (Portugal, 2021)
25. A Bone of Him Shall Not Be Broken, VoegelinView (USA, 2020)
26. Os Limites da Modernidade, Jornal Rascunho (Curitiba, Brazil, 2020)
27. Portugal não é uma democracia (ou não deveria ser), Observador (Portugal, 2019)
28. Italo Calvino e "As Cidades Invisíveis, Comunidade Cultura e Arte (Portugal, 2019)

TRANSLATIONS

1. Taylor, C., “Uma Modernidade Católica?” (2026), in Aliteração (part 1 and part 2); original: “A Catholic Modernity?: Charles Taylor's Marianist Award Lecture” (1999), OUP.
2. Lilla, M., “A Torre e o Esgoto” (2024), in Não É Imprensa (part 1 and part 2); original: “The Tower and the Sewer”, New York Review of Books, June 2024
3. “Em louvor à frase longa e complicada” (2023), in Revista Unamuno (https://unamuno.com.br/ed-simon-david-bentley-e-joao-silva/); original: Simon, Ed, “Baroque, Purple, and Beautiful: In Praise of the Long, Complicated Sentence” (2023), Literary Hub; and Hart, D. B., “How to Write English Prose” (2023), The Lamp Magazine.
4. Janik, A. & Toulmin, S. (2021). “Wittgenstein e o seu tempo”, in https://criticanarede.com/wittgenstein.html (ISSN 1749-8457) original: Janik, A. & Toulmin, S., “Wittgenstein’s Vienna” (1973) (pp. 13-32). New York: Touchstone.
5. Paterson, C., & Pugh, M. (2020). “Introdução ao tomismo analítico”, in https://criticanarede.com/tomismo.html (ISSN 1749-8457); original: C. Paterson, & M. Pugh, “Analytical Thomism: Traditions in Dialogue” (2006) (pp. XIII–XXIII). London: Routledge.

MEMBERSHIPS

Scottish Network for Metaphysics and Philosophy of Science (NMS) June 2026-
University of Glasgow; Associate Member

IUHCT (*Centro de História das Ciências e Tecnologia*) May 2026-
NOVA FCT/University of Lisbon; Collaborator

Arché October 2024-
University of St Andrews; PhD Student

SEMINARS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

1. 6th PPE Graduate Summer Workshop June 1-6, 2026
University of Colorado, Boulder

2. Aquinas on Act & Potency May 27-31, 2026
Dominican House of Studies, Washington, DC

3. Towards 250th anniversary of Adam Smith’s Wealth of Nations March 27, 2025
YSI pre-IASS conference workshop
University of Salento, Lecce, Italy

4. Thomistic Seminar: Intellectual Creatures July 31-Agust 5, 2023
Witherspoon Institute
Princeton University, New Jersey, USA

5. First Principles seminar July 10-23, 2022
Witherspoon Institute
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

6. Conservatives and Reactionaries by Mark Lilla June 25-July 1, 2023
Summer School Program
University of Austin, USA

7. Online Reading Seminar of Machado de Assis's O Alienista August 2021
Casa de Leitura Dirce Cortes Real, Brazil
By João Cezar de Castro Rocha (UERJ/Stanford University) and Paulo Pavão
Workload ~6 hours (Certificate)

8. Methodology in the History of Philosophy July 5-9, 2021
University of Groningen
Workload ~ 40 hours (Certificate)

9. Member of the "Questions of Contemporary Philosophy" group 2017- 2019
Mind, Language and Action Group (MLAG), Institute of Philosophy at UP (Credential)

INTERNSHIPS

AIER's Internship Program Spring 2024 February 5 – April 26 2024
Great Barrington, MA (Paid Internship)
Research Project: "The Varieties of Post-Liberalism"

Don Lavoie Fellowship January – May 2024
Mercatus Center, George Mason University (Online) (Paid Internship)

Alumni Scholarship Program 2021-2022
Central European University (Vienna, Austria) (Paid)
Certificate; Profile
Contributions to "CEU Student Space" on CEU's academic environment and life in Vienna: "Four Reasons to Join CEU's Philosophy Department"; "A Strange Book to Read in Vienna – The Death of Virgil"; "Why You Should Do an Ethics Course"; "Augarten - My Favorite Place for a Walk in Vienna"; "Four Reasons Why I'm Loving CEU"

Student Recruitment Internship 2021-2022
Central European University (Vienna, Austria)

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

'Hylomorphism' Area Editor December 2025-Present
Philpapers

Editorial Board Member June 2023-Present
Revista Unamuno (https://unamuno.com.br/quem-somos-nos/)

Assistant editor August 2022-November 2024
Voegelin View (https://voegelinview.com)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- I have a Substack page with more than 600 subscribers where I publish essays, philosophy translations, and small pieces.