

MICHAEL DEBORD-HALL

Ph.D. Student, Baylor University

Email: Michael_DeBordhall1@baylor.edu ◇ PhilPeople

EDUCATION

Baylor University

Ph.D. in Philosophy

2025–Present

Franciscan University of Steubenville

M.A. in Philosophy (*summa cum laude*)

2022–2025

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. in Theological Studies (*cum laude*)

2017–2021

Senior Thesis: *A Tautological Method of Human Life: Ethics, Language, and Activity
in the Thought of Ludwig Wittgenstein*

Supervisor: Anthony Salangsang

Review Committee: Keith Mathison (Primary Examiner), John Tweeddale (Secondary Examiner)

INTERESTS

Primary: Metaphysics

Secondary: Moral Philosophy, Bioethics, Philosophy of Religion

PUBLICATIONS

“Tractarian Ethics: A Transcendental Vision,” *Wittgenstein-Studien* 15 (1): 1-15 2024

“The Question of Wittgensteinian Thomism: Grammar and Metaphysics,”
Southwest Philosophy Review 40 (1): 217-28 2024

“Instantiating a Transcendental Vision: Recontextualizing Tractarian Ethics” in
*What Can be Shown Cannot be Said: Proceedings of International Ludwig
Wittgenstein Symposium*, eds. Ines Skelac and Ante Belić. Lit Verlag. 2023

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Neo-Aristotelian Mereologies and Unrestricted Composition”
American Catholic Philosophical Association (*Poster Session*) (accepted) 2026

“Symmetry and the commitments of maltheism and theism”
Society of Christian Philosophers, Midwest Division, *Baylor University* (accepted) 2026

“What’s *Still* Wrong with Tooley’s Argument from Evil,” with Jake Hollis
Society of Christian Philosophers, Mountain-Pacific Division, *Loyola Marymount University* 2026

“Refining Fine: Navigating Quantification and Ontology”
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (*Main Program*) 2026

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

CONT

“What Can David Braine Offer Analytic Metaontology? Non-quantified Ontological Pluralism”	
American Catholic Philosophical Association (<i>Satellite Session</i>)	2025
American Maritain Association (<i>Satellite Session</i>)	2025
“Groundwork for Neo-Aristotelian Theories of Meaning”	
American Catholic Philosophical Association (<i>Poster Session</i>)	2025
“Actuality and Existential Quantity: Extending Geach’s Insight”	
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (<i>Paper in Progress Session</i>)	2025
Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	2024
American Maritain Association, <i>St. Bernard’s School of Theology</i>	2024
“Existence, Tense, and Quantification: Extending Sullivan’s Argument”	
Graduate Philosophy Student Conference, <i>Saint Louis University</i>	2024
“Divine Exemplarism: An Alternative Solution to the Problem of God and Abstract Objects”	
American Catholic Philosophical Association (<i>Poster Session</i>)	2024
“The Question of Wittgensteinian Thomism: Grammar and Metaphysics”	
Southwestern Philosophical Society, <i>Baylor University</i>	2023
“The Metaphysics of Moral Evil and Opposition to the Good: A Reply to Crosby”	
American Catholic Philosophical Association (<i>Poster Session</i>)	2023
“Eternally Present Singularities: A Boethian Reply to MacIntyre”	
Graduate Philosophy Student Conference, <i>Saint Louis University</i>	2023
“Tractarian Ethics: A Transcendental Vision”	
Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference, <i>Harvard University</i>	2023
“Individuality, Personality, and the Common Good between Maritain and De Koninck”	
American Maritain Association, <i>University of Dallas</i>	2023
“Instantiation a Transcendental Vision: Recontextualizing Tractarian Ethics”	
International Ludwig Wittgenstein Symposium, <i>University of Zagreb</i>	2021

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

Jeremy Shipley, “Epistemic Structural Integrity: A Hyperstatic Solution to the Lottery Paradox”	
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division (Main Program)	2027
Elliot Polsky, “Aquinas’s Changing View of Universals: Two Contrary Interpretations”	
American Catholic Philosophical Association	2026

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

“Neo-Aristotelian Mereologies and Unrestricted Composition”	
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Baylor University	2026
“Groundwork for Neo-Aristotelian Theories of Meaning”	
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville	2025

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

CONT

“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?”	
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville	2023
“Eternally Present Singularities: A Boethian Reply to MacIntyre”	
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville	2023
“Evil as Privation and Vice as <i>Habitus</i> in Aquinas”	
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville	2022

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

“Neo-Aristotelian Mereologies and Unrestricted Composition”	
Status: Drafting	
A paper arguing that Neo-Aristotelian mereologies can adopt the axiom of unrestricted composition given their compositional pluralism without incurring significant costs.	
“Moderating Priority Perdurantism”	
Status: Drafting	
A paper arguing Skrzypek’s Priority Perdurantism can be moderated to accommodate the persistence of perduring substances being explained by their temporal parts without giving up the priority of substances over their proper parts (temporal or otherwise).	
“Mereological Priority, Divine Simplicity, and Neo-Aristotelian Substances”	
Status: Revising and submitting to conferences	
“Symmetry and the Commitments of Maltheism and Theism”	
Status: Conferencing	
A response to the evil-God challenge that argues the respective ideological commitments of theism and maltheism are not approximately symmetrical.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Baylor University

Teaching Assistant

Medical Ethics (Yoaav Isaacs)	2026
Doubt, Faith, and Understanding (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 and Government (Caleb Henry)	2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

CONT

Substitute Lecturing

Contemporary Philosophy (Alex Plato), on Early and Later Wittgenstein	2024, 2025
Texts of Anscombe (Alex Plato), on Modern Moral Philosophy	2024
Epistemology (Alex Plato), on Testimony	2024
Logic (Alex Plato), on Categorical Syllogisms	2023
Philosophy of the Human Person (Alex Plato), on Materialism and Dualism	2022

Reformation Bible College

Teaching Assistant

Contemporary Philosophy (Paul Helm)	2021
-------------------------------------	------

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Baylor University

Teaching Assistant to Yoaav Isaacs, Department of Philosophy	2026
Research Assistant to Anne Jeffrey, Department of Philosophy	2026
Teaching Assistant to Charity Anderson, Department of Philosophy	2025

American Maritain Association

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

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
Graduate Assistant Student Mentor	2023

Reformation Bible College

Research Assistant to Keith Mathison, Department of Theology	2018-2021
Study Center Tutor	2019-2021

ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

Baylor University

Metaphysics Reading Group	2026-Present
---------------------------	--------------

Satellite Sessions

"The Philosophy of David Braine," American Catholic Philosophical Association	2025
"The Philosophy of David Braine," American Maritain Association	2025

Franciscan University of Steubenville

Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium	2024-2025
Wittgenstein Reading Group	2024

MEMBERSHIPS

American Catholic Philosophical Association (ACPA)
American Philosophical Association (APA)
Society for Christian Philosophers (SCP)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Baylor University (*-in progress)

Metaphysics of Material Objects (Alexander Pruss)*	Fall 2026
Aquinas' Treatise on Law (Francis Beckwith)*	Fall 2026
Foundations of Bioethics (Matthew Shea)*	Fall 2026
Aquinas on Trinity and Incarnation (Alexander Pruss)	Spring 2026
Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Joshua Rasmussen)	Spring 2026
Political Virtues and Emotions (Anne Jeffrey)	Spring 2026
Philosophical Writing (Charity Anderson)	Fall 2025
Topics in Metaphysics: Philosophy of Time (Alexander Pruss)	Fall 2025
Syriac and Arabic Aristotelianism (Bryan Reece)	Fall 2025

Franciscan University of Steubenville

Robert C. Roberts on Emotion and Virtue (Brandon Dahm)	Spring 2025
Aquinas's On Being and Essence (Paul Symington)	Spring 2025
Aristotelian Theory of Meaning (Paul Symington)	Fall 2024
Directed Study: Geach on Logic, Language, and Metaphysics (Alex Plato)	Spring 2024
Contemporary Philosophy of Religion (Logan Gage)	Spring 2024
Contemporary Ethics (Matthew Shea)	Fall 2023
Philosophy of Language (Paul Symington)	Fall 2023
Aquinas and the Problem of Evil (Brandon Dahm)	Fall 2023
Directed Study: Wittgenstein, Anscombe, and Geach (Alex Plato)	Spring 2023
Contemporary Metaphysics (Paul Symington)	Spring 2023
Survey of Epistemology (Logan Gage)	Spring 2023
Philosophical Texts of Boethius (Paul Symington)	Fall 2022
The Deadly Vices Tradition (Brandon Dahm)	Fall 2022
Philosophy of Community (John Crosby)	Fall 2022

EXTRACURRICULAR LEARNING

Society for the Metaphysics of Science Summer School

Essentialism in Metaphysics and Social Ontology (Michael J. Raven and Asya Passinsky)	2026
---	------

REFERENCES

Dr. Alexander R. Pruss

Professor of Philosophy and Director of Graduate Studies

Department of Philosophy, Baylor University

Alexander_Pruss@baylor.edu

Dr. Matthew Shea

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Bioethics

Department of Philosophy, Baylor University

matthew_shea@baylor.edu

Dr. Paul Symington

Department Chair and Professor of Philosophy

Department of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville

psymington@franciscan.edu

Dr. Brandon Dahm

MA Program Director and Associate Professor of Philosophy

Department of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville

bdahm@franciscan.edu