

Ryan M. Brown

Curriculum Vitae

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[PhilPeople Profile](#)

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy. 2021

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Dissertation Title: [“Soul-Leading in Plato’s *Phaedrus* and the Iconic Character of Being”](#)

Director: Marina McCoy (Boston College)

Readers: Gary Gurtler, SJ (Boston College), Jill Gordon (Colby College)

Abstract: I argue that soul-leading (*psuchagogia*) unifies Plato’s *Phaedrus*. The dialogue’s two main themes, love (*erōs*) and language (*logos*), are both “soul-leaders” by which one can be turned toward the beautiful such that one undergoes moral and intellectual transformation. While the soul can be led back to what’s really real through the forms’ earthly images, images of beauty are uniquely radiant, and through their radiance, Beauty can present itself to the human soul in such a way that it breaks into our experience and teaches us that our ordinary experiences are best understood as iconic windows through which that which is metaphysically ultimate is able to present itself to us. The experience of the beautiful harmonizes the soul’s major motivations, which tend to be at war with each other. Soul-leading unifies not only the major themes of the dialogue but also its drama, for the main characters act as soul-leaders with respect to each other, and even the scenery itself plays a role in leading or misleading the characters’ souls. I conclude with a reflection on how Plato himself engages in an act of soul-leading in the very writing of the dialogue, prompting a reevaluation of the dialogue’s “critique of writing.”

M.A., Philosophy (interim). 2016

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

With distinction

B.A., B.S. 2013

Villanova University, Villanova, PA

Summa Cum Laude

Majors: Humanities, Mathematics, Honors

Minors: Philosophy, Classics, Theology, History

Areas of Specialization and Competence

Specialization: Ancient Philosophy (especially Plato and the Platonic tradition)

Competence: History of Philosophy, Ethics and Political Philosophy, Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Religion

Employment

Current Employment – Augmentir, 2024—Present

Augmentir is a leading developer for AI-powered connected worker software solutions.

Senior Implementation Manager, 11/2025 – Present

Implementation Manager, 7/2024 – 11/2025

Customer Success and Training Manager, 1/2024 – 7/2024

Cumulative Responsibilities: managing new customer pilots and implementations, use case development, product use consultation, support management, developing and delivering training curricula, authoring help center content and sample material

Academic Appointments

Lecturer, Catholic Studies

2023. Sacred Heart University

Visiting Lecturer, Philosophy

2021—2022. Eastern University

Additional Teaching Experience

Adjunct Lecturer, Philosophy and Humanities

2020—2025. Villanova University, Honors, Humanities, Ethics, and Political Science

2024. Sacred Heart University, Philosophy

2020—2021. Eastern University, Philosophy

2019. Fairleigh Dickinson University, Philosophy

2018, 2019. Framingham State University (China Summer Program: Beijing, Shanghai), Philosophy

High School Teacher, Philosophy, Mathematics, and Astronomy

2022—2023. Martin Saints Classical High School

Teaching Fellow, Philosophy

2015—2018. Boston College

Teaching Assistant, Mathematics

2013. Villanova University, St. Thomas of Villanova Scholars

Publications

Edited Volumes

1. 2022. [Areté in Plato and Aristotle](#). Eds. Ryan M. Brown and Jay R. Elliott. Sioux City: Parnassos Press.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. 2025. [“Plato on the Goodness of the Body.”](#) *Southwest Philosophical Review* 41.1: 13-24.
* Awarded the Presidential Prize early career scholar award by the Southwestern Philosophical Society.
2. 2024. [“The Descent of Reason: Reading Plato’s Cave as Psychic Drama.”](#) *Rhizomata* 12.2: 173-215.

3. 2024. [“Plato on the Goodness of Difference: The Convertibility of the Transcendentals in the *Sophist*.”](#) *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 38.4: 373-390.
* Awarded the Plato Prize early career scholar award by the Metaphysical Society of America.
4. 2023. [“On Reason and Hope: Plato, Pieper, and the Hopeful Structure of Reason.”](#) *Communio: International Catholic Review* 50.2: 375-421.
5. 2023. [“The Thematic Significance of the Scenery in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.”](#) *Ancient Philosophy* 43.2: 399-423.
6. 2023. [“Plato’s Use of *Mogis* \(Scarcely, With Toil\) and the Accessibility of the Divine.”](#) *Apeiron* 56.3: 519-554.
7. 2022. [“The Lovers’ Formation in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.”](#) *Epoché* 27.1: 19-50.

Book Chapters

1. 2025. [“Self-Deception, Despair, and Healing in Boethius’ *Consolation*.”](#) *Platonism through the Centuries*. Eds. R. Loredana Cardullo, Chiara Militello, and John F. Finamore. Prometheus Trust. 219-248. (Peer-reviewed)
2. 2022. [“The Liberation of Virtue in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.”](#) *Areté in Plato and Aristotle*. Eds. Ryan M. Brown and Jay R. Elliott. Sioux City: Parnassos Press. 45-74.

Academic Book Reviews

1. 2025 (online first). [“Review of Lloyd Gerson, *Plato’s Moral Realism*”](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2023). *History of Philosophy and Logical Analysis*. 1-10.
2. 2025. [“Review of Mariangela Esposito, *The Realm of Mimesis in Plato: Orality, Literacy, and the Ontology of the Image*”](#) (Brill, 2023). *Ancient Philosophy* 45.1: 286-292.
3. 2025 (online first 2024). [“Review of N. Baima and T. Paytas, *Plato’s Pragmatism: Rethinking the Relation Between Ethics and Epistemology*”](#) (Routledge, 2021). *History of Philosophy and Logical Analysis* 28.2: 360-369.
4. 2024. [“Review of Joe Sachs, *Plato’s Symposium and Phaedrus*”](#) (Paul Dry Books, 2023). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*.
5. 2023. [“Review of A.A. Long, *Plotinus: Ennead II.4: On Matter*”](#) (Parmenides, 2022). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*.

Public Articles and Book Reviews

1. (forthcoming) title tbd – essay on the value of philosophical education (*Plough Quarterly*).
2. 2025. [“The Case Against Grades.”](#) Review of J. Eylar, *Failing Our Future: How Grades Harm Students, and What We Can Do About It* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024). *Commonweal Magazine*.
3. 2025. [“Short of the Mark.”](#) *Commonweal Magazine*. (Short essay on immigration and Catholic leadership)
4. 2024. [“Who Should Study Philosophy?”](#) *Commonweal Magazine*. (Review of Jane Gatley, *Why Teach Philosophy in Schools? The Case for Philosophy on the Curriculum*, Bloomsbury, 2023).
5. 2023. [“Has College Crushed the American Dream?”](#) *Commonweal Magazine*. (Review of Will Bunch, *After the Ivory Tower Falls: How College Broke the American Dream and Blew Up Our Politics—And How to Fix It*, William Morrow, 2022).
6. 2022. [“An Epidemic of Delusions.”](#) *Commonweal Magazine*. (Review of S. Nadler and L. Shapiro, *When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People: How Philosophy Can Save Us from Ourselves*, Princeton University Press, 2021).

Works in Progress

Contracted

1. *Love, Language, and Care in Plato's Phaedrus: Leading the Soul to Beauty* (monograph)

In Progress

1. Review of Rosslyn Weiss, *Justice in Plato's Republic: The Lesson of Book I* (Cambridge, 2024). *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*.
2. Journal article on Plotinus's understanding of mysticism and embodiment
3. Journal article on the extent to which Plato adopts a "tragic" conception of philosophy's limitations
4. Public essay on race, dignity, and hope

Conference Presentations

1. 2024. "Plato on the Goodness of the Body." Southwestern Philosophical Society: Nashville
2. 2024. "The Unity of Love and Language in Plato's *Phaedrus*." Ancient Philosophy Society: Toronto
3. 2024. "Plato on the Goodness of Difference." Metaphysical Society of America: New York
4. 2023. "Self-Deception, Despair, and Healing in Boethius's *Consolation*." International Society for Neoplatonic Studies: Catania
5. 2023. "Love in the Drama of the *Phaedrus*." American Philosophical Association, Central: Denver
6. 2022. "On Reason and Hope: Plato, Pieper, and the Hopeful Structure of Reason." Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (online)
7. 2022. "Plato's Use of *Mogis* (Barely, Scarcely, With Toil)." New England Symposium on Ancient Philosophy (online)
8. 2021. "Writing, Images, and Love for Reality in Plato's *Phaedrus*." Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Annual Meeting, panel on "Plato on Maintaining a Proper Relationship to *Logos*" (online)
9. 2021. "The Liberation of Virtue in Plato's *Phaedrus*." Fonte Aretusa: Siracusa
10. 2021. "Communion with Reality in Plato's *Phaedrus* and the Descent of Beauty." International Plato Society (online)
11. 2021. "A Proto-Account of the 'Convertibility of the Transcendentals' in Plato's *Sophist*." West Coast Plato Workshop: Plato's *Sophist* (online)
12. 2021. "The Lovers' Formation in Plato's *Phaedrus*." American Philosophical Association, Pacific (online)
13. 2019. "The Interplay of Soul-Leading and the Radiance of Being: Anthropology and Ascent in *Phaedrus*." Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Annual Conference: Newport News, VA
14. 2019. "Does Plato Inhabit a Tragic Cosmos? The Question of Limitation in Platonic Thought." University of Chicago Graduate Conference in Ancient Philosophy: Chicago
15. 2019. "Plato and the Problem of Writing." Pennsylvania Circle of Ancient Philosophy, Annual Conference: Villanova, PA
16. 2014. "Speaking with God or Speaking as God: Grace and the Diabolical in Dostoevsky's Fiction." Conference on Christianity and Literature: Wenham, MA

Invited Talks, Comments, Service Talks, and Other Presentations

Invited Talks

1. 2025. "Become the *Logos* That You Are: Plotinus Contra Jaspers on Mysticism and Rationality." Karl Jaspers Society of North America (online; previously invited to present at the 2024 World Congress of Philosophy in Rome, but unable to attend)

2022. "Eros and Care in Plato." The D Society, University of Cambridge (online)

Comments

2025. Comment on Max Wade, "'The True Meeting of the Minds': Plotinus on Assemblies, Decision-Making, and Collective Agency." Ancient Philosophy Society: Philadelphia, PA
2022. Comment on Van Tu, "The Reasons of Love in Plato's *Phaedrus*." Ancient Philosophy Society: State College, PA
2016. Comment on J.M. Robitzsch, "The Epicurean Critique of the Platonic Form of Justice: A Commentary on KD 33." Ancient Philosophy Society: Portland, ME

Service and Departmental Talks

2023. "Chesterton: Reason, Faith, and Madness." St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program (seminar for pre-seminarians)
2023. "Race and Human Dignity." Martin Saints Classical High School (school-wide lecture)
2022. "On Reason and Hope." Eastern University, Philosophical Society (lecture)
2021. "Can the True Be Good?" Villanova University (lecture for honors cohort)
2020. "Can the Good Be True?" Villanova University (lecture for honors cohort)
2017. "Groundwork for a Wittgensteinian Description of *Lebensform*-Conversion." Boston College Contemporary Philosophy Symposium: Chestnut Hill, MA

Courses (Instructor of Record)¹

Introductory Courses and Core Humanities

Augustine and Culture Seminar (interdisciplinary humanities), Villanova University
Goodness (Good, True, Beautiful Sequence; 1 honors section, F 2020)
Moderns (Ancients and Moderns Sequence; 2 honors sections: S 2021 x1; S 2020 x1)
Truth (Good, True, Beautiful Sequence; 1 honors section, S 2021)

First Year Writing Seminar
 Sacred Heart University (2 sections: F 2023 x2)

Human Journeys Seminar (interdisciplinary humanities), Sacred Heart University
CIT I: Ancients and Medievals (2 sections: F 2023 x2)

Introduction to Philosophy
 Eastern University (2 sections: S 2022 x1; F 2021 x1)
 Framingham State University (2 sections: Beijing, Sum. 2019 x1; Shanghai, Sum. 2018 x1)

Philosophy of the Person Sequence, Boston College
Person I: Ancients and Medievals (3 sections: F 2017 x1; F 2016 x1; F 2015 x1)
Person II: Moderns and Contemporaries (3 sections: S 2018 x1; S 2017 x1; S 2016 x1)

History of Philosophy

Ancient Philosophy
 Sacred Heart University (1 section: Sum. 2024)

¹ All courses were in person except *Moderns* (S 2020, synchronous; S 2021, hybrid/simulcast), the Summer 2023 section of *Introduction to Political Philosophy* (asynchronous), and the Summer 2024 section of *Ancient Philosophy* (asynchronous).

Eastern University (1 section: F 2021)
Framingham State University (2 sections: Shanghai, Sum. 2018)

Continental Philosophy

Eastern University (1 section: S 2021)

Medieval Philosophy

Eastern University (1 section: S 2022)

Ethics and Political Philosophy

Ethics

Villanova University (2 sections: F 2021)
Fairleigh Dickinson University (2 sections: F 2019)

Introduction to Political Philosophy

Villanova University (5 sections: Sum. 2023 x1; F 2022 x1; S 2022 x2; F 2021 x1)

Race, Dignity, and the Common Good

Villanova University (2 sections: S 2025 x1; S 2023 x1)

Philosophy of Religion

Faith and Philosophy

Eastern University (3 sections: S 2022 x1; F 2021 x1; F 2020 x1)

High School Courses (Martin Saints)

Ancient Philosophy (1 section: 2022-2023) [Plato's trial and death dialogues]

Modern Philosophy (1 section: 2022-2023) [classics of modern philosophy from Machiavelli to Nietzsche]

Astronomy (2 sections: 2022-2023)

Pre-calculus (1 section: 2022-2023)

Languages

Ancient Greek, reading proficiency
Classical Latin, reading competency

German, reading competency
Spanish, reading competency

Awards, Grants, Fellowships, Honors

Awards

- 2024. Southwestern Philosophical Society, Presidential Prize (awarded for "Plato on the Goodness of the Body," selected as the best paper submitted to the society's annual conference by an early career scholar)
- 2024. Metaphysical Society of America, Plato Prize (awarded for "Plato on the Goodness of Difference," selected as the best paper submitted to the society's annual conference by an early career scholar)

Grants

- 2023. International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, Early Career Travel Grant (competitively funded to present at the ISNS annual meeting in Sicily)
- 2023. APA, Travel Grant (funded to present at the APA Central)
- 2022 (declined). The Parnassos Press Bursary (funded to study Plato's *Euthyphro* in Greek)

2014—2021. Dean's Travel Grant, Boston College (funded to present at various conferences)

Fellowships and Scholarships

2020—2021. Dissertation Fellowship, Boston College
 2018—2019. University Fellowship, Boston College
 2014—2019. Presidential Scholarship, Boston College

Other Honors

2013. Phi Beta Kappa, Villanova University
 2013. Pi Mu Epsilon, Villanova University
 2013. Karol Wojtyła Award for Excellence in the Humanities, Villanova University

Professional Organizations

American Philosophical Association
 Ancient Philosophy Society
 International Plato Society

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy
 International Society for Neoplatonic Studies

Service to the Profession

Peer Reviewing:

Ancient Philosophy (2023 x1; 2022 x1)
Apeiron (2023 x1)
Classical Philology (2025 x 1)
Eirene: Studia Graeca et Latina (2024 x1)
Epoché (2024 x1)

Conference Organization:

2025: program committee member, Ancient Philosophy Society annual meeting
 2021: co-organizer, Panel on "Plato on Maintaining a Proper Relationship to *Logos*," SAGP
 2017: co-organizer, Third Annual Symposium in Contemporary Philosophy, Boston College
 2016: co-organizer, Philosophy of the History of Philosophy Graduate Conference, Boston College
 2015: co-organizer, Philosophy of the History of Philosophy Workshop, Boston College
 2015: assistant organizer (to John Sallis), conference on Plato's *Statesman*, Boston College

Conference Sessions Chaired:

2023: American Philosophical Association, Central. Colloquium: Socrates on Wisdom and Expertise
 2021: Fonte Aretusa Interdisciplinary Symposium (on Virtue), Paper Session
 2021: American Philosophical Association, Pacific. Colloquium: Plato's *Republic*

Research Assistant (Copyediting, Indexing)

2014-2015: John Sallis, Boston College
 Copyediting: *The Figure of Nature* (2016), *The Return of Nature* (2016), *Senses of Landscape* (2015; + indexing)
 2014-2015: Ronald Tacelli, Boston College
 Copyediting: *Ontology* (translation of Bela Weissmahr, *Ontologie*; forthcoming)
 2013-2014: Paul Danove, Villanova University
 Copyediting: *New Testament Verbs of Communication: A Case Frame and Exegetical Study* (2015), "The *Aiteo/Aietomai* Distinction in the New Testament: A Proposal", "Rhetorical Applications of New Testament Verbs of Communication with Contrasting Secondary Emphasis", "'Deriving' and Describing Usages of *Tithemi* and *Tithemi* Compounds in the Septuagint and New Testament"

Professional References

Marina McCoy, Professor, Philosophy, Boston College

mccoyma@bc.edu

Gary Gurtler, Professor, Philosophy, Boston College

gurtlerg@bc.edu

Jill Gordon, Professor Emerita, Philosophy, Colby College

jpgordon@colby.edu

Charles Gillespie, Assistant Professor, Catholic Studies, Sacred Heart University

gillespiec4@sacredheart.edu

Amy Richards, Affiliate Professor, Philosophy, Eastern University

Arichar1@eastern.edu