

# Ryan M. Brown

*Curriculum Vitae*

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Sacred Heart University  
Catholic Studies  
5151 Park Ave  
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## Education

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### 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: This dissertation argues that soul-leading (*psuchagogia*) unifies Plato’s *Phaedrus*. The dialogue’s two main themes, love (*erōs*) and beautiful language (*logos*), are both “soul-leaders” by which one can be turned toward the beautiful such that one undergoes moral and intellectual transformation as 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. The dissertation concludes 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

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

**Competence:** History of Philosophy, Ethics and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

## Employment

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### Current Employment

2023—Present. Sacred Heart University. Lecturer in Catholic Studies.

### Past Employment

#### As High School Teacher

2022—2023. Martin Saints Classical High School. Teacher of Philosophy, Mathematics, and Astronomy

**As Visiting Lecturer of Philosophy**

2021—2022. Eastern University

**As Adjunct Lecturer of Philosophy**

2020—2023. Villanova University. Adjunct Lecturer in the Honors Program, the Ethics Program, the Humanities Department, and the Political Science Department

2020—2021. Eastern University

2019. Fairleigh Dickinson University

2018—2019. Framingham State University (China Summer Program, in Beijing and Shanghai)

**As Teaching Fellow in Philosophy**

2015—2018. Boston College

**As Teaching Assistant in Mathematics**

2013. Villanova University, St. Thomas of Villanova Scholars (bridge program for incoming students)

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**Publications**

**Edited Volumes**

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

**Peer-Reviewed Articles**

1. 2023. (forthcoming) “On Reason and Hope: Plato, Pieper, and the Hopeful Structure of Reason.” *Communio: International Catholic Review* 50.2.
2. 2023. (forthcoming) “The Thematic Significance of the Scenery in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.” *Ancient Philosophy* 43.2.
3. 2023. [“Plato’s Use of \*Mogis\* \(Scarcely, With Toil\) and the Accessibility of the Divine.”](#) *Apeiron* 56.3: 519-554.
4. 2022. [“The Lovers’ Formation in Plato’s \*Phaedrus\*.”](#) *Epoché* 27.1: 19-50.

**Book Chapters**

1. 2022. [“The Liberation of Virtue in Plato’s \*Phaedrus\*.”](#) *Aretē in Plato and Aristotle*. Eds. Ryan M. Brown and Jay R. Elliott. Sioux City: Parnassos Press. 45-74.

**Reviews and Public Pieces**

1. 2023. May. [“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).
2. 2022. Sept. [“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).
3. 2023. (forthcoming) “Review of A.A. Long, *Plotinus: Ennead II.4: On Matter* (Parmenides, 2022)” *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*.

## Works in Progress

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### Under Review

1. “The Descent of Reason: Reading Plato’s Cave as Psychic Drama.”
2. Review of Jane Gatley, *Why Teach Philosophy in Schools? The Case for Philosophy on the Curriculum* (for *Commonweal Magazine*)

### In Progress

1. *Leading the Soul to Beauty: Anthropology and Ascent in Plato’s Phaedrus* (revision of my dissertation)
2. “Self-Deception, Despair, and Healing in Boethius’s *Consolation*”
3. “A Palinode to *Pharmakeia*? Writing, Images, and Love for Reality in Plato”
4. “Race, Dignity, and Hope” (public piece)
5. Review of N. Baima and T. Paytas, *Plato’s Pragmatism: Rethinking the Relationship between Ethics and Epistemology* (for *History of Philosophy and Logical Analysis*)

## Invited Talks

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1. 2022. “Eros and Care in Plato.” The D Society, University of Cambridge (online)

## Conference Presentations

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1. 2023. “Self-Deception, Despair, and Healing in Boethius’s *Consolation*.” International Society for Neoplatonic Studies: Catania, Sicily
2. 2023. “Love in the Drama of the *Phaedrus*.” American Philosophical Association, Central: Denver
3. 2022. “On Reason and Hope: Plato, Pieper, and the Hopeful Structure of Reason.” Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (online)
4. 2022. “Plato’s Use of *Mogis* (Barely, Scarcely, With Toil).” New England Symposium on Ancient Philosophy (online)
5. 2022. “Comment on Van Tu, ‘The Reasons of Love in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.’” Ancient Philosophy Society: State College, PA
6. 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)
7. 2021. “The Liberation of Virtue in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.” Fonte Aretusa, Symposium on the Heritage of Western Greece: Siracusa, Sicily
8. 2021. “Communion With Reality in Plato’s *Phaedrus* and the Descent of Beauty.” International Plato Society, Midterm Meeting: Lima, Peru (online)
9. 2021. “A Proto-Account of the ‘Convertibility of the Transcendentals’ in Plato’s *Sophist*.” West Coast Plato Workshop: Plato’s *Sophist* (online)
10. 2021. “The Lovers’ Formation in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific (online)
11. 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
12. 2019. “Does Plato Inhabit a Tragic Cosmos? The Question of Limitation in Platonic Thought.” University of Chicago Graduate Conference in Ancient Philosophy: Chicago
13. 2019. “Plato and the Problem of Writing.” Pennsylvania Circle of Ancient Philosophy, Annual Conference: Villanova, PA
14. 2016. “Comment on J.M. Robitzsch, ‘The Epicurean Critique of the Platonic Form of Justice: A Commentary on KD 33.’” Ancient Philosophy Society, Annual Meeting: Portland, ME

15. 2014. “Speaking with God or Speaking as God: Grace and the Diabolical in Dostoevsky’s Fiction.”  
Conference on Christianity and Literature: Wenham, MA

## **Courses (Instructor of Record)<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Introductory Courses**

#### *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)

#### *First Year Writing Seminar*

Sacred Heart University (4 sections: F 2023 x2; S 2024 x2)

#### *Philosophy of the Person Sequence*

Boston College: *Person I: Ancients and Medievalists* (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)

#### *Human Journeys Seminar*

Sacred Heart University: *Semester I: Ancients and Medievalists* (2 sections: F 2023 x2)

#### *Moderns* (interdisciplinary humanities: Ancients and Moderns sequence)

Villanova University (2 honors section: S 2021 x1; S 2020 x1)

#### *Goodness* (interdisciplinary humanities: Good, True, Beautiful Sequence)

Villanova University (1 honors section: F 2020)

#### *Truth* (interdisciplinary humanities: Good, True, Beautiful Sequence)

Villanova University (1 honors section: S 2021)

### **History of Philosophy**

#### *Ancient Philosophy*

Eastern University (1 section: F 2021)

Framingham State University (2 sections: Shanghai, Sum. 2018)

#### *Medieval Philosophy*

Eastern University (1 section: S 2022)

#### *Continental Philosophy*

Eastern University (1 section: S 2021)

### **Ethics, Political Philosophy, and Social Justice**

#### *Race and Democratic Dignity*

Villanova University (1 section: S 2023)

#### *Introduction to Political Philosophy*

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

#### *Ethics*

Villanova University (2 sections: F 2021)

Fairleigh Dickinson University (2 sections: F 2019)

### **Philosophy of Religion**

#### *Faith and Philosophy*

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

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<sup>1</sup> All courses listed were 100% in person except both sections of *Moderns* (S 2020, switched to online synchronous; S 2021, hybrid/simulcast) and the Summer 2023 section of *Introduction to Political Philosophy* (online asynchronous).

**High School Courses** (Martin Saints)

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

*Philosophy in the Modern World* (1 section: 2022-2023) [classics of modern philosophy from Machiavelli to Nietzsche alongside 20<sup>th</sup> century respondents; emphasis on ethics and political philosophy]

*Astronomy* (2 sections: 2022-2023)

*Pre-calculus* (1 section: 2022-2023)

**Service Talks**

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1. 2023. "Chesterton: Reason, Faith, and Madness." Philadelphia Catholic Scholars Program
2. 2023. "Race and Human Dignity." Martin Saints Classical High School (School-wide lecture)
3. 2022. "On Reason and Hope." Eastern University, Philosophical Society
4. 2021. "Can the True Be Good?" Villanova University (Lecture for the Good-True-Beautiful seminar)
5. 2020. "Can the Good Be True?" Villanova University (Lecture for the Good-True-Beautiful seminar)
6. 2017. "Groundwork for a Wittgensteinian Description of *Lebensform*-Conversion." Boston College, Contemporary Philosophy Symposium

**Languages**

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Ancient Greek, reading proficiency  
Classical Latin, reading competency

German, reading competency  
Spanish, reading competency

**Awards and Honors**

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**Grants**

2023. International Society for Neoplatonic Studies Early Career Travel Grant (Funded to present at the ISNS annual meeting in Sicily; \$1000)

2023. APA Travel Grant (Funded to present at the APA Central; \$300)

2022. The Parnassos Press Bursary (Funded to study Plato's *Euthyphro* in Greek; >\$525; declined)

2014—2021. Dean's Travel Grant, Boston College (total >\$1400)

**Fellowships and Scholarships**

2020—2021. Dissertation Fellowship, Boston College

2018—2019. University Fellowship, Boston College

2014—2019. Presidential Scholarship, Boston College

**Awards and Honor Societies**

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**

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American Philosophical Association  
Ancient Philosophy Society  
International Plato Society

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy  
International Society for Neoplatonic Studies

## Service to the Profession

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**Peer Reviewing:** *Ancient Philosophy* (2023—present), *Apeiron* (2023—present)

**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*

**Conference Organization:**

- 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

**Research Assistant (Copyediting, Indexing)**

- 2014-2015: John Sallis, Boston College
  - Copyediting: *The Figure of Nature* (2016), *The Return of Nature* (2016)
  - Copyediting and indexing: *Senses of Landscape* (2015)
- 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

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Marina McCoy, Professor, Philosophy, Boston College  
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Gary Gurtler, Professor, Philosophy, Boston College  
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Mark Shiffman, Associate Professor, Humanities, Villanova University  
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Amy Richards, Affiliate Professor, Philosophy, Eastern University  
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