

MICHAEL DEBORD-HALL

Ph.D. Student, Department of Philosophy, Baylor University
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EDUCATION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. Philosophy	In Progress
Department of Philosophy	

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

M.A. Philosophy (<i>summa cum laude</i>)	2025
Department of Philosophy	
Thesis Portfolio: <i>Refining Fine: Navigating Quantification and Ontology</i>	
Supervisor: Paul Symington	
Thesis Committee: Patrick Lee (Faculty Referee), Patrick Duffley (External Examiner)	

REFORMATION BIBLE COLLEGE

B.A. Theological Studies (<i>cum laude</i>)	2021
Senior Thesis: <i>A Tautological Method of Human Life: Ethics, Language, and Activity in the Thought of Ludwig Wittgenstein</i>	
Abbreviated Version Published (2023)	
Revised Chapter Published (2024)	
Supervisor: Anthony Salangsang	
Committee: Keith Mathison (Primary Examiner), John Tweeddale (Secondary Examiner)	

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

“Tractarian Ethics: A Transcendental Vision” <i>Wittgenstein-Studien</i> 15: 1-15	2024
“The Question of Wittgensteinian Thomism: Grammar and Metaphysics” <i>Southwest Philosophy Review</i> 40 (1): 217-28	2024
“Instantiating a Transcendental Vision: Recontextualizing Tractarian Ethics” in <i>What Can be Shown Cannot be Said: Proceedings of International Ludwig Wittgenstein Symposium</i> , eds. Ines Skelac and Ante Belić. Berlin: Lit Verlag	2023

RESEARCH (*-accepted; **-under review)

Ontology & Quantification

“Actuality and Existential Quantity: Extending Geach’s Insight”

PRESENTED:

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division 2025

Society for the Study of the History of Analytic Philosophy, University of Connecticut 2024

American Maritain Association, St. Bernard’s School of Theology 2024

“Refining Fine: Navigating Quantification and Ontology”

PRESENTED:

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division* 2026

Southwestern Philosophical Society, Georgia Southern University** 2025

“Two Concepts of Existence, or What David Braine Can Offer Analytic Metaontology”

PRESENTED:

Philosophy Graduate Conference, University of Massachusetts, Amherst** 2025

American Catholic Philosophical Association, University of Notre Dame** 2025

American Maritain Association, Ave Maria University 2025

“Existence, Tense, and Quantification: Extending Sullivan’s Argument”

PRESENTED:

Philosophy Graduate Student Association, Saint Louis University 2024

“Does Neo-Quinean Metaontology Rest on a Mistake?”

RESEARCHING

“The Concept of Reality: Kit Fine and Alternative Reality Primitivisms”

RESEARCHING

Modality and Possible Worlds

“The Differentiation Problem for Possible Worlds and Neo-Aristotelian Ontological Frameworks”

REVISING

“The Differentiation Problem for Possible Worlds Ontologies”

RESEARCHING

“A Neo-Aristotelian Ontological Framework for Possible Worlds”

RESEARCHING

Neo-Aristotelianism and Theories of Meaning

“Groundwork for Neo-Aristotelian Theories of Meaning”

PRESENTED:

American Catholic Philosophical Association, University of Notre Dame**

2025

“Category Semantics Revisited,” with Paul Symington

RESEARCHING

Interpreting & Applying Wittgenstein

“Tractarian Ethics: A Transcendental Vision”

PUBLISHED:

Wittgenstein-Studien 15: 1-15

2024

PRESENTED:

Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference, Harvard University

2023

“The Question of Wittgensteinian Thomism: Grammar and Metaphysics”

PUBLISHED:

Southwest Philosophy Review 40.1: 217-28

2024

PRESENTED:

Southwestern Philosophical Society, Baylor University

2023

“Instantiation a Transcendental Vision: Recontextualizing Tractarian Ethics”

PUBLISHED:

What Can be Shown Cannot be Said: Proceedings of International Ludwig Wittgenstein Symposium, eds. Ines Skelac and Ante Belić. Berlin: Lit Verlag

2023

PRESENTED:

International Ludwig Wittgenstein Symposium, University of Zagreb

2021

“Wittgenstein’s Neglected Influence on Anscombe’s *Modern Moral Philosophy*”

REVISING

“From Practices to Virtue: Wittgenstein’s Influence in MacIntyre’s Account of the Virtues”

DRAFTING

Misc. Papers in Progress

“The Metaphysics of Moral Evil and Opposition to the Good: A Reply to Crosby”

PREP. FOR SUBMISSION, TARGET JOURNAL: *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*

PRESENTED:

American Catholic Philosophical Association, University of St. Thomas (Houston)

2023

“What’s Still Wrong with Tooley’s Argument from Evil,” with Mark Jennings

PRESENTED:

Society of Christian Philosophers, Midwest Meeting**

2025

- “The Purity of Tradition, or Why Truth-as-Subjectivity is Necessary for a Living Tradition,”
with P. R. Knight
PRESENTED:
Eighth International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life** 2026
- “Robertsian Thomism: Roberts *with* Aquinas on Emotions and the Virtues,” with Brandon Dahm
DRAFTING
- “Quantum Hylomorphism: An Appraisal,” with Myles DeBord-Hall
RESEARCHING

OTHER CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Divine Exemplarism: An Alternative Solution to the Problem of God and Abstract Objects” 2024
American Catholic Philosophical Association, Loyola University
- “Eternally Present Singularities: A Boethian Reply to MacIntyre” 2023
Philosophy Graduate Student Association, Saint Louis University
- “Individuality, Personality, and the Common Good between Maritain and De Koninck” 2023
American Maritain Association, University of Dallas

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- “Groundwork for Neo-Aristotelian Theories of Meaning” 2025
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “Existence, Tense, and Quantification: Extending Sullivan’s Argument” 2024
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “Does Geach’s Frege-Aquinas Parallel Secure Existence as a First-Order Predicate?” 2024
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “What’s Still Wrong with Tooley’s Argument from Evil” 2023
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “The Interplay of Being and Goodness: A Thomist–Scotist Synthesis” 2023
Hounds of Heaven Philosophy Series, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “Eternally Present Singularities: A Boethian Reply to MacIntyre” 2023
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “Wittgenstein’s Tractarian Ethics” 2023
Hounds of Heaven Philosophy Series, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “Evil as Privation and Vice as Habitus in Aquinas” 2022
Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville
- “After Polity: The Simulacra of Politics and Genuine Polity” 2022
Veritas Society, Franciscan University of Steubenville

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Contemporary Political Philosophy (Caleb Henry)	2025
Philosophical Texts of Anscombe (Alex Plato)	2024
Foundations of Politics & Government (Caleb Henry)	2024

SUBSTITUTE LECTURING

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

TUTORING SEMINARS

“How to Write a Research Paper”	2025
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TUTOR POSITIONS

Graduate Assistant Student Mentor	2023
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REFORMATION BIBLE COLLEGE

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Contemporary Philosophy (Paul Helm)	2021
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TUTORING SEMINARS

“Learning to Read Well: Critical Reading Seminar”	2020
“Research Methodology Seminar”	2019, 2020

TUTOR POSITIONS

Study Center Tutor, Reformation Bible College	2019-2021
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ROCK ACADEMY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

DIRECT TEACHING

Middle School History, 5th-8th Grade 2021-2022

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

Teaching Assistant to Alex Plato, Department of Philosophy 2024

AMERICAN MARITAIN ASSOCIATION

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

REFORMATION BIBLE COLLEGE

Research Assistant to Keith Mathison, Department of Theology 2018-2021

ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE (*-accepted; **-under review)

“The Philosophy of David Braine,” Satellite Session, American Catholic Philosophical Association** 2025

“The Philosophy of David Braine,” Satellite Session, American Maritain Association 2025

Graduate Philosophy Student Colloquium, Franciscan University of Steubenville 2024-2025

Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus* Reading Group, Franciscan University of Steubenville 2024

MEMBERSHIPS

American Catholic Philosophical Association (ACPA)

American Maritain Association (AMA)

American Philosophical Association (APA)

British Wittgenstein Society (BWS)

International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry (ISME)

Nordic Wittgenstein Society (NWS)

Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics (SMLM)

COURSEWORK

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY (*-in progress)

Philosophical Writing (Charity Anderson)*

Topics in Metaphysics: Philosophy of Time (Alexander Pruss)*
Arabic & Syriac Aristotelianism (Bryan Reece)*

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

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

RELEVANT UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK

Directed Readings in Aristotle, Independent Study (Keith Mathison)
Topics in Philosophy: Friendship, Independent Study (Anthony Salangsang)
Anthropology & Ethics, Independent Study (Michael Sacasas)
Contemporary Philosophy (John Wingard)
Modern Philosophy (Michael Sacasas)
Medieval Philosophy, Independent Study (Christopher Cleveland)
Ancient Philosophy (Michael Sacasas)

REFERENCES

Dr. Paul Symington (Thesis Portfolio Supervisor)
Department Chair & Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville
psymington@franciscan.edu

Dr. Brandon Dahm (Academic Supervisor)
MA Program Director & Associate Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville
bdahm@franciscan.edu

Dr. Matthew Shea
Associate Director of the Center for Bioethics & Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville
mshea@franciscan.edu