

## **Robert McNamara, Ph.D.**

<https://philpeople.org/profiles/robert-mcnamara>

<https://franciscan.academia.edu/robertmcnamara>

A philosophy, theology, physics, and applied sciences graduate, lecturing for the philosophy and theology departments of Franciscan University of Steubenville as a Visiting Assistant Professor with a research focus on metaphysics and anthropology, Thomism and phenomenology; an associate member of faculty of the International Theological Institute, Austria, the Maryvale Institute, England, and the Priory Institute, Ireland; a founding member of the Aquinas Institute of Ireland; and a fellow of the Hildebrand Project.

### **CAREER**

#### **Franciscan University of Steubenville, Gaming, Austria (2014 – present)**

Visiting assistant professor, based on Franciscan's study abroad campus in Austria, responsible for teaching a broad range of undergraduate core and graduate special topics courses in philosophy and theology, including the following: 'Introduction to Metaphysics', 'Foundations of Ethics', 'Philosophy of the Human Person', 'Honors: The Renaissance', 'The Thought of Edith Stein', 'The Theology of the Body', 'Christian Marriage', 'Christian Moral Principles', and 'Foundations of Catholicism'. Many of these courses are comprised of readings taken from the original texts of the great masters of the western tradition and centered upon an exposition of the thought of Thomas Aquinas. In addition to my teaching duties, I oversee 'Philosophy on Tap' events on campus, providing an informal philosophical forum for the student body dealing with topics of contemporary relevance.

#### **International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria (2019 – present)**

Associate member of faculty responsible for teaching a graduate course in philosophical and theological anthropology, 'Philosophical and Theological Perspectives on the Human Person', according to the Socratic mode of learning for the Master of Marriage and Family program.

#### **Maryvale Institute, Birmingham, England (2017 – present)**

Associate member of faculty responsible for teaching a graduate theology course, 'Love and Fruitfulness: Marriage and Family in the Teaching of the Church', for the Master of Arts program.

#### **Priory Institute, Dublin, Ireland (2018 – present)**

Associate member of faculty engaged in designing and teaching a module in philosophical anthropology, 'Philosophical Anthropology in Aquinas', for the Master of Arts program, due for delivery in the coming academic year.

#### **Aquinas Institute of Ireland (2011 – present)**

Founding member and current secretary of the Aquinas Institute of Ireland, an association of Catholic academics dedicated to promoting the study of the thought Thomas Aquinas among students of philosophy and theology, responsible for tutoring at the annual Aquinas summer school where we perform a close reading of selected extracts of Aquinas' *corpus* in small seminar groups.

**Ballyfermot College of Further Education, Dublin, Ireland (2003 – 2004)**

Primary lecturer of the Preliminary Engineering Course, responsible for teaching 'Physics', 'Mathematics', 'Applied Mathematics', and 'Introduction to Computing'. This particular course of Ballyfermot College was run in conjunction with Dublin Institute of Technology.

**Pure in Heart (Catholic Youth Movement and Charity), Dublin, Ireland (2005 – 2007)**

Member of the management team that oversaw the youth movement and charity, and moderator of the organizations' day to day running while also responsible for speaking as a member of the outreach team, facilitating retreats and delivering talks on the truth and meaning of human sexuality to youth throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom.

**Avaya International, Galway, Ireland (2011 – 2014)**

Design and development engineer for Avaya's proprietary Contact Centre application suite, responsible for design and implementation of web communications architecture and features of Avaya's next generation Contact Centre.

**WBT Systems, Dublin, Ireland (2005)**

Senior engineer with programming responsibilities ranging throughout WBT's E-Learning package.

**Nortel Networks, Galway, Ireland (1998 – 2003)**

Development engineer and source control manager for Nortel's proprietary Call Centre application suite, responsible for software design and implementation in addition to management of the software configuration environment.

## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy (2014 – 2019)**

**Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, England**

Doctoral dissertation in philosophical anthropology titled, *Edith Stein's engagement with the Thought of Thomas Aquinas in Her Mature Philosophy of the Human Person*, under the supervision of Mette Lebeck, Maynooth University, Ireland, and Marian Maskulak, St. John's University, New York, successfully defended without correction on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019.

In this work I investigate Edith Stein's later philosophical works, primarily *Endliches und ewiges Sein* and *Der Aufbau der menschlichen Person*, with respect to the question of the human

person, to reveal in what way she engages the thought of Thomas Aquinas while continuing to practice philosophy according to the phenomenological method of investigation. Through an examination of Stein's works under the themes of human nature, the human individual, and the human being's relation to God, I show that Stein integrates central metaphysical and anthropological teachings of Aquinas into her later philosophical anthropology and thereby decisively grounds her mature anthropology in the Thomistic tradition while simultaneously providing a conceptual development and expansion of that same tradition. These teachings include the classical definition of the person, the substantial unity of human nature and the soul as form of the body, and the analogy of being understood as an analogy of proportionality. Throughout the investigation, I seek to highlight the deep accord in the mature thought of Stein with the received teachings of Aquinas while also attending to outstanding disagreements, most notably those regarding formal structure of human nature and formal basis of being an individual. Accordingly, I suggest that Stein can to a limited degree be read as a Thomist, if by Thomist one understands a living philosophical engagement with and integration of central Thomistic theses; and, that Stein's mature anthropology can to a limited degree be understood as a Thomistic anthropology, inasmuch as it contains central Thomistic teachings now reinterpreted through their distinctive phenomenological personalization.

This research work was co-administered by the Maryvale Institute, England, under the umbrella of their program in Catholic Studies, and by the faculty of theology at Liverpool Hope University, England, the ultimate administrative and awarding body of the degree.

### **Master of Theological Studies (2007 – 2009) [*Summa cum laude*]**

#### **International Theological Institute, Gaming, Austria**

Course of theological studies grounded in a rigorous curriculum of philosophy and theology (engaging primary texts of Aristotle and Aquinas), with a concentration in anthropology and marriage and family courses, while also including related courses in psychology and politics.

*Subject Areas:* 'Natural Philosophy', 'Philosophical Anthropology', 'Human Acts and the Final End', 'Virtue and Vice', 'Bioethics', 'Introduction to Sacred Scripture', 'The Synoptic Gospels', 'The Gospel of John', 'Human Love and Sexuality', 'The Christian Meaning of Masculinity and Femininity', 'Theological Anthropology: The Spousal Meaning of the Body', 'Marriage Sacrament and Spirituality', 'Marriage and Family in Magisterial Documents', 'Marital Chastity and Communication', 'The Psychology of the Couple', 'Child Development', 'Canon Law of Marriage and Family', 'Secular Law of Marriage and Family', 'Marriage and Family in Society', 'Implementation of Marriage and Family Projects', and 'Latin'.

*Positions Held:* Student Representative to Faculty; Editor of *Vox Cervi* (student annual).

**Bachelor of Philosophy, Higher Diploma in Philosophy (2009 – 2011) [*1<sup>st</sup> Class Honors*]**

**National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth**

Higher diploma in philosophy completed as a bachelor's degree through a directed research project on a chosen philosophical theme submitted as an undergraduate thesis.

*Subjects Areas:* 'Introduction to Philosophy', 'Introduction to Greek Philosophy', 'Medieval Philosophy', 'Philosophical Anthropology', 'Metaphysics I and II', 'Moral Philosophy I', 'Logic', and 'Philosophy of Religion I and II', 'Philosophy of Aquinas', 'Political Philosophy', 'Introduction to Hermeneutics', 'Politics and Morals in Contemporary Philosophy', 'The Philosophy of Natural Science', 'Introduction to Renaissance Philosophy', 'Introduction to Chinese Philosophy', 'Philosophy into Fiction', 'Irish Philosophers and Philosophy', and 'Greek'.

*Undergraduate Dissertations:* 'On Conscience in Aquinas' (Diploma; *1<sup>st</sup> Class Honors*); 'A Philosophy of the Heart in Dietrich von Hildebrand' (Degree; *2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honors*).

*Positions Held:* President of the Pope John Paul II Theological Society.

**Higher Diploma in Theological Studies (2005 – 2006) [*2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honors*]**

**St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth**

*Subject Areas:* 'Systematic Theology', 'Moral Theology; Scripture', 'Foundations of Worship', 'Foundations of Religious Education', 'Christian Art', and 'Theology of the Word'.

**Higher Diploma in Applied Science (2000 – 2001) [*2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honors*]**

**National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland**

*Subject Areas:* 'Computer Systems', 'Algorithms and Logical Methods', 'Application Programming', 'Database Development', 'Software Engineering Methods', 'Object Oriented Design', 'Computing Architecture and Operating Systems', 'GIU and Object Oriented Programming', 'Human Computer Interaction', 'Computer Communications', 'Embedded Systems'.

**Bachelor of Science (Physics) (1995 – 1998) [*2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honors*]**

**National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland**

Bachelor's degree in natural science with a concentration in (experimental) physics.

*Subject Areas:* 'Experimental Physics', 'Mathematical Physics', 'Mathematics', 'Chemistry', 'Computer Modelling', 'High Level Language Programming', 'Meteorology', 'Experimental and Mathematical Physics', 'Applied Mathematical Science' 'Solid State Electronics', 'Quantum Physics', 'Signals Analysis', 'Materials and Instrumentation Physics', 'Electronics and Devices', 'Light Electromagnetism and X-rays'.

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### Peer Reviewed Academic Articles (Forthcoming)

- 'The Concept of Christian Philosophy in Edith Stein', in *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, 94.2 (forthcoming: 2020).

A critical examination of Edith Stein's concept of 'Christian philosophy', accomplished through setting it in contrast to 'the Thomistic solution' as presented by Jacques Maritain, and upon which Stein's solution to the question foundationally relies, thereby manifesting the significance of Stein's position while concurrently assessing its philosophical validity.

- 'The Cognition of the Human Individual in the Mature Thought of Edith Stein', in *Philosophical News, a Publication of the European Society for Moral Philosophy*, ed. Elisa Grimi, 16 (forthcoming: 2019).

An investigation of the manner the human being attains knowledge of the 'being-individual' and 'qualitative individuality' of the self (and the other) as a spiritual and personal I, showing that Stein thereby resolves a metaphysical problem she discerns in the Thomistic presentation of the human individual by recourse to the cognitive givenness of the spiritual and personal I.

### Peer Reviewed Academic Articles

- 'Human Individuality in Stein's Mature Works' in *Edith Steins Herausforderung heutiger Anthropologie*, ed. by Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkovitz and Mette Lebech (Heiligenkreuz: Be&Be, 2017), pp. 124-39.

An expository presentation of Edith Stein's complex metaphysical presentation of the human being as individual, accomplished through highlighting the significance of the multi-layered structuration of the human being—as a material thing, a living being, and a spiritual person—for the constitution of the human being precisely as an individual.

- 'Essence in Edith Stein's *Festschrift* Dialogue' in *Alles Wesentliche lässt sich nicht schreiben*, ed. by Andreas Speer and Stephen Regh (Freiburg i. Br.: Herder, 2016), pp. 175-94.

An analysis of Edith Stein's understanding of the commonality (and differences) to be found in Thomas Aquinas and Edmund Husserl's understandings of essence and the cognition of essences, thus showing how the mature Stein can continue to employ the phenomenological method while engaging the Thomistic metaphysical schema and assimilating its teachings.

### Book Reviews

- *History of the Concept of Mind*, Vols. 1-2, by Paul S. MacDonald (England: Ashgate, 2003), in the *Yearbook of the Irish Philosophical Society* (2014/15), pp. 175-83.

### Academic Presentations

- 'Edith Stein's Understanding of Human Unity and Bodily Formation', Paper Presentation at the 5<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual International Conference of the International Association for the Study of

the Philosophy of Edith Stein (IASPES), University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany, August 2019.

- ‘Personal Authenticity’, Panel Input at the Hildebrand Project Summer Seminar, Steubenville, OH, U.S.A., July 2019.
- ‘Gender and Virtue’, Panel Input at the Hildebrand Project Summer Seminar, Steubenville, OH, U.S.A., July 2019.
- ‘Education that Lasts’, Panel Input at the Hildebrand Project Summer Seminar, Steubenville, OH, U.S.A., July 2019.
- ‘The Structure of the Human Person’, Presentation at the Symposium on Edith Stein's Philosophical Anthropology, Maynooth, Ireland, December 2018. For this symposium, I provided a draft translation of Stein's work, *Der Aufbau der menschlichen Person*, and co-organized and co-hosted the session with Mette Lebech of Maynooth University.
- ‘Edith Stein’s Understanding of the Soul as Form of the Body’, Paper Presentation at the International Theological Institute, Trumau, Austria, October 2018.
- ‘The Cognition of the Human Individual’, Paper Presentation at the Hildebrand Project *Schülerkreis*, Gaming, Austria, June 2018.
- ‘The Cognition of the Human Individual’, Paper Presentation at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH, U.S.A., April 2018.
- ‘The Cognition of the Human Individual’, Paper Presentation at Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, U.S.A., April 2018.
- ‘Individuality in Stein Reading Aquinas’, Paper Presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bi-Annual International Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein (IASPES), University of Vienna, Austria, October 2016.
- ‘Individuality in Stein Reading Aquinas’, Paper Presentation at the *Symposium Thomisticum*, Paris, France, May 2016.
- ‘Essence in Husserl and Aquinas’, Paper Presentation at the International Conference: ‘What’s essential can’t be written: Edith Stein’s Life and Thought as reflected in her oeuvre’ Occasioned by the Completion of the Collected Edition of Edith Stein’s works, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany, November 2014.

### **Scholarly Related Projects**

- *Thomistic Philosophy and Natural Science Symposium (2019)*  
Participant in ‘Novelty in Nature: Scientific and Philosophical Understanding of Flux and Change in the Natural World’, a symposium drawing together philosophers and scientists of different disciplines to discuss the relation of Thomistic philosophy to contemporary developments in the natural sciences.

- *Theology of the Body Guided Reading* (2016)  
Design of a guided reading course for Karol Wojtyła/Pope John Paul II's *Love and Responsibility* and *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body* for the Pope St. John Paul II Centre (*Centrum Myśli Jana Pawła II*) in Krakow, Poland. The program was rolled out internationally for reading groups in the English-speaking world.
- *International Theology of the Body Symposium* (2009)  
A member of the organizing committee of the second international symposium held in Maynooth, Ireland, overseeing the overarching theme of the event, coordination of speaker inputs, and master of ceremonies.

### **Popular Articles**

- A series of articles for the *Faith Magazine* focused on the dignity of the human person:
  - 'The Human Person—Dignity', in *Faith Magazine* (2017).
  - 'The Human Person—Defined', in *Faith Magazine* (2016).
  - 'The Human Person—A History', in *Faith Magazine* (2016).
- A series of articles/blog-posts for [www.truthandlove.com](http://www.truthandlove.com) detailing Karol Wojtyła/Pope John Paul II's teachings on human sexuality as found presented in *Love and Responsibility* and *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*:
  - 'Bodily Love—A Personal Affair' (2018)
  - 'Love's Psychological Profile' (2018)
  - 'Spousal Friendship' (2018)
  - 'The Institution of Marriage' (2018)
  - 'In the Beginning' (2018)
  - 'The Human Person as Gift' (2018)
  - 'Alienation from Love' (2018)
  - 'The Redemption of the Body' (2018)
  - 'The Virginal Meaning of the Body' (2018)
  - 'All for the Kingdom' (forthcoming)
  - 'Marriage: Covenantal and Graced Love' (forthcoming)
  - 'Marriage: The Great Sign' (forthcoming)

### **Popular Presentations**

- 'The Unfolding of the Human Person', St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka, IN, U.S.A, July 2019.
- 'The Unfolding of the Human Person', St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Cleveland, OH, U.S.A, April 2019.
- 'The Senses and the Body', Panel Discussion for Philosophy on Tap, Franciscan University, Gaming, Austria, March 2018.

- ‘The Music of the Spheres’, Presentation for Philosophy on Tap, Franciscan University, Gaming, Austria, November 2016.
- ‘Human Love in the Divine Plan’, a Series of Presentations (six in total) for the Theology of the Body Symposium, London, England, January 2016.
- ‘The Dignity of the Human Person’, Presentation for *Evangelium* Conference, Ireland, June 2015.
- ‘Logos—Faith and the University’, Presentation for Philosophy on Tap, Franciscan University, Gaming, Austria, March 2015.
- ‘Who am I?’, Presentation for Philosophy on Tap, Franciscan University, Gaming, Austria, March 2014.

### **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

- Awarded Franciscan University’s ‘Most Outstanding Faculty Member 2019’ by Student Government according to a vote of the student body.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

- Secretary of the Aquinas Institute of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland.
- Fellow of the Hildebrand Project, Steubenville, OH, U.S.A.
- Member of the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein (IASPES), and administrator of the association’s website, dealing with website updates and communication with members of the organization.
- Member of the Thomas Aquinas Society of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland.

### **OTHER ROLES**

- Director of Pure in Heart, Dublin, Ireland, an Irish Catholic youth movement and charity.

### **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

- Mother Tongue: English.
- Reading Proficiency: German.
- Basic Reading Proficiency: Latin; Greek.