

# Paul Symington

*Curriculum Vitae*

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office phone: (740) 283-6643  
psymington@franciscan.edu

## Appointments

Dean, School of Philosophy and Theology, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Fall 2018–Spring 2022.

Philosophy Department Chair, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Fall 2014; Fall 2017–Summer 2019.

Director of Scholarly Excellence, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Fall 2015–Summer 2018.

Professor of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Fall 2015–present.

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Fall 2011–Spring 2014.

Editor, *Quaestiones Disputatae: A Journal of Philosophical Investigation and Discussion*, Summer 2011–Summer 2015 (7 issues published under editorship).

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Fall 2008–Spring 2011.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of San Francisco, Fall 2007–Spring 2008.

## Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University at Buffalo, 2007.

Dissertation: “The Identity of the Categories: Aquinas, Scotus, and Lowe.” Committee: Jorge J. E. Gracia (chair), Barry Smith, Jiyuan Yu.

M.A., Philosophy, Boston College, 2004.

Qualifying Exam Committee: Eileen Sweeney, William Richardson, Ronald Anderson.

M.A., Theology, Northeastern Seminary, 2001.

Master’s Thesis: “Thomas Aquinas’s Use of Hylomorphism in Defining Key Theological Concepts.” Thesis Director, David Basinger.

B.A., Philosophy & Religion, *magna cum laude*, Roberts Wesleyan College, 1998.

### **Current Areas of Interest and Research**

Areas of Specialization: Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy.

Areas of Competence: Logic, Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Language

### **Book**

*On Determining What There Is: The Identity of Ontological Categories in Aquinas, Scotus and Lowe*, Volume 2, in the EIΔE: Foundations of Ontology series, edited by E. J. Lowe, Peter Simons, *et al.* (New Brunswick: Walter de Gruyter, 2010).

Reviewed in the following:

*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*  
*Journal of the History of Philosophy*  
*American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*  
*International Philosophical Quarterly*

### **Refereed Articles & Book Chapters**

“A Presentist Argument for Existential Inertia,” in review.

“A Gracian Categorical Analysis of Boethius’s *On Division*,” *The Philosophical Legacy of Jorge J. E. Gracia*, edited by Robert A. Delfino, William Irwin, and Jonathan J. Sanford (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2022), pp. 75-84.

“Powerful Logic: Aquinas’s Unified Theory of Prime Matter as Principle of Individuation & Pure Potency,” *Review of Metaphysics* 73 (March 2020): 495-529.

“A Category Semantics,” *Mereologies, Ontologies and Facets: The Categorical Structure of Reality*, edited by Paul Hackett (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018).

“The Analogical Logic of Discovery and The Aristotelian Epistemic Principle: A Semantic Foundation For Divine Naming In Aquinas,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 89, 22 (2015): 195-222.

“Response to John Rist,” *Quaestiones Disputatae* 5, no. 1 (Fall 2014).

“Categories and Modes of Being: A Discussion of Robert Pasnau’s *Metaphysical Themes*,” *Medieval Themes: Medieval and Modern Volume 11: Proceedings of the Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics*, ed. Gyula Klima and Alexander W. Hall, Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2014): 32-69.

“Thomas Aquinas, Perceptual Resemblance, Categories, and the Reality of Secondary Qualities,” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 86 (2012).

“The Aristotelian Epistemic Principle and the Problem of Divine Naming in Aquinas,” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 85 (2011).

“Metaphysics Renewed: Kant’s Schematized Categories and the Possibility of Metaphysics,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 51, 3 (2011).

“Grossmann and the Ontological Status of Categories,” in *Studies in the Ontology of Reinhardt Grossmann*, ed. Javier Cumpa (Rutgers University, New Brunswick: Ontos Verlag, 2010), co-authored with Jorge J. E. Gracia.

“Thomas Aquinas on Establishing the Identity of Aristotle’s Categories,” in *Medieval Commentaries on Aristotle’s Categories*, ed. Lloyd Newton, (Boston: Brill Academic Publishers, 2008).

“Naming and the Analogy of Being: McInerny and the Rejection of a Proper Analogy of Being,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 47, 1 (2007): 91-102.

“The Unconscious and Conscious Self: Psychological Unity in Freud and Lonergan,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 80, 4 (Fall 2006): 563-80.

“La individualidad y su relación con las pasiones del ser en Tomás de Aquino,” *Revista Electronica de Estudios Tomistas* 3 (2006), 73-86; reprinted in *Actas del X Congreso Interamericano de Filosofía Medieval*; co-authored with Jorge J. E. Gracia.

“Beyond Continents: Eschatological Dimensions in the Philosophy of William James and Richard Kearney,” *Philosophy Today* 50, 3 (2006): 263-71.

## **Reference Articles**

“Analogy,” *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*, eds. Robert Fastiggi & Joseph Koterski, S. J. (Farmington Hills: Gale, 2013).

“Categories & Modes of Being,” *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*, eds. Robert Fastiggi & Joseph Koterski, S. J. (Farmington Hills: Gale, 2013).

### **Book Reviews**

Review of Anthony J. Lisska, *Aquinas’s Theory of Perception: An Analytic Reconstruction*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, Spring 2017.

Review of Edward Feser, *Scholastic Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, Sept. 2014.

Review of Tom Rockmore, *Kant and Phenomenology*, *Review of Metaphysics* 66, no. 2 (2012): 380-82.

With Daniel R. Kempton, review of John H. Haughey (ed.), *In Search of the Whole: Twelve Essays on Faith and Academic Life*, in *The Jurist: Studies in Church Law and Ministry* 72, no. 1 (2012): 323-5.

### **Critical Reviews of My Work**

Robert Pasnau, “Response to Paul Symington,” special issue “Metaphysical Themes: Medieval and Modern,” *Proceedings of the Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics* 11 (2013): 79-89.

James D. Madden, review of *On Determining What There Is*, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 87, no. 4 (2013): 804-806.

Heine Hansen, review of *On Determining What There Is*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 51, no. 1 (2013): 120-121.

John W. Peck, S. J., review of *On Determining What There Is*, *International Philosophical Quarterly* 51, no. 4 (2011): 530-32.

Andrew Arlig, review of *On Determining What There Is*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2011), <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/24665-on-determining-what-there-is-the-identity-of-ontological-categories-in-aquinas-scotus-and-low/>

### **Papers for Broad Readership**

“Academic Freedom Bound? An Autonomous Philosopher and the *Mandatum*,” *New Oxford Review*, Vol. 81, No. 7 (Sept. 2014).

“Laudato Si’ and Global Mindedness,” *The Steubenville Register*, Vol. 71, No. 20 (June 3, 2016).

“*Laudato Si’* and the Epistemology of Climate Change,” *Ethika Politica*, Spring 2017.

### **Papers in Process**

“Physic’s Fecund Glitch: Epicurus on the Composition of Objects,” in preparation.

“What Just Happened? Action for Ethics,” in preparation.

“Teleology and Modern Science,” in preparation.

“The Nature and Extent of Aristotle’s First Figure,” in preparation.

### **Journal Issues Published Under Editorial Direction**

“Selected Papers on the Legacy of NeoPlatonism,” *Quaestiones Disputatae* 2, 1 & 2 (Spring 2012).

“Selected Papers on Early Phenomenology,” *Quaestiones Disputatae* 3, 1 (Fall 2012).

“Selected Papers on the Philosophy of Dietrich von Hildebrand,” *Quaestiones Disputatae* 4, 1 (Spring 2013).

“Selected Papers on the Philosophy of St. Edith Stein,” *Quaestiones Disputatae* 4, 2 (Fall 2013).

“Papers on Ancient & Medieval Commentaries on Aristotle’s *Categories*,” *Quaestiones Disputatae* 5, 1 (Spring 2014)

“Selected Papers: Must Morality be Grounded in God,” *Quaestiones Disputatae* 5, 2 (Fall 2014).

“Selected Papers: Issues in Bioethics,” *Quaestiones Disputatae* 6, 1 (Spring 2015).

### **Refereed Conference Papers Presented**

“Shifting the Mystery: *A Priori Justification* and Concept Abstraction,” American Catholic Philosophical Association, ACPA Sponsored Satellite Session, Indianapolis, November 1-3, 2013 (paper accepted but not delivered).

“Aquinas on Modes of Being,” International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Fordham University, Oct. 19-21, 2012.

“Thomas Aquinas, Perceptual Resemblance, Categories, and the Reality of Secondary Qualities,” American Catholic Philosophical Association, Annual Meeting, St. Louis, 2011.

“Modes of Being as Semantic and Epistemic Foundation for Divine Naming in Aquinas,” *The Metaphysics of Aquinas and Its Modern Interpreters: Theological and Philosophical Perspectives*, Fordham University, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

“The Aristotelian Epistemic Principle and the Problem of Divine Naming in Aquinas,” American Catholic Philosophical Association, Annual Meeting, Baltimore, November 2010.

“Scotus on Modes of Predication and the Derivation of Aristotle’s Categories,” International Duns Scotus Society, 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2009.

“Categories, Metaphysics and Predication in Aquinas,” APA Pacific Meeting, Main Program, Pasadena, March, 2008; Northwest Philosophy Conference, Lewis & Clark College, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

“Kant’s Schematized Categories and their Significance for the Project of the *Critique of Pure Reason* and the Possibility of Metaphysics,” Society of Christian Philosophers, Eastern Regional Meeting, Houghton College, New York, May 20, 2006.

“The Ontological Status of Moral Virtue in Aristotle,” Seventh Annual PIT/CMU (University of Pittsburgh / Carnegie Mellon University) Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 9, 2005.

“La ontologia de la individualidad segun Tomas de Aquino” (co-authored paper with Jorge J. E. Gracia), X Latin American Congress of Medieval Philosophy, Santiago, Chile, April 22, 2005.

“A Comparative Reading of Richard Kearney and William James on an Eschatological Hermeneutic of Ethics and God” (with comments by Richard Kearney), International Building Bridges Conference at SIU (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale), November 13, 2004.

## **Invited Presentations**

“Why Do I Keep Existing? A Lecture on Being,” University of Rochester chapter of the Thomistic Institute, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

“Lessons From Gracia’s Metaphysical Project As Applied To Boethius’s *On Division*,” Conference On The Work Of Jorge J. E. Gracia, University At Buffalo, October 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

“The Dignity of Human Life,” UCLA chapter of the Thomistic Institute, October 16, 2019.

Panel Discussant, “A Metaphysical Approach to Transhumanism,” Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion on Transhumanism, Franciscan University of Steubenville, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

“Freewill: Modern Science and Contemporary Philosophy,” UC Berkeley chapter of the Thomistic Institute, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

“Freewill and Divine Providence,” Ohio State chapter of the Thomistic Institute, Ohio State University, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

“Faith & Reason: Their Distinction and Interrelation,” Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

“Teleology and Modern Science,” FISH Summer Seminar Series, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

“Powerful Logic: Aquinas’s Unified Theory of Prime Matter as Principle of Individuation and Pure Potency,” Power Structuralism Visiting Lecture Series, Corpus Christi College (co-sponsored by Corpus Christi College & Blackfriars), University of Oxford, May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015.

“Personal Identity and the Problem of Death,” Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

“Theories of Prime Matter,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wake Forest Philosophy Workshop, July 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

“Categories and Modes of Being: A Discussion of Robert Pasnau’s *Metaphysical Themes*,” Robert Pasnau's *Metaphysical Themes*: Author Meets Critics, Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics Meeting, 47<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2012.

“Aristotle and the Modern Problem of Secondary Qualities,” East Stroudsburg University, November, 2010.

“Modes of Being as Semantic and Epistemic Foundation for Divine Naming in Aquinas,” Faith & Reason Philosophy Lecture Series, Franciscan University of Steubenville, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

“Categories, Metaphysics and Predication in Aquinas,” Franciscan University of Steubenville Philosophy Colloquium, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008; University of Texas-Pan American Philosophy Colloquium, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008; University of San Francisco Philosophy Faculty Colloquium, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

“Aquinas on the Identity of the Categories,” Medieval Philosophy Lecture Series, St. Francis Xavier University, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

“Aquinas and Scotus on the Sufficiency of Aristotle’s Categories,” Jorge J. E. Gracia’s graduate seminar on Ontological Categories, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

“Individuality and the Principle of Individuation in Thomas Aquinas: An Ontological Characterization” (co-authored paper with Jorge J. E. Gracia), Catholic University of America, Spring 2005.

### **Conference Organization**

Conference Organizer (with Sarah Wear), “Ancient & Medieval Interpretations of Aristotle’s *Categories*,” Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 12-14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Paper reviewer for the University at Buffalo’s graduate student conference, “Metaphysics without Apology: Themes from the Work of E. J. Lowe.”

### **Other Conference Participation**

Respondent to James Kintz, “The Illuminative Function of the Agent Intellect,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division, March 2017.

Panel Discussant, “Epistemology of Climate Change,” Interdisciplinary Symposium on *Laudato Si*, Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Respondent to John Crosby, “Aspects of Genuine Education that are Liable to be Lost in Online Courses,” Symposium on Online Education, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.



Panel Discussant, “Is a Human Being a Machine?” Science & Faith Lecture Series, Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Respondent to John Rist, “Must Morality Be Grounded on God?” 2013 Annual Conference on Christian Philosophy: Must Morality Be Grounded in God?” Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Session chair for papers read at the 2013 Annual Conference on Christian Philosophy: Must Morality Be Grounded in God?” Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Session chair for a paper read at the 2010 Annual Conference on Christian Philosophy: Edith Stein’s, *Finite and Eternal Being*; Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Session chair for three papers read at the 2009 Annual Conference on Christian Philosophy: Neo-Platonism in the Christian Tradition Conference, Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Respondent to Josh Rasmussen’s, “A Scotistic Cosmological Argument Remixed: New Paths from Cosmological Premises to the Existence of God,” Northwest Philosophy Conference, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Respondent to David Howe, “An I for an Eye,” Continental Philosophy: Examining the Margins, SUNY Buffalo Graduate Student Conference, March 5, 2005.

### **Professional Activities**

Referee, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*  
Referee, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*  
Referee, CUA Press  
Referee, Fordham University Press  
Referee, Emmaus Academic Press

### **Previous Academic and Research Positions**

Research Assistant for Jorge J. E. Gracia, University at Buffalo, Spring 2007.  
Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Niagara University, Spring 2006.  
Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo, Fall 2004–Spring 2007.

### **Courses Taught**

*Graduate*

Analytic Thomism  
Ethics of Health Care Law & Social Policy  
Foundations of Bioethics  
Selected Issues in Metaphysics: Categories  
Selected Issues in Metaphysics: Hylomorphism  
Selected Issues in Metaphysics: Modes of Being  
Selected Issues in Metaphysics: Personal Identity  
Special Topics: The Philosophy of Peter Van Inwagen  
Texts of Aquinas  
Texts of Boethius

### *Undergraduate*

Ancient Greek Philosophy  
Contemporary Philosophy  
Ethical Theory and Practice (Service Learning)  
Foundations of Ethics  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Logic  
Medieval Philosophy  
Metaphysics  
Philosophy of Human Person  
Philosophy of Language  
Philosophy of Religion  
Thomistic Traditions in Philosophy  
World Civilization I & II (Recitation Instructor)

### **Professional Memberships**

Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy  
The American Catholic Philosophical Association  
The American Philosophical Association

### **Select Service**

Co-founder and co-director of Franciscan University Summer Academic Experience program for high school students, 2019.

Developed partnership with St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA to provide pre-theology academic formation for seminarians.

Developed approved online MA in Catholic Studies Program, FUS, Spring 2019.

Championed, coordinates and directs online programming for online AA in Philosophy, FUS, 2018.

Established graduate status for graduate faculty to support their research, FUS, Spring 2017.

Originated and coordinates Friday Academic Lecture Series, FUS, Fall 2017-present.

Initiated and coordinates summer Faculty Guided Campus Tours for high school conference participants, FUS, Summer 2017, 2018.

Worked with the majority of departments to develop and approve department standards for faculty evaluation, FUS, 2016-2017.