
ROBERT A. DELFINO
CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Philosophy
St. John's University
8000 Utopia Parkway
Queens, NY, 11439

St. John's Hall
Room B30-4
delfinor@stjohns.edu
(718) 990-6246

EDUCATION:

State University of New York at Buffalo

Ph.D. Philosophy, June 2001

Dissertation: "The Ontological Status of Identity"

Advisors: Jorge J. E. Gracia (Chair), Barry Smith, and Kenneth Barber

Outside Reader: Jude Dougherty, Catholic University of America

St. John's University, New York

B.A., *Summa cum laude*, June 1994

Double Major: Philosophy and English

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY:

Latin (Translation)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy (especially St. Thomas Aquinas), Science & Religion

AREAS OF COMPETENCY:

Ancient Philosophy, Ethics, Logic, Philosophy of Science

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

St. John's University, New York

Associate Professor, Fall 2010-Present

Assistant Professor, Fall 2001-Spring 2010

Adjunct Professor, Spring 1999-Spring 2001

Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Connecticut

Adjunct Professor (Summers only), 2016-2023

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS:

Impact Leader Award, for developing student leaders (*Sigma Alpha Pi*), Spring 2023

Post Tenure Review Outstanding Achievement Award for Teaching, Spring 2019

Excellence in Teaching Award (*Sigma Alpha Pi*), April 2016, 2018

Professor of the Year Award (Student Government), May 2015

Faculty Recognition Awards, Spring 2007-2012, 2017, 2018

Invited Lecturer (*Jacek Weroniecki Lectures*, Poland), May 2010

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT:

St. John's University

Philosophy of the Human Person*

Ethics*

Metaphysics*

Logic*

Science and Religion*

Problem of God*

Ancient Philosophy

Medieval Philosophy*

Modern Philosophy

Contemporary Philosophy

* = Also taught as an Honors Class

GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT:

Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Connecticut

St. Thomas Aquinas on Being and Nothingness, Online

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

Ethical Pluralism and American Culture, 2010

OTHER COURSES TAUGHT:

Wisdom Academies

Samurai Thomism (Philosophy of Leadership)

Co-Taught with Marvin Peláez, Summer 2024

PUBLICATIONS:

Book

Does God Exist?: A Socratic Dialogue on the Five Ways of Thomas Aquinas. St. Louis, MO: En Route Books and Media, LLC, 2018, co-authored with M. Fradd.

Edited Books

The Philosophical Legacy of Jorge J.E. Gracia, co-edited with William Irwin and Jonathan J. Sanford. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2022.

Understanding Moral Weakness. Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2006.

What are We to Understand Gracia to Mean?: Realist Challenges to Metaphysical Neutralism. Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2006.

Plato's Cratylus: Argument, Form, and Structure. Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2005.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Ramanuja’s Ontology for Christianity? A Reply to Jon Paul Sydnor.” *Studia Elckie* 27, nr 4, (December: 2025): 481-502.

“Transcendental Beauty and Culture.” *Człowiek w Kulturze* 34, no. 2 (December: 2024): 167-179.

“Gracia, Individuation, and Thomistic Metaphysics.” In *The Philosophical Legacy of Jorge J. E. Gracia*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2022, 103-113; 277-282

“The Compatibility of Evolution and Thomistic Metaphysics: A Reply to Dennis F. Polis.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 10:1 (March 2021): 71–102.

“Theology for Nones: Helping People Find God in a Secular Age,” co-authored with Andrew Gniadek. *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 6:1 (March 2017): 31–46.

“Carol’s Transformation,” co-authored with Lea Lesinski. In *The Ultimate Walking Dead and Philosophy: Hungry for More*. Open Court Popular Culture and Philosophy Series Chicago: Carus Publishing Company, 2016, 175-187.

“Redpath on the Nature of Philosophy.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 5:1 (January–March 2016): 33–53.

“Imagination and Creation: The Morality of Fiction in Dungeons & Dragons,” co-authored with Jerome Hillock. In *Dungeons and Dragons and Philosophy*. Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series, NJ: Wiley & Sons, September 2015, 95-105.

“The Failure of New Atheism Morality.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 4:3 (July–September 2015): 229–240.

“The Cultural Dangers of Scientism and Common Sense Solutions.” *Studia Gilsoniana*, vol. 3: supplement (2014): 485–496.

“Experiment (in Science)” *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement* 2012-2013: Ethics and Philosophy. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. vol. 2. Detroit: Gale, 2013, 542-544.

“Walking Contradictions,” co-authored with Kyle Taylor. In *The Philosophy of the Walking Dead*, Open Court Popular Culture and Philosophy Series. Chicago: Carus Publishing Company, 2012, 39-51.

“Scientific Naturalism and the Need for a Neutral Metaphysical Framework.” In *Science and Faith within Reason: Reality, Creation, Life and Design*, ed. by Jaume Navarro. Surrey, England: Ashgate, 2011, 43-59.

“Bound Idealities and the Metaphysics of Edmund Husserl.” In *Metaphysik Heute*, ed. By Tadeusz Guz, Elzbieta Szczerko, and Leszek Brusniak. Frankfurt, Germany: Peter Lang, 2009, 43-64.

“Cultural Meanings and Identity in Edmund Husserl” *CALIPSO: Conference Addresses of the Long Island Philosophical Society Online* (July 2009).

“Science and the Inescapability of Metaphysics.” *Global Spiral* (May 2009): <https://metanexus.net/science-and-inescapability-metaphysics/> and reprinted in: *Bridging Science and Spirituality* (Bhaktivedanta Institute, 2010).

“Bad Timing: The Metaphysics of The Terminator,” co-authored with Ken Sheahan. In *Terminator and Philosophy: I'll Be Back, Therefore I Am*. Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, 2009, 109-121.

“The Problem of Nature and Evil in Kant's *Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View* and Other Works.” *Człowiek W Kulturze: Wyzwania współczesnej demokracji*, vol. 20 (April 2009): 237-257.

“Understanding Locke's View of Personal Identity” *CALIPSO: Conference Addresses of the Long Island Philosophical Society Online* (March 2009).

“Christian Physicalism and Personal Identity” *Global Spiral* (Nov. 2008):
<https://www.metanexus.net/christian-physicalism-and-personal-identity/>

“Realism and the Problem of Universals: A Thomistic Solution” *Człowiek W Kulturze: W obronie realizmu*, vol. 19 (March 2008): 301-315.

“Methodological Naturalism and Evolution.” In *Ewolucjonizm czy Kreacjonizm*. Poland: Fundacja Lubelska Szkola Filozofii Chrześcijańskiej, 2008, 137-156.

“Replacing Methodological Naturalism” *Global Spiral* (May 2007):
<https://www.metanexus.net/replacing-methodological-naturalism/>

“Justice for All?: Metallica's Argument against Napster and Internet File Sharing.” In *Metallica and Philosophy*. Blackwell Philosophy and Popular Culture Series. New York: Blackwell Publishing, 2007, 232-244.

“The Problem of Justifying the Right to Freedom of Religion.” *Journal of Dharma*, vol. 31, no. 1 (2006): 51-65.

“Neo-Thomism and Gracia's metaphysics.” In *What are We to Understand Gracia to Mean?: Realist Challenges to Metaphysical Neutralism*. Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2006, 75-87.

“The Beauty of Wisdom: A Tribute to Armand A. Maurer, CSB.” In *A Thomistic Tapestry: Essays in Memory of Étienne Gilson*. Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2003, 37-45.

“Mystical Theology in Aquinas and Maritain.” In *Jacques Maritain and The Many Ways of Knowing*. Catholic University of America Press, 2002, 253-268.

“Aristotle on the Value of the History of Philosophy for Philosophy.” *Contemporary Philosophy*, vol. XX, no. 5/6 (1998): 49-58.

Book Foreword

“Foreword,” in Peter A. Redpath, *Meditations on My Life as a Brooklyn Existentialist, Philosophical Paladin, and Samurai Thomist*. St. Louis, MO: En Route Books and Media, 2024, vii-xvi.

“Foreword,” in Piotr Jaroszyński, *Metaphysics or Ontology?* Leiden: Brill-Rodopi, 2018.

Book Reviews

Robert C. Trundle. *Integrated Truth and Existential Phenomenology: A Thomistic Response to Iconic Anti-Realists in Science*. *The Review of Metaphysics*, 69, 4 (June 2016): 832-835.

Tim Lacy. *The Dream of a Democratic Culture: Mortimer J. Adler and the Great Books Idea, Society for U.S. Intellectual History*, September 2014.
<https://s-usih.org/2014/09/philosophy-history-and-the-dream-of-the-great-books-movement/>

John F. Wippel. *The Ultimate Why Question: Why Is There Anything at All Rather than Nothing Whatsoever? The Review of Metaphysics*, 65, 3 (March 2012): 695-697.

W. Norris Clarke, *The Philosophical Approach to God: A New Thomistic Perspective*, 2nd revised edition. *H-Catholic, H-Net Reviews* (May 2008).
<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=14471>

John. F. Wippel, *Metaphysical Themes in Aquinas II, Philosophy in Review*, Volume XXVII, no. 6 (December 2007): 449-451.

Brian Davies, ed. *Aquinas's Summa Theologiae: Critical Essays*. *H-Catholic, H-Net Reviews* (February 2007).
<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=19881174662005>

Jean-Louis Chrétien, *The Call and the Response. The Review of Metaphysics*, vol. LVIII, no. 4 (2005): 882-884.

Alice Ramos and Marie I. George, eds., *Faith, Scholarship, and Culture in the 21st Century. Maritain Studies*, vol. XIX (2003): 115-118.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Academic

“Ramanuja’s Ontology for Christianity? A Reply to Jon Paul Sydnor” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, St. John’s University, Queens, NY, March 29, 2025.

“Transcendental Beauty and Culture” *Reclaiming beauty: from idealism to realism. On the 140th anniversary of the birth of Étienne Gilson*, Symposium sponsored by the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, April 26, 2024.

“Aquinas and the Existential Theory of Individuation” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Saint John’s University, Queens, NY, April 1, 2023.

Chair. “Session 8: Ancient Philosophy, Maimonides, Schopenhauer, Epistemic Virtues” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Saint John’s University, Queens, NY, April 1, 2023.

Chair. “Session 18: (Theism, Aquinas, Rahner. Ecclesiastes, Scotus)” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY, April 30, 2022.

Chair: “Session 4: Modern Philosophy, Descartes, Hume.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY, April 30, 2022.

“Recovering Reason in our Times,” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center Hyattsville, MD, June 12, 2021.

Chair: “Panel 3: Recovering the Best of our Ancient and Medieval Heritage,” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center Hyattsville, MD, June 12, 2021.

“Gracia, Individuation, and Thomistic Metaphysics” *A Collection of Individuals: The Philosophical Legacy of Jorge J. E. Gracia*, State University of New York at Buffalo, NY, October 19, 2019.

“A Note on Abstraction and the Principle of Individuation,” *Fifth Annual Aquinas Leadership International World Congress*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 20, 2018.

Chair: “Plenary Session 4.” *Fifth Annual Aquinas Leadership International World Congress*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 20, 2018.

“Common Sense and Philosophy.” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, Baltimore, MD, June 2, 2018.

Chair: “Session 1: Aquinas, Animals, Ecology, Language, Law.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, Rockville Centre, NY, April 14, 2018.

Chair: “Session 6: Augustine, Aquinas; Sheed as Apologists & Reformers.” *Fourth Annual Aquinas Leadership International World Congress*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 14, 2017.

Conference Organizer: “The Prologue of St. John's Gospel: Reason and Interpretation in Catholic Thought.” *International Society for Medieval Hermeneutics*, Catholic Center at NYU, November 5, 2016.

“The Metaphysics of Mercy” *Colloquium on Mercy*, St. John’s University, NY, October 24, 2016.

“Theology for Nones: Helping People Find God in a Secular Age.” *Third World Congress of Aquinas Leadership International*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 9, 2016.

Panelist: “Panel 4: The Benedict Option Upon Us?” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, Baltimore, MD, May 29, 2016.

Chair: “Session 4.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 9, 2016.

“The Failure of New Atheism Morality.” *Second World Congress of Aquinas Leadership International*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, June 26, 2015; reprinted in *Al-istighrab* (2017): 162-172.

“The Cultural Dangers of Scientism and Common Sense Solutions” *Inaugural International Congress: Renewing the West by Renewing Common Sense*, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Long Island, NY, July 19, 2014.

Panelist: “Civil Religion and Popular Culture.” *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, Baltimore, MD, June 8, 2014.

Chair: "Session 3." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 26, 2014.

Commentator: "Virtue of the Self: A Kierkegaardian Virtue of Epistemology." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, SUNY Suffolk County Community College, May 4, 2013.

Panelist: "Panel 4: The Problem of Disconnectedness." *The Academy of Philosophy and Letters*, Baltimore, MD, June 17, 2012.

Chair: "Session 5: Friendship, Happiness, Environmental Ethics." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 14, 2012.

Commentator: "St. Thomas Aquinas on Intelligent Design." *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO, October 28, 2011.

Chair: "Session 10: Plato." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, NY, October 15, 2011.

Chair: "Session 2: Wittgenstein and Consciousness." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, St. Francis College, NY, April 16, 2011.

Chair: "Session 9: Ethics, Law, Political Theory." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 17, 2010.

Chair: "Plenary Panel 2." *International Etienne Gilson Society Meeting*, Loyola College, Baltimore, October 2, 2009.

"Scientific Naturalism and the Foundation of Morality: A Neo-Thomistic Response." *International Etienne Gilson Society Meeting*, Loyola College, Baltimore, October 2, 2009.

Chair: "Process & Change Session." *Tenth Annual Metanexus Conference*, Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference Center, Arizona, July 19, 2009.

"Science and the Inescapability of Metaphysics." *Tenth Annual Metanexus conference*, Tempe Mission Palms Hotel and Conference Center, Arizona, July 19, 2009.

"Scientific Naturalism and the Need for a Neutral Metaphysical Framework." *Metaphysics, Ontology and the Science-Religion Debate*, Thomas More Institute, London, UK, May 8, 2009.

"Cultural Meanings and Identity in Edmund Husserl." *Long Island Philosophical Society*, LaGuardia Community College, NY, April 4, 2009.

"Scientific Naturalism and Objective Moral Values." *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Philadelphia, PA, December 28, 2008.

"Christian Physicalism and Personal Identity." *Ninth Annual Metanexus conference*, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid, Spain, July 16, 2008.

"Science and Natural Theology: Barriers to Dialogue" *Beyond Paley: Renewing the Vision for Natural Theology, an International Interdisciplinary conference on Natural Theology*, Oxford University, UK, June 23, 2008.

“Understanding Locke’s View of Personal Identity.” *Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, NY, April 5, 2008.

“Animal Rights and Agency” *Sixth Annual International Conference on Arts and Humanities*, Honolulu, Hawaii, January 13, 2008.

“Replacing Methodological Naturalism.” *Eighth Annual Metanexus conference*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, June 5, 2007.

“Methodological Naturalism and Evolution.” *International Symposium: Future of the Western Civilization*, Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski Jana Pawla II, Lublin, Poland, April 18, 2007.

Chair: “Session I: Issues from Aristotle.” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, Denison University, Granville, OH, October 27, 2006.

Commentator: “Real Emotivism.” Morning Session 1 at the *Long Island Philosophical Society Meeting*, St. John’s University, Queens Campus, NY, October 21, 2006.

Commentator: “Omniscience and its Discontents.” *New Jersey Regional Philosophical Association/Long Island Philosophical Society Meeting*, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, NY, April 8, 2005.

Commentator: “Relationships and Persons: Am I My Brother’s Keeper?” Group Session X at the *American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Annual Meeting*, Hilton New York, NY, December 29, 2004.

Chair: “Concurrent Session 1A.” *International Meeting American Maritain Association*, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, October 21, 2004.

Discussant: “Discussion of Jorge Gracia’s ‘Metaphysics and Its Task.’” *International Meeting American Maritain Association*, University of Notre Dame, IN, October 21, 2000.

“Mystical Theology in Aquinas and Maritain.” *International Meeting American Maritain Association*, Berkeley, CA, October 25, 1999.

“Aristotle on the Value of the History of Philosophy for Philosophy.” *American Catholic Philosophical Association Western Pennsylvania Regional Meeting*, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY, May 1, 1998.

“Mystical Theology in St. Thomas Aquinas.” *Nineteenth Annual Medieval Forum*, Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH, April 17, 1998.

“From Boethius to St. Thomas Aquinas: Numerical Difference in Material Things.” *Thirty-second International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11, 1997.

Non-Academic

“God’s Omniscience and Human Freedom” *Catholic Apologetics Virtual Conference*, October 23, 2020. <https://go.virtualcatholicconference.com/UniversalLogin>

“Aquinas’ Third Way of Proving God: Adapted for the 21st Century.” *Our Lady of the Lake Church*, Verona, NJ, March 11, 2020.

“What Life in Heaven Might be Like” *Theology on Tap*, Flagship Brewery, Staten Island, NY, October 14, 2019.

“The Meaning of Life in Christian Philosophy,” *Our Lady Star of the Sea*, Staten Island, NY, August 17, 2019.

“Christian Paradoxes: A Lenten Reflection.” *Campus Ministry*, Staten Island, NY, March 28, 2019.

“Does God Exist? Thomas Aquinas’s Five Proofs,” *Seminary of the Immaculate Conception*, Long Island, NY, November 18, 2018.

“Considering the Soul.” *Liminal Analytics*, Brooklyn, NY, November 15, 2013.

“Art and Healing from a Philosophical Point of View.” *The Guild of Creative Art*, Shrewsbury, NJ, November 2, 2010.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

American Philosophical Association, 1996-Present.

American Catholic Philosophical Association, 1998-Present.

Long Island Philosophical Society, 2006-Present.

Metanexus Institute for Science and Religion, 2007-2011.

International Étienne Gilson Society, 2009-Present (Founding Member).

Adler-Aquinas Institute, 2009-Present.

Academy of Philosophy and Letters, 2012-Present.

International Society for Medieval Hermeneutics, 2015-2019 (Founding Member).

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE SERVICE

ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY:

Committees

Environmental Sustainability & Decision-Making Committee, March 2019-Present.

Strategic Planning Committee (SI Campus), Fall 2012-Spring 2013.

Global Studies Minor Committee, Spring 2011-Spring 2013.

Liberal Arts Faculty Council, Fall 2005-Spring 2007.

Enrollment Task Force Member, Fall 2007-Spring 2009.

Academic Planning Committee (SI Campus), Fall 2007-Fall 2009.

Faculty Moderator

Philosophy Club, Fall 2005-2021.

Faculty Mentor

Alexis B. Coven, “Literacy Program: Using Play Mentorship to Increase Literacy Rates for Lower Income Students from Ten to Fifteen Years Old in New York City,” 2015-17.

HOLY APOSTLES COLLEGE & SEMINARY (2016-2023):

Master of Arts Philosophy Concentration Chair

Systematic Philosophy

Master's Thesis Advisor/Master's Capstone Paper Advisor

Jamal Kimbanga, Master's Capstone Paper: "Aquinas on the Providence of God and the Problem of Evil," 2023.

Ervin Reyes, Master's Thesis: "The Metaphysical Principles of Religion: How Aristotle's Theory of Finality and St. Thomas Aquinas' Notion of Participation show that Religion is Natural for Human Beings," 2020.

Jonathan Stute, Master's Thesis: "Journey or Judgment?: An Analysis of the Intra-Thomistic Dispute on the Beginning of Metaphysics," 2019.

Master's Thesis Reader/Post-Master's Reader

Nathaniel Beckman, "Aquinas & Analogy of Being," 2024.

Michael Shuman, "The Fourth Way as a Participation Argument," 2023.

Rev. Br. Reed Frey, C.O., "Nature and Method in the Work of Francis Bacon," 2020.

Christopher Apodaca, Post-Master's Degree Certificate in Philosophy Reader, 2019.

Master's Degree Comprehensive Exam Grader

Jeffrey Camlin, 2023.

Justin Cunha, 2023.

Brandon Spun, 2021.

Shane Van Diest, 2021.

Joseph Jordan, 2020.

Daniel McQuillan, 2020.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:

Pre-Publication Book Reviews

Catholic University of America Press, 2008, 2019.

Brill Publishing, 2015.

Journal Peer-Reviews

The Thomist, 2024.

Studia Ełckie, 2021, 2023, 2025.

Studia Gilsoniana, 2013, 2018, 2020.

Annals of Philosophy, 2016.

American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly, 2016.

Grant Review

National Science Center of Poland, 2017.

Special Book Series Editor

Studies in the History of Western Philosophy (Value Inquiry Book Series), 2002-2015.

Editorial and Advisory Boards

Scientific Council, *Studia Elckie*, 2021.

Editorial Board, *Gilson Studies* (Special Series) Brill Publishing, 2015.

Editorial Board, *Studia Gilsoniana*, 2012.

Scientific Committee, *Człowiek W Kulturze*, 2011.

Board of Advisors, *International Etienne Gilson Society*, 2010.

Webmaster

International Society for Medieval Hermeneutics webpage, 2015-2019.

American Maritain Association webpage, 2000-2010.