

Richard F. Hassing

Theoretical Physics Ph.D. Cornell University
Political Theory M.A. University of Toronto
Philosophy M.A. Catholic University

Current Position: Research Associate Professor of Philosophy,
Catholic University of America.

Employment:

1990-present School of Philosophy, Catholic University. History of Science and
Philosophy of Nature, Early Modern Philosophy and Political Theory.
1978-90 Professional Staff, Center for Naval Analyses.
1976-78 Instructor of Physics, Georgetown and Catholic Universities.
1972-74 Research Associate, Physics Department, Indiana University.

Grants, Awards, Invited Presentations and Lectures:

2018 “Aristotelian Intelligible Form and Cartesian Imageable Quantity: *Phys.*
2.1 vs Rule 14,” Public Lecture, Thomas Aquinas College, Oct. 26, 2018.
2012 “The Reduction of Man,” Governing Science, Madison Program
Conference, Princeton University, April 12-14, 2012.
2010 “Modern Turns in Mathematics and Physics,” Fall Lecture Series:
The Modern Turn, School of Philosophy, Catholic University.
2007 “Soul without Heat: Descartes on ‘the whole nature of man’,” Public
Lecture, DC Political Theory Colloquium, American University.
“On Physico-Mathematical Secularism,” American Maritain
Association Conference, University of Notre Dame.
Invited commentator on my “Modern Natural Science and the
Intelligibility of Human Experience” (below), Institute for the Advanced
Study of Culture, University of Virginia.
2006 “Difficulties for Natural Law Based on Modern Conceptions of Nature,”
Conference on Natural Law, University of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain.
2003 “The Question of Self-Reference in Nicomachean Ethics VI,” Fall
Lecture Series: Practical Reason, School of Philosophy, Catholic
University.
“On Aristotelian, Classical, and Quantum Physics,” Public Lecture,
Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula, California.
2002 Earhart Foundation Fellowship Research Grant: “Natural
Philosophy in the Constitution of Modernity.”
2001 Templeton Foundation Freedom Project Grant: “Freedom and the
Human Person,” Fall Semester Seminar, Catholic University.
1999 “The Problem of Modern Natural Science,” *Leo Strauss Centenary
Conference*, St. John’s College, Santa Fe.
“Aristotelian Complaints about Public Reason,” *III Symposium on
Philosophy and Social Sciences*, Univ. of Navarre, San Sebastian, Spain.
1998 “Ethical Character and Democratic Institutions,” *American Labor
Solidarity Center Seminar*, Banja Luka and Zenica, Bosnia.

- “The Force and Meaning of Liberalism,” *II Symposium on Philosophy and the Social Sciences*, University of Navarre, held in Cologne, Germany.
- 1996 “On Politics and Ethics,” Lecture Series, *Philosophy and Contemporary Faith*, University of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain.
- 1994 Smith Richardson Foundation Grant: “Problems of Democratic Republicanism,” Lecture Series, Bucharest and Cluj, Romania.
- 1993 Bradley Foundation Grant: *Federalist 47-51 (On Separation of Powers)*; Romanian Translation and Commentary; with Anca Hassing.
- 1992 USIA Academic Specialist in Political Science, University of Cluj, Romania.
- 1974 National Academy of Sciences Research Exchange, Romania.

Selected Publications:

Cartesian Psychophysics and the Whole Nature of Man: On Descartes’s Passions of the Soul (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015).

“Laws versus Teleology,” *International Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences* (Sage Publications, 2013), Vol. II, 549-555.

“History of Physics and the Thought of Jacob Klein,” *New Yearbook for Phenomenology and Phenomenological Philosophy XI* (2012): 219-253.

“Descartes on God, Creation and Conservation,” *Review of Metaphysics* 64 (March 2011): 603-620.

“*Thumos* and Psychophysics in Descartes’s *Passions of the Soul*,” *Interpretation* 38, no. 1 (Fall 2010): 27-72.

“Difficulties for Natural Law Based on Modern Conceptions of Nature,” in *Contemporary Perspectives on Natural Law*, Ana Marta Gonzalez, ed. (Hampshire, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2008), 229-240.

“The Meaning and Force of Liberalism,” in *Presente y futuro del liberalismo (Present and future of liberalism)*, Enrique Banus and Alejandro Llano, eds. (Pamplona: Ediciones Universidad de Navarra, 2004), 345-355.

“Leibniz without Physics,” *Review of Metaphysics* 56.4 (June 2003): 721-61.

“Darwinian Natural Right?,” an essay review of Larry Arnhart’s *Darwinian Natural Right*, *Interpretation* 27, no. 2 (2000): 129-160, and “Reply to Arnhart,” *Interpretation* 28, no. 1 (2000): 35-43.

“The Exemplary Career of Newton’s Mathematics,” *The St. John’s Review* 44, no. 1 (1997): 72-93.

“Introduction” to *Final Causality in Nature and Human Affairs*, Richard F. Hassing, ed. (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1997), 1-51.

“Modern Natural Science and the Intelligibility of Human Experience,” in *Final Causality in Nature and Human Affairs*, Richard F. Hassing, ed. (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1997), 211-256.

The Federalist *Post-1989*, Ashbrook Essay No. 8 (Ashland, OH: Ashbrook Press, 1995); an English version of R. F. Hassing and A. M. Hassing, *Problemele Republicanismului Democratic* (Cluj, Romania: Biblioteca Apostrof, 1994).

“Animals versus the Laws of Inertia,” *Review of Metaphysics* 46 (1992): 29-61.

With E. M. Macierowski, “Latin Averroes on the Divisibility and Self-Motion of the Elements,” *Archiv fur Geschichte der Philosophie* 74, no. 2 (1992): 127-157.

“Thomas Aquinas on *Phys.* VII.1 and the Aristotelian Science of the Physical Continuum,” in Daniel O. Dahlstrom, ed., *Nature and Scientific Method* (Washington, DC: Catholic university Press, 1991), 150-88.

With E. M. Macierowski, “John Philoponus on Aristotle’s Definition of Nature,” *Ancient Philosophy* 8 (1988): 73-100.

“Wholes, Parts, and Laws of Motion,” *Nature and System* 6 (1984): 195-215.

“The Use and Non-Use of Physics in Spinoza’s *Ethics*,” *The Southwestern Journal of Philosophy* 11 (1980): 41-70.

With J. W. Wilkins, “Critical Fluctuations in Superconductors: A Functional Integral Approach,” *Physical Review B* 7 (1973): 1890-1907.

Personal Data:

Born 11-06-1944
US Citizen
Married

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