

Steven Waldorf

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023– Catholic University of America, School of Philosophy
Assistant Professor
- 2021–23 University of Chicago, Departments of Political Science and History
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Postdoctoral Research Fellow

EDUCATION

- 2015–19 Ph.D., Political Thought and Intellectual History
University of Cambridge (Corpus Christi College)
Dissertation: “Virtue and the Philosophical Life in the Thomist Tradition at the University of Padua, from Aquinas to Cajetan (1225–1534)”; Approved with no corrections
Supervisor: Professor Annabel Brett; *Examiners:* Professor Thomas Pink, Dr. Magnus Ryan
- 2014–15 MPhil, Political Thought and Intellectual History; Degree Result: Distinction
University of Cambridge (Corpus Christi College)
Dissertation: “Natural Law and the Goodness of Human Actions in Aquinas, Suárez, and Vásquez”
- 2009–13 A.B., *Summa cum laude*, Government (Theology Minor); Valedictorian; GPA: 4.0 / 4.0
Georgetown University; Phi Beta Kappa

AREAS OF RESEARCH FOCUS

Medieval and early modern political philosophy and ethics

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Fellowships

- 2021–23 Donnelley Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2020 Postdoctoral Mandate, KU Leuven, De Wulf-Mansion Centre for Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Philosophy (declined in order to pursue Donnelley Fellowship)
- 2015–18 Cambridge International Scholarship, Cambridge International Trust
- 2014 H.B. Earhart Fellowship, Earhart Foundation

Competitive Grants

- 2023 American Political Science Association Travel Grant

- 2021 American Political Science Association Travel Grant
- 2017 Lightfoot Grant, University of Cambridge
- 2017 Cambridge History Faculty Fieldwork Grant
- 2017 Lightfoot Grant, University of Cambridge
- 2016 Lightfoot Grant, University of Cambridge
- 2016 Prince Consort Grant, University of Cambridge

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2025 “Consent of the Governed, Natural Law, and Religious Toleration in the Pre-Liberal Tradition.” In *Aristocratic Voices: Forgotten Arguments about Virtue, Authority, and Inequality*. Edited by Richard Avramenko and Ethan Alexander-Davey. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. 55–77.
- 2024 “Thomas Aquinas’s Political Science: Philosophy or Theology?” *The Review of Politics* 86 (2024): 290–312.
- 2022 “Nature, Grace, and ‘the Drama of Atheist Humanism’: Henri de Lubac’s Account of Modernity.” *The Political Science Reviewer* 46, no. 1: 359–388.
- 2021 “The Historical Development of Cajetan’s Philosophy of Pure Nature and its Origins in the Thought of John Capreolus.” *The Thomist* 85, no. 1: 1–55.

Forthcoming Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “Thomas Aquinas on the Sources of Governing Authority.” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*.
- “The Church’s Authority over the State: A Response to Kevin Vallier.” *Nova et Vetera*.
- “The Origins of Francisco Suárez’s Theory of Natural Beatitude and Biblioteca de Santa Cruz Manuscript 404.” In *On Suárez’s Ethics*. Edited by Juan Antonio Senent de Frutos. (Brill)

Articles in Progress

- Francisco de Vitoria on religion and the political good
- Francisco de Vitoria and religious freedom

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

- 2025 “Thomas Aquinas on the Possibility of a Philosophical Ethics.” Paper presented at the Symposium Thomisticum. Prague, Czech Republic. June 2025.
- 2024 “The Conditional Character of Consent in Aquinas’s Theory of Political Authority.” Presented at the Aquinas at 800 Conference at the University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame, Indiana. September 2024.
- 2024 “Francisco de Vitoria, Natural Law, and the *Libertas Ecclesiae*.” Presented at the 57th Philosophical Meetings at the University of Navarra (The Social Ontology of Sovereignty). Pamplona, Spain. March 2024.
- 2023 “Religious Liberty and the Natural Law in the Scholastic Tradition.” Accepted for presentation at the APSA Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, California. September 2023.
- 2022 “Virtue and the Politics of Pluralism in the Thought of Jacques Maritain.” Presented at the APSA Annual Meeting. September 2022.
- 2022 “The Moral and Political Science of Thomas Aquinas: Philosophy or Theology?” Presented at the Medieval Philosophy and Theology Conference of the De Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture and Jacques Maritain Society. Notre Dame, Indiana. May 2022.
- 2022 “Boethius of Dacia, Thomas Aquinas, and the Aristotelian Understanding of Human Nature’s Perfection.” Presented at the 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 2022.
- 2022 “Natural Law and the Rights of Religious Minorities in the Thought of Francisco Suárez and Marsilius of Padua.” Presented at the 2022 Loyola University Andalucía Research Group for Jesuit Thought and Tradition in Early Modernity Conference. May 2022.
- 2022 “Renaissance Padua and the Origins of Cajetan’s Understanding of Natural Beatitude.” Accepted for presentation at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting. Dublin, Ireland. March 2022.
- 2022 “Virtue and the Politics of Pluralism in the Thought of Jacques Maritain.” Presented at the Eric Voegelin Society Conference. January 2022.
- 2021 “Natural Law and Natural Right in Hugo Grotius and Gabriel Vásquez.” Presented at the APSA Annual Meeting. October 2021.
- 2021 “Biblioteca de Santa Cruz Manuscript 404 and the Origins of Francisco Suárez’s Theory of Pure Nature.” Presented at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting. April 2021.
- 2021 “Man’s Supernatural End and the Givenness of Being in Modernity.” Presented at the Eric Voegelin Society Conference. January 2021.
- 2020 “Religious Toleration and Consent of the Governed in the Early Modern Age: Marsilius of Padua and Francisco Suárez.” Presented at the APSA Annual Meeting. September 2020.

- 2017 “Thomas Aquinas and the Incompleteness of Philosophy.” Presented at the 8th Braga Meeting on Ethics and Political Philosophy. Braga, Portugal. June 2017.
- 2016 “Natural Law and Divine Providence in Thomas Aquinas and Hugo Grotius.” Presented at the 8th Conference of the Portuguese Political Science Association. Lisbon, Portugal. March 2016.

Invited Presentations

- 2024 “Liberalism, the Good, and the Flourishing Society.” Lecture presented at the In Altum Program at Catholic University of America. Washington, DC. May and June 2024.
- 2022 “Scholasticism and Contemporary Philosophy.” Symposium presentation at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. São Paulo, Brazil. August 2022.
- 2021 “Virtue, Politics, and Charity in the Thomistic Tradition.” Presentation at the University of Chicago Medieval Studies Workshop. October 2021.
- 2021 “Religious Toleration and Consent of the Governed in the Early Modern Age: Marsilius of Padua and Francisco Suárez.” Paper presented at Catholic University of America Political Thought Symposium. February 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Catholic University of America

- Fall 2025 Church and State in the History of Catholic Political Thought (PHIL 630 – PhD course)
- Fall 2025 The Desire to Know (HSPH 101)
- Summer 2025 The Modern Mind (PHIL 202)
- Fall 2024 Church and State in the History of Catholic Political Philosophy (PHIL 456/556)
- Fall 2024 The Classical Mind (PHIL 201)
- Spring 2024 Philosophy of Natural Right and Natural Law (PHIL 333/633)
- Spring 2024 Theories of Ethics (PHIL 309B)
- Fall 2023 Political Philosophy (PHIL 332B)
- Fall 2023 The Classical Mind (PHIL 201)

Instructor of Record, University of Chicago

- Spring 2023 Nature, Consent, and the Origins of Political Authority (PLSC 22125)
- Spring 2022 Natural Law in Scholastic Political Thought (HIST 22123)

Tutorial Leader, University of Cambridge

2017 History Faculty Paper 19 (introductory course in history of political thought)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Catholic University of America

School of Philosophy Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2024-2025)

School of Philosophy Committee on Failing Grades (2024-2025)

School of Philosophy Graduate Foreign Language Committee (2023-2024)

Reader, undergraduate Philosophy major comprehensive exams (Spring 2024)

Academic Advisor, undergraduate Philosophy majors (2023-present)

Chair, CUA Catholic Political, Social, and Legal Thought Colloquium (2024-present)

Theses Supervised

In progress “Slavery and Recognition in Aristotle and Hegel.” Christopher Hanrahan
Ph.L., Catholic University of America, School of Philosophy

Theses Examined

2024 “Aristotle and Aquinas on the Role of *Fabulae* in Philosophy.” John Thomas Killackey
Ph.L., Catholic University of America, School of Philosophy

Journal Peer Reviewer

History of Philosophy & Logical Analysis (Brill)

The Institute for Human Ecology at Catholic University of America

Moderator, book presentation of David Dusenbury’s *The Innocence of Pontius Pilate* (2024)

The University of Chicago

Chaired symposium for the Lumen Christi Institute and assisted with organization of its events

LANGUAGES

Latin	Read (including paleography)
French	Read
German	Read; intermediate speaking and writing proficiency
Italian	Read; advanced speaking and writing proficiency
Spanish	Read; advanced speaking and writing proficiency
Portuguese	Read
English	Native

MEMBERSHIPS AND RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

The Institute for Human Ecology at Catholic University of America, Faculty Fellow
De Wulf-Mansion Centre for Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Philosophy, KU Leuven
Research Group for Jesuit Thought and Tradition in Early Modernity, Loyola University Andalucía

REFERENCES

Available on Request