

Elisabeth Parish

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Bishop Thornton
Harrogate HG3 3JX

Education

The Catholic University of America, Ph.D., Philosophy, Expected Date May 2023

Dissertation: *A New Neo-Aristotelian Account of Matter and Form*

Committee: Michael Gorman(chair), Jean De Groot, Jonathan Buttaci

The Catholic University of America, M.A, Philosophy, May 2017

Thesis: *The Whole and Material Parts of Aristotelian Substances*

Director: Ignacio de Ribera Martin

St. John's College, M.A., Liberal Arts, 2010

Master's Essay: *Friendship in Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*

Advisor: Peter Kalkavage

University of Maryland, Baltimore County, B.A., Applied Linguistics, May 1999

Certificate of General Honors

Member of the Honors College

Golden Key National Honour Society

Research

Areas of Specialization: Contemporary Metaphysics, Aristotelian Metaphysics, Ancient Philosophy

Areas of Competency: Ethics and Moral Philosophy, Bioethics, Philosophy of Science

Teaching Experience

The Catholic University of America, 2017-2019

Courses taught: The Classical Mind, School of Philosophy, Instructor of Record

The Modern Mind, School of Philosophy, Instructor of Record

Publications

“A Metaphysical Account of the Placenta as a Shared Organ,” *National Bioethics Quarterly*, vol.21 n. 4, 2021

“Two Theories of Action and the Permissibility of Abortion,” *National Bioethics Quarterly*, vol. 21 n.4, 2020

Conference Presentations

“An Incremental Approach to Developing Philosophical Writers” Presented at the AAPT annual conference, July 2018.

Works in Progress

- Invited comment on the distinction between motivation and intention in moral decision making
- A paper on the strong role of matter in generation and nutrition in Aristotle’s metaphysics of substance

Grants and Awards

Travel and Expenses Grant, AAPT Summer Seminar on Teaching and Learning, 2018

FYE Teaching Fellowship, CUA, Awarded for the academic years 2017-2019

CUA School of Philosophy Quasten Scholarship, Awarded for the academic years 2013-2017

St. John’s College Hodson Grant for Teachers, Awarded for the summer semesters of 2007-2010

UMBC Humanities Finalist Scholarship, Awarded for the academic years 1995-1999

Languages

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| Ancient Greek | Read |
| Latin | Basic reading |
| French | Read; intermediate speaking and writing proficiency |
| German | Read; intermediate speaking and writing proficiency |
| Spanish | Read; intermediate speaking and writing proficiency |
| Egyptian Arabic | Some spoken and reading proficiency |
| Korean | Some spoken and reading proficiency |
| English | Native proficiency |

Graduate Courses

St. John's College

- Aristotle's *Parts of Animals*, *De Anima*, *Metaphysics*
- Math and Natural Science Seminar and Tutorial
 - Euclid's *Elements*, Plato *Timaeus*, Aristotle *Physics*, Lucretius *On the Nature of Things*, Bacon *The New Organon*, Descartes *Discourse on Method*, Newton *Principia* (selections), Darwin *Origin of Species*, Freud *General Psychological Theory*, Lobachevski *Theory of Parallels*
- Aristotle's *Metaphysics*
- Philosophy and Theology Seminar and Tutorial
 - *The Bible* (selections), Plato *Meno*, Aristotle *Physics*, *Metaphysics*, Augustine *Confessions*, Aquinas *Summa Theologica* (selections), Descartes *Meditations*, Hume *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Kant *Prolegomena*, *Groundwork*, Kierkegaard *Fragments*, Nietzsche *Beyond Good and Evil*
- Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, *Further Reflections on the Revolution in France*
- Politics and Society Seminar and Tutorial
 - Works Covered: Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Politics* and *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aquinas *Summa Theologica* (selections) Machiavelli *The Prince*, Hobbes *Leviathan*, Locke *Second Treatise*, Rousseau *Second Discourse*, Marx *1844 Manuscript*, Tocqueville *Democracy in America*, Selections from Madison's *Federalist Papers*, Selected Supreme Court Decisions
- Literature Seminar and Tutorial
 - Works Covered: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odessey*, Aristotle's *Poetics*, Selections from Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Flannery O'Connor

The Catholic University of America

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|---|---------------------|
| ● Substantial Unity | M. Gorman |
| ● Philosophy of Nature | R. Hassing |
| ● Medieval and Contemporary Theories of Free Choice | T. Hoffmann |
| ● Virtue and Human Action | R. Sokolowski |
| ● Plato's <i>Sophist</i> | C. Ionescu |
| ● Avicenna's <i>Metaphysics</i> | T. Druart |
| ● Heidegger's <i>Being and Time</i> | M. Averchi |
| ● Wholes, Parts, & Principles of Parts | R. Hassing |
| ● Aristotle's <i>Metaphysics</i> | R. Sokolowski |
| ● Hume's <i>Treatise of Human Nature</i> | J. McCarthy |
| ● Essence and Necessity in Analytic Metaphysics | M. Gorman |
| ● Plato's <i>Statesman</i> | C. Ionescu |
| ● Aristotle's <i>Generation of Animals</i> | I. de Ribera Martin |
| ● Stoics, Epicureans, & Skeptics | T. Druart |
| ● Universals and Particulars in Analytic Metaphysics* | M. Gorman |
| ● Humans, Persons, and Embryos | A. Knobel |
| ● Contemporary Natural Law Theories | M. Moschella |
| ● Philosophy of Law | V.B. Lewis |
| ● German Idealism: Art & Nature | A. Barba-Kay |

- Aquinas and His Contemporaries on Conscience and Prudence T. Hoffmann
- Fichte's Ethics & Political Philosophy M. Rohlf

*Audited course

Community Activities

Volunteer, Camp Humphreys Home School Co-op, Pyeongtaek, South Korea, 2019-2021

- Designed and taught middle school level logic curriculum
- Designed and taught high school level introductory philosophy curriculum

Other Work Experience

Annapolis Area Christian School, Middle School Teacher, 2003-2013

- Courses taught: Anatomy and Physiology, English Literature and Composition, French, Spanish, Latin
- Designed and implemented a foreign language curriculum for the middle-level grades

Dissertation Abstract

Neo-Aristotelian metaphysicians have attempted to correct the failure of 20th century metaphysics to account for the unity of wholes made of parts. Thus far, none of these accounts have been fully persuasive. Some philosophers propose formal principles that are too weak to account for the unity of a whole and some propose formal principles that are so strong as to virtually eliminate any role for matter in the whole. A third approach lacks a causal role for form with regard to the matter it is meant to unify. What all of these accounts have in common is a material principle that views matter as fundamentally particulate. I argue that it is this view of matter that gives rise to these problematic formal principles and thus causes the failure to produce fully unified individuals out of material parts.

After a review of Aristotle's texts on form and matter in substances, I point out that Aristotle himself did not consider matter to be particulate and I argue that it is this view of matter which allows him to view living substances, at least, as fully unified wholes. As it turns out, the commonly accepted view amongst non-scientists (and some scientists) that matter in the contemporary sense is particulate is not necessarily an accurate picture. As such, I propose that Neo-Aristotelian metaphysicians adapt an approach to matter in living substances that is stuff-like rather than particulate. This view of matter will allow for fully unified hylomorphic substances without the problems identified above. Furthermore, this account of stuff matter agrees more closely to the reality of matter in the contemporary understanding of matter than the previously argued for particulate matter in substances.