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Jeffrey Dirk Wilson

“For natures such as mine, a journey is invaluable: it enlivens, corrects, teaches, and cultivates.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



With tomatoes on my right, cucumbers on my left, and apples behind me.

“The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add an useful plant to its culture.”

Thomas Jefferson

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Areas of Specialization:

Ancient Greek Philosophy
Classical Metaphysics
Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence:

Art and Language
Epistemology
Ethics
Human Nature

Academic Experience:

Collegiate Associate Professor (formerly Clinical Associate Professor), The School of Philosophy

of the Catholic University of America; courses taught: “The Classical Mind,” “The Modern Mind,” “Nature and Human Nature,” “Metaphysics,” “Philosophy of Art” “Philosophy of Knowledge,” “Philosophy of Human Nature,” “Philosophy of Religion,” “Philosophy of Natural Right and Natural Law,” “Political Philosophy,” “Philosophy of Language” “Senior Seminar: The Metaphysics of Beauty”: 2015-present.

Non-Resident Professor, Instituto de Filosofía Edith Stein (Granada, Spain): 2021-present.

Clinical Assistant Professor, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America: 2009-2015.

Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, St. Mary’s Seminary and University, School of Theology; course taught: “Metaphysics”: winter-spring 2013.

Lecturer (full-time), Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Maryland; courses taught: “From Cosmos to Citizen,” “From Self to Society,” “Moral Philosophy”: 2007-2009.

Lecturer, The School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; courses taught: “The Classical Mind,” “The Modern Mind”: 2005-2006, fall 2006.”

Member, Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): 2001-2007.

Teacher, Carpathian English Summer School, Ukrainian Catholic University: July, 1998.

Formal Education:

Doctor of Philosophy, dissertation: *From Concrete to Concept: How Greek Philosophers Conceptualized Homeric Depiction*; directed by Dr. Matthias Vorwerk, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. (2004-2005 spent at the University of Paris-X at Nanterre with work at the Sorbonne and other Paris faculties): degree conferred October 31, 2009.

Licentiate in Philosophy, thesis: “Homer’s Paradigm of Being: A Philosophical Reading of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*,” supervised by Dr. Richard F. Hassing, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.: 2004.

Master of Letters, thesis: “An Historical and Theological Commentary on ‘*On Consideration*’ by St. Bernard of Clairvaux,” supervised by Sir Richard W. Southern, University of Oxford, England: 1983.

Master of Divinity, thesis: “Pre-Conquest Old English Sermons on the Assumption of the

Blessed Virgin Mary,” supervised by Dr. Milton McCormick Gatch, Union Theological Seminary, New York (including one year of work at New College, University of Edinburgh): 1979.

Bachelor of Arts, Bowdoin College (junior year abroad at Hamburg University, Germany and a brief period of special study at Trinity College, University of Glasgow, Scotland), High Honors in German: 1976.

Other Experience:

Minister of the Word and Sacrament, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): June 10, 1979-May 1, 2007.

Interim Pastor, West Grove Presbyterian Church, West Grove, Pennsylvania: 2006-2007.

Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, York, Pennsylvania: 1986- 2004; Stated Supply: 1983-1986.

Member, Permanent Judicial Commission for the Synod of the Trinity: 2003-2007.

Chair, Area IV Committee on Ministry, Presbytery of Donegal: 1999-2002; member: 1992-1998.

Wine and Spirits Editor, *Kinesis* (a now-defunct literary magazine), 1995-1997.

President, County Council of Harford County, Maryland: 1990-1994.

Newspaper columnist: 1983-2005.

Farmer: lifelong.

Master’s Theses Directed:

Nicholas Shiver. “Obtaining Knowledge through Reliable Sources of Authority: A Look into the Epistemology of John Henry Newman in *An Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent*.”

School

of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America. Completed May 2020.

Aaron Joseph Kelly. “The Teleology of Friendship According to Cicero and St. Aelred of Rievaulx.” School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America. Completed May 2018.

Publications

Academic (Philosophy)—

Edited Book:

Mystery and Intelligibility: History of Philosophy as Pursuit of Wisdom. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2021.

Book Chapters:

“*Gorgias* as *Reductio ad absurdum* Argument: Socrates, True Politician but Failed Teacher?” In *Liberty, Democracy, and the Temptations to Tyranny* in the Dialogues of Plato. Edited by Charlotte C. S. Thomas. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2021: 171-193.

“Introduction: Mystery and Intelligibility.” In *Mystery and Intelligibility: History of Philosophy as Pursuit of Wisdom*. Edited by Jeffrey Dirk Wilson. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2021: 1-29.

“Wonder and the Discovery of Being: Homeric Myth and the Natural Genera of Early Greek Philosophy.” In *Mystery and Intelligibility: History of Philosophy as Pursuit of Wisdom*. Edited by Jeffrey Dirk Wilson. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2021: 82-109.

“Pinocchio and the Puppet of Plato’s *Laws*.” In *Civic Republicanism, Enlightenment and Modernity: Ancient Lessons for Global Politics*. Edited by Geoffrey Kellow and Neven Brady Leddy. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016: 282-304.

Articles:

“Use of the Empirical Method by John Henry Newman and Arthur Conan Doyle.” *Newman Studies Journal* 19/2 (2022): 5-22.

“A Proposed Solution of St. Thomas Aquinas’s ‘Third Way’ through *Pros hen* Analogy.” *Philotheos* 19/1 (2019): 85-105.

“Wonder and the Discovery of Being: Homeric Myth and the Natural Genera of Early Greek Philosophy.” *The Review of Metaphysics* 70/3 (March 2017): 411-33.

“Plato’s Educational Paradigm Shift: From Authority to Dialectic.” In Proceedings of the 2016 3rd International Conference on Education, Language, Art and Inter-cultural Communication (ICELAIC 2016). Edited by Eric McAnally et. alia. January 2017.

“A Consideration of Roland Barthes’s *The Pleasure of the Text*: From an Erotics to an Agapics Of Reading.” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 56, no. 4 (December 2016): 469-86. Online First:

https://www.pdcnet.org//pdc/bvdb.nsf/purchase?openform&fp=ipq&id=ipq_2016_0056_0004_0469_0486&onlyautologin=true

“Plato on Homer: Heroic Liars and the Concept of Injustice in *Hippias minor*.” *Bulletin of the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia*. Philosophy Series 2016, No. 2 (Summer 2016): 95-101.

“Vico’s Metaphysics of Poetic Wisdom.” *Clio* 41, no. 3 (Summer 2012): 339-58.

Encyclopaedia Entries:

“Being.” Revision of article originally by Ralph Matthew McInerny. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

“Distinctions, Kinds of.” Revision of article originally by John Joseph Glanville. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

“Scientism.” Revision of article originally by Edward Quinlisk Franz. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

Academic (Theology)—

“St. Aelred of Rievaulx’s Model of Spiritual Friendship as a Paradigm for Ecumenical Conversation.” In *Friendship as an Ecumenical Value: Proceedings of the International Conference Held on the Inauguration of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (Lviv, 11-15 June 2005)*, edited by Antoine Arjakovsky and Marie-Aude Tardivo, 157-167. Lviv: Ukrainian Catholic University Press, 2006.

“Husbandry: A Treatment of Genesis 1:24-31,” *The Register* 3/2 (2001): 76-81.

“Preaching as Pastoral Care.” In *Beside Still Waters*, edited by J. Stephen Muse, 157-180. Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2000.

“Reformed Christians: *Quo Vadamus?*” *The Register* 2/1 (2000): 73-76.

“Telling Time By Prayer.” *Pastoral Forum* 15/1 (1997)

“The Dawning Silence.” *The Expository Times* 97/6 (March 1986): 173-74.

“The Prayer of Naked Living.” *The Expository Times* 93/1 (October 1981): 20-21.

“The Integrity of John 3:22-36,” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 10 (1981): 34-41.

Book Reviews:

- Verene, Donald Phillip. *The Rhetorical Sense of Philosophy*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2021. *The Review of Metaphysics* 76/2 (December 2021) : 369-370.
- Lucas, George. *The Ordering of Time: Meditations on the History of Philosophy*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020, *The Review of Metaphysics* 75/1 (September 2021) : 150-152.
- Rosemann, Philipp W. *Charred Root of Meaning: Continuity, Transgression, and the Other in Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids, MI: William Eerdmanns Publishing Company, 2018, *The Review of Metaphysics* 72/4 (June 2019) : 807-808.
- Wilford, Paul T. and Kate Havard. *Athens, Arden, Jerusalem: Essays in Honor of Mera Flaumenhaft*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017, *The Review of Metaphysics* 72/2 (December 2018) : 403-404.
- Verene, Donald Phillip. *Metaphysics and the Modern World*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2016, *The Review of Metaphysics* 72/1 (September 2018) : 157-158.
- Verene, Donald Phillip. *Vico's "New Science": A Philosophical Commentary*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015, *The Review of Metaphysics* 70/4 (June 2017) : 795-797.
- Verene, Donald Phillip. *Moral Philosophy and the Modern World*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2013, *The Review of Metaphysics* 68/2 (December 2014) : 448-450.
- Widder, Nathan. *Political Theory after Deleuze*. New York: Continuum, 2012, *The Review of Metaphysics* 67/3 (March 2014) : 672-674.
- Cooksey, Thomas L. *Plato's "Symposium": A Reader's Guide*. New York: Continuum, 2010, *The Review of Metaphysics* 65/1 (September 2011) : 150-152.
- Berg, Steven. *Eros and the Intoxications of Enlightenment: On Plato's "Symposium"*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2010, *The Review of Metaphysics* 64/3 (March 2011) : 625-627.

Non-academic publications—

- “Dancing through *Heaven's Gate*.” *Oxford Today* (on-line). August, 2014.
- “Aristotle on the Family: Philosophy in the Catholic Church.” *The Crosier* 1, no. 1 (2014): 9-14.

Invited Lectures:

- “The Invention of Gothic Architecture as Epistemic Break,” School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, October 14, 2022.
- "Realist Metaphysics and Epistemology in St. John Henry Cardinal Newman's *Grammar of Assent*," in the post-graduate course (virtual) at Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca and Instituto de Filosofia Edith Stein (Granada), "Wojtyla and Realist Phenomenology," March 10, 2022.
- “A Philosophical Archeology of *Iliad* 2:1-277: How Plato and Aristotle Proof-Text Homer.” Northeast Catholic College: Warner, New Hampshire, November 10, 2017.
- “Political Theology: A Clear and Present Danger—Lessons from Nazism to the Present.” Washington College: Chestertown, Maryland; March 8, 2011.

Conferences and Presentations:

- Diaspora, Community, Solidarity at the Instituto de Filosofía Edith Stein (Granada):
Communities of Transmission: The Texts of Aristotle from Antiquity to the
Renaissance;” **Invited Speaker:** June 27-July 1, 2022.
- The Gift of Creation Symposium: Theological Reflections on Ecology, Metaphysics, and Poetry
at the Instituto de Filosofía Edith Stein (Granada) and the Pontifical University of John
Paul II (Krakow): “Re-homing the Human;” **Invited Speaker:** June 28-30, 2021.
- Metaphysical Society of America: annual meeting held at Seattle University: “Aristotle’s Best
Constitution”: March 29, 2019.
- Liberty and Tyranny in Plato Conference at Mercer University: “*Gorgias* as *Reductio ad
absurdum* Argument: Socrates, True Politician but Failed Teacher;” **Invited Speaker:**
March 19-20, 2019.
- Metaphysical Society of America: annual meeting held at the Hillel Center, Harvard University:
“Proposed Resolution of St. Thomas Aquinas’s Third Way to Prove the
Existence of God: The Contingency of Secondary Analogates”: April 1, 2017.
- Metaphysical Society of America: annual meeting held at St. John’s College, Annapolis,
Maryland: “The Discovery of Being: From Homeric Myth to the Natural Genera of
Early Greek Philosophy”: March 18, 2016.
- Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:
“A Political Archeology of *Iliad* 2.1-277”: November 14-16, 2013.
- “The Last Chapter” at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: “The *Nicomachean Ethics*
through the Rear-View Mirror: 10.7-8”: October 3-4, 2013.
- Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts:
“Aristotle’s Natural Political Justice”: November 15-17, 2012.
- Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:
“Aristotle’s Politics of Friendship”: November 16-18, 2011.
- Vico and the Humanist Tradition Seminar held by the Institute for the History of Philosophy of
the Department of Philosophy at Emory University; **Invited Participant:** June 6–17,
2011.
- Metaphysical Society of America annual meeting held at Emory University: “Foucault as
Inverted Neo-Platonist in ‘A Preface to Transgression’”: March 11-12, 2011.
- Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy in conjunction with the American Philological
Association annual meeting held in San Antonio, Texas: paper given on “Aristotle on
Food as Definitively Human Artifact”: January 6-9, 2011.
- Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts: paper
given on “Erik Peterson’s ‘Monotheism as Political Problem’”: November 11-13, 2010.
- Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy annual meeting held at Fordham University: paper given
On “The Mean of Mixed Polity in Plato’s *Laws*”: October 15-17, A.D. 2010.
- Metaphysical Society of America annual meeting held at Emory University:
“The Metaphysics of Poetic Wisdom”: March 13-14, 2009.
- Faith and the Disciplines Conference held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia:
invited speaker on faith and teaching politics: July 16-20, 2008.
- Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv: invited speaker in the
international conference on “Friendship: An Ecumenical Value,”: June 11-15, 2005.
- Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.: invited participant in the
Williamsburg Consultation on “Is There a Reformed Tradition?”: May, 1999.
- Public lecturer on politics, agricultural policy, and international issues: 1996-2008.

Honors and Grants:

Lecturer Development Grant, The Catholic University of America: 2019.
Aristotle Prize, Metaphysical Society of America: 2009.
Pastoral Study Grant from the Louisville Institute for the project, “The Contemplative
Congregation: Moving Monasticism Out of Doors”: 2000.
Hitchcock Prize in Church History, Union Theological Seminary: 1979.
Roothbert Fellow: 1978.

Faculty Activities:

Led graduate student German reading group, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of
America: Schleiermacher’s introductions to Plato’s dialogues, 2011-12; Past German
Reading Exams 2012-2013; Walter Benjamin, “Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers” 2013; Past
German Reading Exams 2014-2019.
Participant in Greek reading group, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America:
Plotinus. Ennead 5.1 (10), 2010-2011; Platonic myths, 2011-12.
Mentored senior honors thesis: Kayla Garry. *The Contemplative Philosophy and Theology of
the 12th Century Cistercian Mystics*. Mount St. Mary’s University: 2009-2010.
Participant in Greek reading group: Aristotle. *On the Parts of Animals*, Book 1. The Catholic
University of America: 2009-2010.
Led faculty reading group: Jean Leclercq. *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*. Mount
St. Mary’s University: 2007-2008.

Languages:

Reading, writing, speaking—	Reading—
German	Latin
French	Greek

Memberships:

American Catholic Philosophical Association
Metaphysical Society of America—Executive Council: 2018-present
—Findlay Book Prize Committee 2018
Northeastern Political Science Association
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy