

THOMAS D. FEENEY

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Associate Professor (2022 - *present*)
Assistant Professor (2014 - 2022)

EDUCATION

Yale University
PhD, Philosophy and Religious Studies (2016)
Dissertation: "Leibniz on Metaphysical Perfection"
Committee: Michael Della Rocca (advisor), John Hare (advisor), Kenneth Winkler
MPhil & MA (2012)

University of Notre Dame
MA, Philosophy (2008)

Oxford University
MSt, Jewish Studies (2005)

University of Notre Dame
BA, Philosophy & Theology major, German minor (2004)

AREAS

Specialization: Early Modern Philosophy, Metaphysics
Competence: Philosophy of Religion, Medieval Philosophy, AI
Teaching Interest: Logic (through first metatheory course and modal), Ethics and Value Theory

PUBLICATIONS

"Leibniz's Early Theodicy and its Unwelcome Implications," *The Leibniz Review* (30) 2020: 1-28

"Cartesian Circles and the Analytic Method," *International Philosophical Quarterly* (60:4) 2020: 393-409

"Compossibility and the Unity of the Will in Leibniz." In: *Leibniz: Compossibility and Possible Worlds*. The New Synthese Historical Library (Book 75). Edited by Gregory Brown and Yual Chiek. Springer, 2016

review

Review of "Lloyd Strickland. *Leibniz on God and Religion: A Reader*," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* (93:1) 2019

PRESENTATIONS*invited and refereed talks*

- “Lessons Learned: A Philosopher and a Machine Learning Engineer Attempt to Collaborate” (with Paul Bricman), Facing Technology: The Role of Public Philosophy, 7th Public Philosophy Network Conference, University of California, Santa Cruz (September 2023)
- “Leibniz’s Ideal Monism, or What It Takes to Be a Substance”
 -Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, Halifax (July 2018)
 -The Fifth Finnish-Hungarian Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Central European University, Budapest (May 2018)
- “Leibniz, Acosmism, and Impossibility”
 -Leibniz Society of North America Annual Conference, Ohio State University (October 2015)
 -Scientia Workshop, University of California Irvine Department of Philosophy (June 2015)
- “Strong Necessitarianism, or What Leibniz Left in Paris”
 -The New York City Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, Fordham University (March 2014)
 -The Southeast Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, The University of Southern Florida (March 2014)
- “Scotus Between Skepticism and Divine Illumination,” 33rd International Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Augustinian Institute, Villanova University (October 2008)
- “Maimonides on Imagination and Memory,” 32nd International Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, Augustinian Institute, Villanova University (October 2007)
- “Jihad and Crusade in the 12th Century,” Invited Presenter, Workshop on Pilgrimage and the Crusades, Southern Methodist University, Texas (March 2007)
- “Marc Chagall: Modernity and Memory,” Modernity: Yearning for the Infinite Conference, Center for Ethics and Culture, University of Notre Dame (December 2006)
- “Avicenna, Al-Ghazali, and Aquinas on Divine Knowledge,” International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Fordham University (October 2006)
- “Against Atomism: The Critique of Kalam in Saadia and Maimonides,” 31st International Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference Augustinian Institute, Villanova University (October 2006)
- “Atoms, Infinity, and a Rabbinic Jew in Tenth-Century Baghdad,” 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo College (May 2006)

informal talks

- “Truth, Debate, Machines,” Center for AI Safety (July 2023)
- “ChatGPT and AI Technologies,” University of Saint Thomas Lunch & Learn Series (February 2023)
- “Perfection, Substances and Aggregates,” Yale Philosophy of Religion Colloquium (October 2016)

- “Leibniz: Acosmist and Monist?” Yale Philosophy of Religion Colloquium (December 2013)
- “The Imagination and Spinoza's Modal Epistemology,” The Society for Early Modern Philosophy, Yale University (November 2013)
- “The Puzzle of Impossibility in Leibniz,” Yale Philosophy of Religion Colloquium (March 2013)
- “Compossibility, Unity, and the Limits of Perfection,” Yale Leibniz Workshop (October 2012)
- “Leibniz on Uniformity and Continuity,” The Society for Early Modern Philosophy, Yale University (May 2012)
- “Cartesian Circles and the Analytic Method,” The Society for Early Modern Philosophy, Yale University (May 2011)
- “Existence and the Emergence of the Will in Leibniz,” Yale Philosophy of Religion Colloquium (October 2010)
- “Calvinism and the New Philosophy of Religion,” Yale Philosophy of Religion Colloquium (December 2009)

commentary

- Commentary on Agustín Echavarría's “Aquinas on Divine Impeccability,” Classical Theism Project, University of Saint Thomas (August 2016)
- Commentary on Jeffrey K. McDonough and Zeynep Soysal's “Leibniz on Infinite Analysis: Provable, Decidable, Contingent,” Annual Lecture of the Leibniz Society of North America, APA Eastern Division Conference (January 2016)
- Commentary on Michelle Panchuk's “The Simplicity of Divine Ideas,” Classical Theism Project, University of Saint Thomas (August 2015)
- Commentary on Matthew Lindauer's “Analysis and Doubt in Descartes' Meditations,” The Society for Early Modern Philosophy, Yale University (November 2011)
- Commentary on Johannes Haag's “Descartes on Freedom of the Will,” The Society for Early Modern Philosophy, Yale University (May 2010)

TEACHING

University of Saint Thomas

Introductory Courses

The Person and the Good (crosslisted: *Minor in Sustainability*)
 Philosophy of the Human Person (crosslisted: *Minor in Sustainability*)
 Introductory Ethics

Major Courses

Modern Philosophy

Metaphysics and Natural Philosophy
Philosophy of God

Honors Seminar

Suffering Saints

Certification and experience in Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) courses.

Yale

The Philosophy of Leibniz, co-taught with Michael Della Rocca and Julia Jorati (Spring 2013)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Referee, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy*, *Res Philosophica*, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*

Editor for the *Leibniz: Philosophy of Religion* area on *PhilPapers* (2018-2023).

University of Saint Thomas

External Speakers Committee	Member (2014-2023), Chair (2018-2023)
Faculty Development Committee	Member (2018-2022)
Philosophy Club	Advisor (2015-2022)
<i>Philosophy Capstone Presentations</i>	Examiner (2015-2022)
<i>Summa Oral Examination</i>	Examiner (2017, 2019, 2020)
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee	Member (Fall 2015)

Yale

7th Annual Conference of the Leibniz Society of North America, Co-organizer (Fall 2013)
Philosophy of Religion Colloquium, Coordinator (Fall 2013 & Spring 2014)
Yale Leibniz Workshop, Co-organizer (Fall 2012)
Why is there anything: Cosmos, Logos, and the Why of the Universe Conference, Committee Member, (October 2011)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

AI Safety Camp 2023. Participant in the *DebateGPT* research group led by Paul Bricman. Coauthored an extended reflection on machine inference and automated truth-seeking debate.

Leibniz on Substantial and Cosmic Unity. Research Grant, Center for Faculty Development, University of Saint Thomas (2019). Funded two course releases in Fall 2019 to write on Leibniz's account of unity.

Early Modern Women and the New History of Philosophy. Teaching Enhancement Grant, Center for Faculty Development, University of Saint Thomas (2018). Funded development of a new focus on critical historiography and women philosophers in *Modern Philosophy*.

Environmental Stewardship Curriculum Grant, Office of Sustainability Initiatives, University of Saint

Thomas (2017). Funded development of a sustainability focused unit for *Philosophy of the Human Person*.

Partnership in Learning Grant, University of Saint Thomas (Fall 2016). Employed an undergraduate as a research assistant.

Young Scholars Grant, University of Saint Thomas (Summer 2016). Mentored an undergraduate writing on indispensability arguments and the ontology of mathematics.

Young Scholars Grant, University of Saint Thomas (Summer 2015). Mentored an undergraduate writing on the metaphysics of special relativity.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Conference Travel Fellowship, Yale University (March 2014)

Suisman Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University (2013-2014)

Fellowship for the Associates in Teaching Program, Yale University (2013)

Fellowship for Internationaler Doktorandenkurs, Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany (September 2011)

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Pre-Prospectus Fellowship (Summer 2011)

Graduate Essay Prize on the Problem of Evil, Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion and the John Templeton Foundation (September 2010)

Fellowship for *Templeton Summer Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy of Religion: Evil in Early Modern Thought*, Skidmore College, New York (June 2010)

Fellowship for *The Fundamentalist Impulse and its Religious Correctives*, 20th International Theological Conference, Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem, Israel (February 2007)

LANGUAGES

Latin (reading), German (reading, listening & writing), French (reading),
Biblical Hebrew (basic reading)

REFERENCES

Michael Della Rocca
Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Philosophy
Yale University
michael.della@yale.edu
(203) 432-2764

John Hare
Noah Porter Professor of Philosophical Theology
Yale University
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(203) 432-5343

Kenneth Winkler
Professor of Philosophy
Yale University
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(203) 432-1679

Jeffrey K. McDonough
John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities
Harvard University
jkmdon@fas.harvard.edu
(617) 495-0518

Sun-Joo Shin (teaching reference)
Professor of Philosophy
Yale University
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