THOMAS D. FEENEY

University of Saint Thomas
Saint Paul, MN

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Saint Thomas
- Program Director, Master of Arts in Artificial Intelligence Leadership (2025 - *present*)
- Associate Professor, Philosophy (2022 - *present*)
- Assistant Professor, Philosophy (2014 - 2022)

EDUCATION

Yale University
- PhD, Philosophy and Religious Studies (2016)
  - Dissertation: "Leibniz on Metaphysical Perfection"
  - Committee: Michael Della Rocca & John Hare (advisors), 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:	AI, Philosophy of Religion, Political Theory, Medieval Philosophy
Teaching Interest:	Logic (through first metatheory course and modal), Ethics and Value Theory

PUBLICATIONS

"Leibniz on the Problem of Evil," *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2026 Edition). Edited by Edward N. Zalta & Uri Nodelman

"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

"Leibniz, Acosmism, and Incompossibility." 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

"How AI Keeps the Students Up at Night," Powering Possibility: Applied AI Across Work, Learning, and Life, Applied AI 2025 Fall Conference, University of St. Thomas (November 2025)

"Metaphysical Perfection as Logical Depth," Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University, Halifax (July 2024)

"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 Incompossibility"
-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

"What's AI For?," Invited Address at Visitation School, Mendota Heights, MN (December 2025)

"The Measure of AI: From Benchmarks to Wisdom in Leadership" AppliedAI (June 2025)

"AI and You at College," Invited Address at Visitation School, Mendota Heights, MN (December 2024)

"Large Language Models as (Leibnizian) Persons," *Engineering Ourselves? AI, Transhumanism, and the Human Person*, Interdisciplinary Faculty Summer Seminar, University of Saint Thomas (June 2024)

"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 Incompossibility 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

Graduate Courses

AI, Ethics, and Society

Core Courses

AI Ethics
Philosophies of Social Justice
The Person and the Good (cross listed with *Minor in Sustainability*)
Philosophy of the Human Person (retired)
Introductory Ethics (retired)

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 *PhilPapers, Leibniz: Philosophy of Religion* subject area (2018 - *present*).

University of Saint Thomas

Institute for AI for the Common Good	Steering Committee (2024 - *present*)
AI Strategy Working Group	Member (2025 - *present*)
Advising External Entities Working Group	Chair (2024 - *present*)
University Technology Advisory Committee	Member (2024 - *present*)
InfoSecurity and Privacy Subcommittee	Member (2024 - *present*)

Philosophy Tutors	Coordinator (2024 - *present*)
Philosophy Capstone Presentations	Auditor (2015 - *present*)
Philosophy Faculty Search Committee	Member (2025 - 2026)
External Speakers Committee	Member (2014 - 2025), Chair (2018 - 2025)
MA in AI Leadership	Faculty Champion (2024 - 2025)
Summa Oral Examination	Examiner (2017, 2019, 2020, 2024)
Philosophy Curriculum Strategy Task-force	Member (2023-2024)
Faculty Development Committee	Member (2018-2022)
Philosophy Club	Advisor (2015-2022)
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 via 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)

MEDIA

Guest, *Conversations on Applied AI*, Hosted by Justin Grammens (January 2026)

Guest, *MPR News with Angela Davis*, "How Colleges are Preparing Students for AI in the Workplace" (September 2025)

REFERENCES

Michael Della Rocca
Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Philosophy
Yale University
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John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities
Harvard University
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(617) 495-0518

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Yale University
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