
MICHAEL W. ROTA

Curriculum Vitae

March 2016

University of St. Thomas
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Saint Louis University, January 2006

M.A., Theology, with Honors, Franciscan University of Steubenville, August 2000

B.A., Public Policy, with Distinction, Stanford University, June 1997

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, 2012—

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, 2006—2012

Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University, Evolution and Theology of Cooperation Project, 2006-2007

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Religion, Medieval Philosophy, Metaphysics

PUBLICATIONS: BOOK

Taking Pascal's Wager: Faith, Evidence and the Abundant Life

(Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016)

Winner of a [Christianity Today 2017 Book Awards](#) Award of Merit

World magazine Books of the Year shortlist

PUBLICATIONS: ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

21. "Pascal's Wager," *Philosophy Compass*, forthcoming.

20. "A Better Version of Pascal's Wager," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 90:3 (Summer 2016): 415-439.

19. "The Ultimate Wager: Social Science and Psychology Lend Support to Pascal's Famous Bet on God," *Christianity Today* 60:4 (May 2016): 44-47.

18. "Synchronic Contingency and the Problem of Freedom and Foreknowledge," *Faith and Philosophy* 32:1 (Jan 2015): 81-96.

17. "The Problem of Evil and Cooperation," in *Evolution, Games, and God: The Principle of Cooperation*, eds. Sarah Coakley and Martin Nowak (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013): 362-374.
16. "Comments on Feser's 'The medieval principle of motion and the modern principle of inertia'," *Skepticism, Causality, and Skepticism about Causality, Volume 10: Proceedings of the Society of Medieval Logic and Metaphysics*, eds. G. Klima and A. Hall (Newcastle Upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013): 23-26.
15. "On Klima's 'Whatever happened to efficient causality?'," *Skepticism, Causality, and Skepticism about Causality, Volume 10: Proceedings of the Society of Medieval Logic and Metaphysics*, eds. G. Klima and A. Hall (Newcastle Upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013): 43-46.
14. "Whether or not there is a God is worth thinking about: comments on Timothy Mawson's Paper," *Philosophy of Religion: An Almanac. 2012-2013*. (Moscow: Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences, 2013): 179-185.
13. "Freedom and the Necessity of the Present: A Reply to William Hasker," *Faith and Philosophy* 29:4 (Oct 2012): 451-465.
12. "What Aristotelian and Thomistic philosophy can contribute to Christian theology," in *Theology and Philosophy: Faith and Reason*, eds. O. Crisp, G. D'Costa, M. Davies, and P. Hampson (London: T & T Clark, 2012): 102-115.
11. "Causation," in *The Oxford Handbook of Aquinas*, eds. Brian Davies and Eleonore Stump (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012): 104-114.
10. "A Problem for Hasker: freedom with respect to the present, hard facts, and theological incompatibilism," *Faith and Philosophy* 27:3 (July 2010): 287-305.
9. "The eternity solution to the problem of human freedom and divine foreknowledge," *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 2:1 (Spring 2010): 165-186.
8. "An Anti-reductionist Account of Singular Causation," *The Monist* 92:1 (Jan 2009): 133-152.
7. "Aquinas on Justice," in Chinese translation in *Reading Thomas Aquinas*, eds. Kelly James Clark and Xu Xiangdong (Beijing: Peking University Press. 2009).
6. "Evolution, Providence, and Gouldian Contingency," *Religious Studies* 44 (2008): 393-412.
5. "Infinite Causal Chains and Explanation," *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*, vol. 81 (2007): 109-122. (This paper won the 2007 ACPA Young Scholar's Award.)
4. "The Moral Status of Anger: Thomas Aquinas and John Cassian," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 81:3 (Summer 2007): 395-418.
3. "Multiple Universes and the Fine-tuning Argument: A Response to Rodney Holder," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 86 (2005): 556-576.
2. "Aquinas, St. Thomas," in the *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*, Kevin Vanhoozer, ed., Craig Bartholomew, N.T. Wright, and Daniel J. Treier, assoc. eds. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005).

1. "Substance and Artifact in Thomas Aquinas," *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 21:3 (July 2004): 241-259.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

Project Leader (with Dean Zimmerman), the *St. Thomas Summer Seminars in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology*, funded by the John Templeton Foundation (\$550,253), the University of St. Thomas, the Society of Christian Philosophers, the Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion, the John Cardinal O'Hara Chair in Philosophy (Notre Dame), and the Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion, 2014-2016

Project Leader, *Philosophy and Theology in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus*, funded (\$1,062,465) by the John Templeton Foundation, 2013-2016

Research Assistance Grant, Center for Faculty Development, University of St Thomas, 2012-2013

Co-principal Investigator, *Promoting Philosophical and Theological Engagement with Russia and Ukraine*, funded (\$846,362) by the John Templeton Foundation, 2010-2013

Project Leader (with Dean Zimmerman), *Summer Seminars in Philosophy of Religion: The Academy and Beyond*, funded (\$728,610) by the John Templeton Foundation, 2009-2014

Professor of the Year, 2010-2011, Aquinas Scholars Program (the Honors program at the University of St. Thomas)

Research Assistance Grant, Center for Faculty Development, University of St Thomas, 2008-09

Aquinas Chair in Philosophy and Theology research grant, University of St. Thomas, 2007-08

The Young Scholar's Award, 2007, American Catholic Philosophical Association

James Collins Memorial Scholarship, for excellence in graduate studies in philosophy, Saint Louis University, 2003-2004

Great Distinction, Saint Louis University doctoral oral comprehensive examination, Department of Philosophy, August 2003

Special fellowship from Saint Louis University to study at the University of Notre Dame's Department of Philosophy, 2002-2003

Phi Beta Kappa, Stanford University, 1997

Jaeger Prize for Mathematics, Pomona College, 1994

PRESENTATIONS

"Response to Rogers, Davis, and Fales," Author-meets-critics session on *Taking Pascal's Wager*, American Catholic Philosophical Association annual conference, San Francisco, Nov 9, 2016.

"Pascal's Wager," with Gideon Rosen and Tom Kelly, 2016 St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion, St. Paul, MN, June 2016.

- “Pascal’s Wager,” an interview with Dr. Anthony Gill for the Research on Religion podcast series (<http://www.researchonreligion.org>), May 25, 2016.
- “The Reasonableness of Christianity,” a dialogue with Dr. Felipe Leon, Azusa Pacific University, November 20, 2015.
- “A Historical Argument for the Resurrection,” Pepperdine University, November 18, 2015.
- “Does the Fact that our Universe is Life-Permitting Confirm the Multiverse?” ACPA conference, Boston, October 9, 2015.
- “God and the Multiverse,” Eastern SCP conference, Messiah College, September 26, 2015.
- “The Reasonableness of Christianity,” a debate with Dr. Shane Courtland, at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, February 10, 2014.
- “Synchronic and Diachronic Contingency and the Problem of Freedom and Foreknowledge,” University of Innsbruck, Austria, March 2013.
- “Pascal’s Wager,” 2012 St. Thomas Summer Seminar, St. Paul, MN, June 2012.
- “Comments on Feser and Klima,” American Catholic Philosophical Association, Saint Louis, MO, Oct. 2011.
- “Comments on Daniel Nolan’s ‘The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Abstract Metaphysics’,” Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, Boise, ID, April 2011.
- “A Reply to van Inwagen’s Objection to the Fine-tuning Argument,” Society of Christian Philosophers Eastern Regional conference, Fordham University, March 18-19, 2011.
- “Comments on Eric Hagedorn’s ‘Is Anyone Else Thinking My Thoughts?’,” American Catholic Philosophical Association annual conference, Baltimore, MD. November 2010.
- “Comments on Ian McFarland’s ‘Can God Play Dice?’,” Logos Workshop, Rutgers University. May 13-15, 2010.
- “Causal Powers and Final Causes,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division, main program. Chicago. February 20, 2010.
- “Causal Powers and Final Causes,” American Catholic Philosophical Association annual conference, New Orleans, LA. November 14, 2009.
- “Comments on Michael Gorman’s ‘Side-stepping the Potentiality Problem’,” American Catholic Philosophical Association annual conference, New Orleans, LA. November 13, 2009.
- “The Eternity Solution to the Problem of Human Freedom and Divine ‘Foreknowledge’,” God and the Future, Humboldt University. Berlin. Sept 29, 2009.
- “An Anti-reductionist Account of Singular Causation,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division, main program. Chicago. February 20, 2009.

- “Infinite Causal Chains and Explanation,” American Catholic Philosophical Association annual conference, Milwaukee, WI. November 9, 2007.
- “Does evolutionary biology show that human beings are just a cosmic accident?” University of St. Thomas Department of Philosophy Colloquium. St. Paul, MN. September 27, 2007.
- “Evolution, the Problem of Natural Evil, and Divine Hiddenness,” Evolution and Theology of Cooperation Symposium, Harvard University. May 10th-12th, 2007.
- “Aquinas on Justice,” The Twelfth Sino-American Symposium on Philosophy and Religious Studies, Beijing University, Beijing, China. July 2006.
- “The Difference between Efficient and Final Causation According to Aquinas,” Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. June 2006.
- “Aquinas’s Account of Efficient Causation,” Midwestern Conference in Medieval Philosophy, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI. Sept 16, 2005.
- “A New Challenge for Counterfactual Accounts of Causation”
Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN. Feb 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Referee, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, 2009, 2011, 2015
 Referee, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 2013
 Referee, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 2013
 Referee, *Faith and Philosophy*, 2010, 2012, 2014
 Referee, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2015
 Referee, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 2006
 Referee, *The Journal of Philosophical Research*, 2005-2007, 2015, 2016
 Referee, *Logos*, 2012
 Referee, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 2016
 Referee, *Philosophical Studies*, 2010
 Referee, *Ratio*, 2013
 Referee, *Res Philosophica*, 2012
 Referee, *Sophia*, 2006, 2017
 Referee, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 2015, 2016
- Society of Christian Philosophers Executive Committee, 2011-2014
 American Catholic Philosophical Association Executive Council, 2013-2016
 Society of Christian Philosophers Russia committee, 2008-2017
 American Catholic Philosophical Association Outreach Committee, 2016-2018

REFERENCES

- | | | |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| Eleonore Stump | Robert J. Henle Professor of Philosophy | Saint Louis University |
| Dean Zimmerman | Professor of Philosophy | Rutgers University |
| Michael Loux | George N. Shuster Prof. of Philosophy, Emeritus | Univ. of Notre Dame |
| Matthews Grant | Prof. of Philosophy and Department Chair | Univ. of St. Thomas |

Michael Murray

Senior Vice President, Programs

John Templeton Foundation