

JOSEPH P. LI VECCHI

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

August - December 2024	Department, Fordham University, New York, NY, Visiting Scholar, Philosophy
Fall 2012- Summer 2013	Columbia University, New York, NY, Visiting Scholar, Philosophy Department
Fall 2011 - present	Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Akron, Akron, OH
Fall 2005 - Spring 2011	Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Akron, Akron, OH
Fall 2004 - Spring 2005	Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow, Fordham University, New York, NY

SPECIALIZATION: Aquinas, Medieval Philosophy, Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic, Philosophical Psychology

COMPETENCE: Ancient Philosophy, 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

RESEARCH INTERESTS: My research aims to bring the best insights of scholasticism to bear on contemporary philosophical debate. Late 19th and 20th century advances in logic were thought to require the marginalization of traditional metaphysics. Since then, philosophy has veered away from classical and broadly humanistic views of existence and knowledge. Study of scholastic texts in the light of developments in the continental and analytic traditions, however, offers contemporary philosophers the occasion to reconsider their conclusions about a range of subjects including the nature and proper object of metaphysics and logic, theories of truth and intentionality, the nature of human consciousness, and neuro-philosophy.

DEGREES

Feb. 2005 **Doctorate (Ph.D.), Philosophy**

Institution: The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy, (*Angelicum*)
Dissertation: *The Predication of Being: Real Being vs. Being of Reason (magna cum laude)*
Area: Metaphysics / Logic
Director: Rodolfo García-Vargas, O.P., Michael Tavuzzi, O.P.
Committee: Charles Morerod, O.P.; Alfred Wilder, O.P.; Rodolfo García-Vargas, O.P.
Abstract: What is the ontological status of relations of reason taken second intentionally? These relations obtain among logical entities such as genera, species, differences, premises, conclusions, quantifiers, and the like. They are first thematized by medieval commentators on Aristotle's logical works such as Thomas Aquinas. Drawing on the unparalleled analysis offered in Hervaeus Natalis' *De secundis intentionibus* and Cajetan's *De nominum analogia* this dissertation explores whether *being* is predicable of real being and second intentional relations of reason by equivocation or by analogy.

Nov. 2001 **Licentiate (Ph.L.), Philosophy**

Institution: The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy, (*Angelicum*)
Thesis: *The Divisions of Theoretical Science According to Aquinas (summa cum laude)*
Area: Theory of Knowledge
Director: Michael Tavuzzi, O.P.

Committee: Alfred Wilder, O.P.; Jerome Haladus, O.P.; Michael Tavuzzi, O.P.
Abstract: This thesis treats the proper object and methodology of metaphysics, and especially this science's distinction from rational theology. It draws principally upon the works of Aquinas and Aristotle, but also of Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd, and contemporary philosophers and commentators.

Oct. 1998

Baccalaureate (Ph.B.), Philosophy

Institution: The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy, (*Angelicum*)
Thesis: *Lo sviluppo della Metafisica dalle origini a S. Tommaso (summa cum laude)*
Course: Ontology I-II
Director: Rodolfo García-Vargas, O.P.
Abstract: This thesis examines two issues: 1) the origin and significance of the term *metaphysics* in relation to the eponymous work by Aristotle; 2) the general development of metaphysical thought beginning with early Greek cosmologies of φύσις, extending to the metaphysical cosmology of Aristotle, and focusing especially on the meta-cosmological metaphysics of Thomas Aquinas.

May 1988

Master of Architecture (M.Arch.)

Institution: Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, New York, NY

May 1982

Baccalaureate (B.A.), Art

Institution: The University of California, Los Angeles, CA, (UCLA)
Department of Art

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

in progress

The Criterion of Truth

Abstract: This book concerns the nature of truth. Contemporary philosophical schools have failed to present an explanation of truth that at once increases the intelligibility of the concept and provides criteria for adjudicating truth claims in public discourse. This book addresses truth theories that take the hyperbolically objectivist or subjectivist views of truth represented in the analytic and continental traditions respectively.

2020

The Philosophy of Being in the Analytic, Continental, and Thomistic Traditions: Divergence and Dialogue, Bloomsbury Academic, London, 2020

Abstract: Co-authored with Frank Scalabrino and David Kovacs. This book aims to foster dialogue between three different philosophical traditions regarding the topic of being. After highlighting aspects of these traditions that present major points of divergence, the book presents each author's evaluation of the other traditions, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and suggesting how each might develop to increase mutual comprehension.

ARTICLES, CHAPTERS, PROCEEDINGS

2021

Refereed Conference Proceeding: "Frege's Hyperbolic Objectivism"

Proceedings, Seventh World Conference on Metaphysics, Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain, October 24-27, 2018, 615-618, Fondazione Idente di Studi e di Ricerca, Rome, Italy, and Editorial Fundación Fernando Rielo, Madrid, 2021.

2014

Article: "Logical Objectivity and Second Intentions"

Angelicum, vol. 91, 4, December 2014, 795-812.

2014

Chapter: invited reprint of "Analogical Deduction via a Calculus of Predicables"

Logik, Naturphilosophie, Dialektik, Zur modernen Deutung der Aristotelischen Logik, Bd. XI, ed. Niels Offenberger and ` , Hildesheim, Zürich, New York, Olms, 2014.

- 2010 **Article: "Aquinas on the Matter of Mind"**
Angelicum, vol. 87, 2, June 2010, 371-382.
- 2010 **Article: "Analogical Deduction via a Calculus of Predicables"**
Philo, vol. 13.1, Spring-Summer 2010, 53-66.
- 2008 **Article: "Quine and Aquinas: On What There Is"**
The Modern Schoolman, vol. 85, No. 3, March 2008, 207-223.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 **"Can Neuroscience explain Consciousness?"**
 Invited Interdisciplinary Discussion-Debate with Dr. Kevin Kaut, The University of Akron
 Psychology Department. The University of Akron Philosophy Club, November 15
- 2022 **Comments on "Lack of Self in Plato: The Tragedy of a Rhapsody" by Henry Curcio,**
 Ohio Philosophical Association Meeting. The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, April 23
- 2018 **"Intentionality and Objective Knowledge of Reality"**, October 25
 The Seventh World Conference on Metaphysics, 2018,
 Sponsored by Fondazione Idente di Studi e di Ricerca, Rome, Italy
 at the Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain, October 24-27
- 2016 **"Nature, City, and Intentionality"**, October 4
Physis kai Polis, XII International Ontology Congress under the Patronage of UNESCO,
 Sponsored by The Autonomous University of Barcelona and University of the Basque
 Country, San Sebastián, Spain, October 3-7
- 2013 **"Dispelling Some Myths about Aquinas' Psychology and Metaphysics"**
 Presentation to Visiting Scholars
 Columbia University Department of Philosophy, 716 Philosophy Hall, August 3
- 2013 **"Illogical Logicians: The Analytic Ideal of Absolute Objectivity"**
 Presentation to Visiting Scholars
 Columbia University Department of Philosophy, 716 Philosophy Hall, May 24
- 2011 **"Nietzsche's Apollonian-Dionysian Dialectic and O'Neil's *The Great God Brown*"**
 Invited Lecture: School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration
 The University of Akron, 299 Guzzetta Hall, November 11
- 2010 **"The Philosophical Logic of Scholasticism: Then and Now"**, (accepted but not presented)
The 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2010, The Medieval Institute,
 Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 13-16
- 2007 **"Analogical Deduction via a Calculus of Predicables"**, November 22
International Colloquium: The Logic of Aristotle: Reception, Transformation, and Influence
 sponsored by the Pontifical Catholic University, Santiago, Chile, November 20-22
- 2007 **"Dream vs. Reality: An Analysis of August Strindberg's *A Dream Play*"**
 Invited Lecture: School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration
 The University of Akron, Akron, OH, 299 Guzzetta Hall, March 10

OTHER WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Theoretical Foundation of Logic. Abstract: This book presents an account of logic's proper object, and the nature of rational discourse. Drawing on contemporary and medieval scholastic philosophical logic, it contrasts the dominant Fregean logical tradition, that casts subject and object into sharp opposition, and aims to validate the legitimate role of the knowing subject in reasoning about reality.

This book draws on the medieval theory of second intentionality. It aims not to rehabilitate a medieval theory, but to show how contemporary philosophy can evolve beyond its current limits, shedding light on the pressing contemporary philosophical problem of harmonizing objectivity with a radically satisfying vision of reality and truth.

"Keeping Thought in Mind" Abstract: This article examines paradoxes that arise in philosophical psychology for physicalism and for various versions of epiphenomenalism. It defends the irreducible reality of immaterial thought while dispelling a dualistic conception of the relation of mind and body.

"The Liar Paradox and Second Intentions"

Abstract: This article brings together insights of scholastic theory of intentionality and contemporary philosophical logic to show that logical validity is not a purely objective matter devoid of a necessary relation to the knowing subject's psychological acts. It defends logic's status as a paradigm of objectivity yet rejects sweeping anti-psychologism. The formal symbolization of second intentions illuminates self-reference puzzle arising from the application of classical binary truth-value laws to the sentence 'This sentence is not true'.

COURSES TAUGHT:

Introduction to Philosophy	Aristotle
Introduction to Logic	Augustine
Introduction to Ethics	Aquinas
Philosophy of Human Nature	Metaphysics
History of Ancient Philosophy	Philosophy of Art
History of Medieval Philosophy	Theory and Evidence
Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy	Body-Soul: Philosophical Anthropology

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND HONORS

Visiting Scholar, Fordham University, New York, NY, Summer 2024 – Fall 2024
Awarded Professional Development Leave, The University of Akron, Fall 2025
Faculty Travel Grants, The University of Akron, for the years: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016; 2018
Visiting Scholar, Columbia University, New York, NY, Fall 2012 – Summer 2013
Awarded Professional Development Leave, The University of Akron, academic year 2012-2013
Graduate Teaching Faculty Status, The University of Akron, 2007-2023
Post-doctoral Teaching Fellowship, Fordham University, NY, 2004-2005

LANGUAGES

Native language: English

Fluency or working knowledge: Latin, Italian, French, Spanish, some Ancient Greek and German.