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Colleen McCluskey
Department of Philosophy
Saint Louis University
130 Adorjan Hall
3800 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

colleen.mccluskey@slu.edu

Education

Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1997
B.A., Philosophy, University of Washington, 1991

Dissertation

Human Action and Human Freedom: Four Theories of Liberum Arbitrium in the Early Thirteenth Century
Dissertation supervisor: Scott MacDonald

Areas of Specialization

medieval philosophy, especially moral psychology and action theory; feminist philosophy; philosophy of race

Areas of Competence

ethics, logic

Languages

reading knowledge: Latin, French, German

Academic Positions

Professor emerita, Saint Louis University, 2024-
Professor, Saint Louis University, 2017-2024
Associate Professor, Saint Louis University, 2003-2017
Assistant Professor, Saint Louis University, 1997-2003
Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa, 1992-1997
Secondary appointment, Women's and Gender Studies, Saint Louis University, 2013-2024
Visiting Professor, Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany, 2009

Publications

Books

Thomas Aquinas on Moral Wrongdoing. 2017. Cambridge University Press.

Aquinas's Ethics: Metaphysical Foundations, Moral Theory, and Theological Context. 2009. Co-authored with Christina Van Dyke and Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung. University of Notre Dame Press.

Book chapters/papers

“The Status of Evil and Sin in *Summa contra gentiles*.” Forthcoming. *Aquinas’s Summa Contra Gentiles: A Critical Guide*. Thomas Osborne and Turner Nevitt, eds. Cambridge University Press.

“Natural and Eternal Law in Thomas Aquinas.” Forthcoming. *A History of Natural Law: From the Ancient World to New Aristotelianism*. William M. R. Simpson and Justin B. Dyer, eds. Cambridge University Press.

“From Metaethics to Normative Ethics.” 2022. *The New Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*. Eleonore Stump and Thomas Joseph White, eds. Cambridge University Press, 257-284.

“Natural Law Theory and Climate Change.” 2020. *Moral Theory and Climate Change: Ethical Perspectives on a Warming Planet*. Dale E. Miller and Ben Eggleston, eds. Routledge, 157-176.

“Black on the Outside, White on the Inside: Peter Abelard’s Use of Race.” 2018. *Critical Philosophy of Race* 6 (2): 135-63.

“Lust and Chastity.” 2014. *Virtues and their Vices*. Kevin Tempe and Craig Boyd, eds. Oxford University Press, 115-135.

“Thomism.” 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Ethics*. Roger Crisp, ed. Oxford University Press, 147-166.

“Early Jesuit Pedagogy and the Subordination of Women: Resources from the *Ratio Studiorum*.” 2011. *Jesuit and Feminist Education: Intersections in Teaching and Learning for the Twenty-First Century*. Elizabeth Petrino and Jocelyn Boryczka, eds. Fordham University Press, 56-72.

“Thomas Aquinas and the Epistemology of Moral Wrongdoing.” 2008. *Action and Science: The Epistemology of the Practical Sciences in the 13th and 14th Centuries*. Matthias Lutz-Bachmann and Alexander Fidora, eds. Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 107-122.

“Bernard of Clairvaux on the Nature of Human Agency.” 2008. *Revista Portuguesa de Filosofia* 64 (1): 297-317.

“An Unequal Relationship of Equals: Thomas Aquinas on Marriage.” 2007. *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 24 (1): 1-18.

“Willful Wrongdoing: Thomas Aquinas on *certa malitia*.” 2005. *Studies in the History of Ethics* 6: 1-54.

“Intellective Appetite and the Freedom of Human Action.” 2002. *The Thomist* 66 (3): 421-456.

“Worthy Constraints in Albertus Magnus’s Theory of Action.” 2001. *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 39 (4): 491-533.

“The Roots of Ethical Voluntarism.” 2001. *Vivarium* 39 (2): 185-208.

“Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas on the Freedom of Human Action.” 2001. *Albertus Magnus, 1200-2000*. Walter Senner, OP. et al, eds., Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 243-254. Reprinted in *Logos* (Lithuania) 42 (2005): 152-159; 43 (2005): 141-145.

“Happiness and Freedom in Aquinas’s Theory of Action.” 2000. *Medieval Philosophy and Theology* 9 (1): 69-90.

Encyclopedia Entries/Discussion Pieces

Medieval Theories of Free Will. 2007. *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

“Gracia and the Question of Religious Relativism.” 2004. In “Book Discussion: Jorge J.E. Gracia’s *How Can We Know What God Means?*” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 78 (3): 487-492.

Philip the Chancellor. 1999. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Updated 2003, 2007, 2010, 2014, 2018-19.

Reviews

Review of *Thomas Aquinas on the Metaphysics of the Human Act*. Can Laurens Löwe. Cambridge University Press, 2021. *Thomist* 86.4 (2022): 674-677.

Review of *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Ethics*. Thomas Williams, ed. Cambridge University Press, 2019. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2019.11.01.

Review of *The Root of Friendship: Self-Love & Self-Governance in Aquinas*, Anthony T. Flood. Catholic University of America Press, 2014. *Thomist* 81 (2017): 293-297.

Review of *Human Action in Thomas Aquinas, John Duns Scotus & William of Ockham*, Thomas M Osborne, Jr. Catholic University of America Press, 2014. *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 89 (2015): 348-51.

Review of *Thomas Aquinas on the Passions*, Robert Miner. Cambridge University Press, 2009. *Ethics* 120 (2010): 627-631.

Review of *Feminist Interpretations of Augustine*, Judith Chelius Stark, ed. Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2008.04.06.

Review of *The Problem of Evil*, Peter van Inwagen. Clarendon Press, 2006.
Review of Metaphysics 60 (2007): 889-890.

Review of *Mind, Metaphysics, and Value in the Thomistic and Analytic Traditions*, John Haldane, ed. University of Notre Dame Press, 2002.
Philosophical Books 46 (2005): 153-155.

Review of *The Metaphysical Thought of Thomas Aquinas*. John Wippel, Catholic University of America Press, 2000. *Philosophia Christi* 3 (2001): 581-585.

Review of *Contingency and Fortune in Aquinas's Ethics*, John Bowlin. Cambridge University Press, 1999. *Mind* 110 (2001): 184-187.

Review of *Aquinas on the Twofold Human Good*, Denis J.M. Bradley. Catholic University of America Press, 1997. *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 38 (2000): 118-119.

Review of *Medieval Thought*, David Luscombe. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 1997. *Modern Schoolman* 76 (1999): 318-319.

Review of *Faith and Understanding*, Paul Helm. Edinburgh University Press, 1997. *Religious Studies* 34 (1998): 501-503.

Presentations

"The Relationship between Teleology and Virtue in Thomas Aquinas's Natural Law Theory." Natural Law: from the Ancient World to the New Aristotelianism. Colloquium and Workshop. Oxford University. January 29-31, 2025.

"The use of climate theory in Albertus Magnus's natural philosophy." XVth International Congress, SIEPM. August 22-26, 2022. Paris, France.

"The use of climate theory in Albertus Magnus's natural philosophy." BA/MA Seminar. Katholieke Universiteit. Leuven, Belgium. March 8, 2022. Via zoom.

"What can the vices teach us about the virtues?" Saint Thomas Aquinas lecture. Katholieke Universiteit. Leuven, Belgium. March 7, 2022. Via zoom.

"The use of climate theory in Albertus Magnus's natural philosophy." Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy Conference. October 4-6, 2021. South Bend, IN.

"The Point of Philosophy." Annual Kavanaugh Lecture. Saint Louis University. September 16, 2021. St Louis, MO.

"Privilege and the Unexamined Life." Philosophers in Jesuit Education sponsored satellite session. 2018 Annual Meeting, American Catholic Philosophical Association. November 8-11, 2018. San Diego, CA.

“Is Thomas Aquinas Committed to Pacifism?” Fifty-third International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 10-13, 2018. Kalamazoo, MI.

“Is Thomas Aquinas Committed to Pacifism?” Morris Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. April 5-8, 2018. Boulder, CO.

“Black on the Outside, White on the Inside: Peter Abelard’s Use of Race.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division. March 1-4, 2017. Kansas City, MO.

“Specifically Christian Sins: Aquinas on *Malitia*, *Acedia*, and the Sins against the Holy Spirit.” November 15, 2016. Wheaton College. Wheaton, IL.

“*Malitia*, *Acedia*, and Sins against the Holy Spirit.” Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy sponsored satellite session. 2016 Annual Meeting, American Catholic Philosophical Association. November 3-6, 2016. San Francisco, CA.

“Intersections for Race, Social Justice, and Education in the Classroom.” Dialogue on Race and Education in the 21st Century. April 6-8, 2016. Berea College. Berea, KY.

“Black on the Outside, White on the Inside: Peter Abelard’s Use of Race.” California Roundtable for Philosophy and Race. September 19-20, 2014. Milwaukee, WI.

“Black on the Outside, Beautiful on the Inside: Abelard’s Reply to Heloise’s Protest.” Forty-ninth International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 8-11, 2014. Kalamazoo, MI.

“Aristotle’s Function Argument Transformed.” Eighty-Seventh Annual Meeting, American Catholic Philosophical Association. November 1-3, 2013. Indianapolis, IN.

“Thomas Aquinas and the Agents of Evil, Both Actual and Literary.” Fourteenth Annual Cornell Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. May 12-14, 2011. Ithaca, NY.

“Is There Truly Malice in Aquinas?” Thirteenth Annual Cornell Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. June 3-5, 2010. Ithaca, NY.

“No Moral Authority: Thomas Aquinas on Emotions in Motherhood.” Forty-fifth International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 13-16, 2010. Kalamazoo, MI.

“Ordinary Martyrs: Thomas Aquinas on Courage in Everyday Life.” Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität. May 13, 2009. Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

“Ordinary Martyrs: Thomas Aquinas on Courage in Everyday Life.” Forty-third International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 8-11, 2008. Kalamazoo, MI.

“Thomas Aquinas and the Epistemology of Moral Wrongdoing.” Tenth Annual Cornell Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. May 31-June 2, 2007. Ithaca, NY.

“Thomas Aquinas and the Epistemology of Moral Wrongdoing.” Acting and Science: The Epistemology of Practical Sciences in the 13th and 14th Centuries. February 22-24, 2007. Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität. Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

“Early Jesuit Pedagogy and the Subordination of Women: a Foundational Opportunity.” Jesuit and Feminist Education: Transformative Discourses for Teaching and Learning Conference. Fairfield University. October 27-29, 2006. Fairfield, CT.

“Early Jesuit Pedagogy and the Subordination of Women: a Foundational Opportunity.” Fourth Annual Midwestern Conference in Medieval Philosophy. October 13-14, 2006. Loyola University. Chicago, IL.

“An Unequal Relationship of Equals: Thomas Aquinas on Marriage.” Women’s Studies Faculty Symposium, “Reading Women into the Texts.” February 11, 2005. Saint Louis University. St. Louis, MO.

“Socratic Ignorance and Thomas Aquinas’s Moral Psychology.” Second Midwestern Conference in Medieval Philosophy. University of Iowa. September 17-18, 2004. Iowa City, IA.

“An Unequal Relationship between Equals: Thomas Aquinas on Marriage.” Seventh Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. June 3-5, 2004. Ithaca, NY.

“Aquinas on Malicious Acts.” Sixth Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. May 29-31, 2003. Ithaca, NY.

“Obscured Intentions: Problems in Translating *Liberum Arbitrium*.” Thirty-seventh International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 2003. Kalamazoo, MI.

“Aquinas on Malicious Acts.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division. April 23-26, 2003. Cleveland, OH.

“Aquinas on Malicious Acts.” SLU Philosophy Colloquium. February 21, 2003. Saint Louis, MO.

“Bernard of Clairvaux on Sin, Grace, and the Freedom of Human Action.” Midwest Regional Meeting, Society of Christian Philosophers. September 12-14, 2002. Bloomington, IN.

“Aquinas on Malice in the Will.” Fifth Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. May 30-June 1, 2002. Ithaca, NY.

“Gracia and the Question of Religious Relativism.” Book session: Jorge J.E. Gracia’s *Can We Know What God Means?: The Interpretation of Revelation*. Seventy-fifth Annual Meeting, American Catholic Philosophical Association. November 9-11, 2001. Albany, NY.

“Intellective Appetite and Freedom: a reply to Thomas Williams.” Fourth Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. May 31-June 2, 2001.

“Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas on the Freedom of Human Action.” Third Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. June 1-3, 2000. Ithaca, NY.

“The Roots of Ethical Voluntarism.” International Medieval Congress ‘99. July 12-15, 1999. Leeds, UK.

“Happiness and Freedom in Aquinas’s Theory of Action.” Second Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. June 3-5, 1999. Ithaca, NY

“Bernard of Clairvaux and the Ethical Voluntarists.” Thirty-fourth International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 6-9, 1999. Kalamazoo, MI.

“Happiness and Freedom in Aquinas’s Theory of Action.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division. March 30-April 3, 1999. Berkeley, CA.

“Happiness and Freedom in Aquinas’s Theory of Action.” Fourth Annual Aquinas Lecture in Philosophy. September 24, 1998. Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

“The Roots of Ethical Voluntarism.” First Cornell Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. May 28-30, 1998. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

“The Roots of Ethical Voluntarism.” Twenty-Second Annual Mid-South Philosophy Conference. February 27-28, 1998. Memphis, TN.

“Freedom and Constraint in Philip the Chancellor’s Theory of Action.” Thirty-first International Congress on Medieval Studies. May 8-12, 1996. Kalamazoo, MI.

“Worthy Constraints in Albertus Magnus’s Theory of Action.” Annual Conference, Iowa Philosophical Society. November 11, 1995. Iowa City, IA.

Work in Progress

“Should Thomas Aquinas be Committed to Pacifism?” (draft)

“The use of climate theory in Albertus Magnus’s Natural Philosophy” (draft)

Honors and Awards

Core Curricular Innovation Fellow, 2021-22 academic year.

Beaumont Scholarship Research Award. Saint Louis University, 2021.

Helen I. Mandeville Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Humanities, College of Arts & Sciences, Saint Louis University, 2021.

Women’s and Gender Studies Founders Award. Saint Louis University, 2019.

Fellow, Ignatian Pedagogy Academy. Saint Louis University, 2019.

Innovative Teaching Fellowship, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning. Saint Louis University, spring/fall semesters 2019.

Faculty Research Leave, Saint Louis University, fall semester 2012.

Participant, Summer Seminar in Christian Scholarship. "Seven Deadly Sins (Capital Vices) in the Christian Tradition. 21 June-2 July, 2010. Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.

Mellon Travel Grant, 2010.

CCCS Grant (Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship), 2003-05, along with Rebecca Konyndyk de Young and Christina Van Dyke.
Mellon Summer Research Stipend, 2003.

CCCU Initiative Grant (Council for Christian Colleges and Universities) 2000-2003, along with Rebecca Konyndyk de Young and Christina Van Dyke, with Eleonore Stump as advisor

Participant, summer seminar, "How Might Christians Think and Teach about Human Nature." 22-28 July, 2001. Follow-up program, 21-23 June, 2002. Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning. Whitworth College, Spokane, WA.

Teaching Experience

Saint Louis University, 1997-

Undergraduate courses

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Honors Introduction to Philosophy
- Micah Program Introduction to Philosophy
- SLU 2K/Inquiry Introduction to Philosophy
- Ultimate Questions: The Examined Life
- Ethics
- SLU 2K/Inquiry Ethics
- Philosophy of Feminism
- Symbolic Logic
- History of Medieval Philosophy
- Disaster Narratives (co-taught with Toby Benis)
- The Seven Deadly Sins (co-taught with Toby Benis)
- Feminism and the History of Ethics
- Philosophy and Race
- Philosophy and Whiteness
- Crossroads: Introduction to Honors (topic: Medieval Women; co-taught with Philip Gavitt and Sherry Lindquist)

Graduate seminars

Aquinas and Scotus on the Will
Feminist Ethics
Aquinas's Ethics: Foundation and Theory
Thomas Aquinas on Moral Wrongdoing
Feminist Theory (for Women's and Gender Studies)
Feminism and the History of Ethics
Thomas Aquinas on the Capital Vices
Morality & War
Anselm & Abelard

Service Activities

Associate Editor, *Res Philosophica*, 2017-2023
Member, executive committee, planning committee, Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, 2018-2023
Member, planning committee, 2018 Central Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association
Member, American Catholic Philosophical Association Executive Council, 2007-2010
Executive Committee, 2009-2010
Member, UCC subcommittee, Equity and Global Identities, 2020-2022
Member, Arts & Sciences Rank & Tenure Committee, 2021-2023
Member, Arts & Sciences Academic Affairs Committee, 2013-2015; 2018-2020
Member, Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum Committee, 2009-2011
Member, Arts & Sciences Core Assessment Committee, 2004-2007
Chair, 2006-2007
Member, Arts & Sciences Faculty Council, Executive Committee, 2006-2007
Departmental representative, Faculty Council, Arts & Sciences, 2016-2020
Chair, Women's and Gender Studies Curriculum Committee, 2013-2014
Member, advisory board, Women's and Gender Studies Program, 1998-2001; 2003-2005;
2007-2010
Member, advisory board, African-American Studies, 2011-2016; 2018-2022
Member, advisory board, Catholic Studies Program, 1999-2014
Member, advisory board, College of Philosophy & Letters, 2014-2020
Member, advisory board, Micah Program, 2001-2002; 2008-2009
Departmental hospitality coordinator, 2016
Member, departmental core committee, 2020-2022
Member, departmental graduate student placement committee, 1997-2001
Departmental library liaison, 2000-2009
Coordinator, weekly graduate Latin reading group, 1998-2003; co-coordinator, 2005-2013, with Susan Brower-Toland
Departmental coordinator, outcomes assessment, 2000-2006

Community Talks

"Race: how did we get where we are? Where do we go from here?" St Matthias Parish, Lemay, MO. Sept 17, 2018.

"Race: how did we get where we are? Where do we go from here?" St Francis Xavier

College Church, St Louis, MO. February 8, 2015.

Membership in Professional Organizations

The American Philosophical Association

The Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy

Philosophers in Jesuit Education

Christian Women in Philosophy

The International Albertus Magnus Society