

JOSEPH P. LI VECCHI

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025 Fall – present	Professor	University of Akron, Akron, OH
2024 August 1 – Fall	Visiting Scholar, Philosophy Department	Fordham University, New York, NY
2012 Fall – 2013 Summer	Visiting Scholar, Philosophy Department	Columbia University, New York, NY
2011 Fall – present	Associate Professor	University of Akron, Akron, OH
2005 Fall – 2011 Spring	Assistant Professor	University of Akron, Akron, OH
2004 Fall – 2005 Spring	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. Since the late 19th century, advances in logic have contributed to the marginalization of traditional metaphysics. Subsequently, philosophy has veered away from classical and broad humanistic views of existence and knowledge, especially with the advent of artificial intelligence. The study of scholastic texts in view of developments in continental and analytic traditions presents contemporary philosophers with the opportunity to reconsider attitudes about a range of topics including the nature and proper object of metaphysics and of logic, theories of truth and intentionality, and the nature of human consciousness.

DEGREES

Feb. 2005	Doctorate (Ph.D.), Philosophy
Institution:	The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy, (<i>Angelicum</i>)
Dissertation:	<i>The Predication of 'Being': Real Being vs. Being of Reason (magna cum laude)</i>
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' <i>De secundis intentionibus</i> and Cajetan's <i>De nominum analogia</i> this dissertation explores whether <i>being</i> 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, (<i>Angelicum</i>)
Thesis:	<i>The Divisions of Theoretical Science According to Aquinas (summa cum laude)</i>
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)*
(*The Development of Metaphysics from its Origins to St. Thomas*)
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 and CHAPTERS

- 2020 **Book:** *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 their 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.
- 2014 **Chapter:** "Analogical Deduction via a Calculus of Predicables," in *Logik, Naturphilosophie, Dialektik, Zur modernen Deutung der Aristotelischen Logik*, Bd. XI, ed. Niels Offenberger, Hildesheim, Zürich, New York, Olms, 2014, 43-60.
Invited reprint of "Analogical Deduction via a Calculus of Predicables," *Philo*, vol. 13.1, Spring-Summer 2010, 53-66.

ARTICLES and PROCEEDINGS

- 2021 **Refereed Proceedings:** "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.
- 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

2024 **Comments on "Bundle Up or Lay Low? Thomas Aquinas on Concrete Particulars"**
 by Jeremy Skrzypek, Ohio Dominican University,
 Ohio Philosophical Association Meeting. Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, April 6

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,
 Cleveland State University,
 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

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book: *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.

Book: *The Theoretical Foundation of Logic*

Abstract: This book presents an account of logic's proper object in light of contemporary and medieval scholastic philosophical logic. It questions the dominant Fregean logical tradition, which casts subject and object into sharp contrast, 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.

Article: "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 dispelling a dualistic conception of the relation of mind and body.

Article: "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
Body-Soul: Philosophical Anthropology	Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND HONORS

2024 August 1 – 2024 Fall	Visiting Scholar	Fordham University
2024 Fall	Professional Development Leave	The University of Akron
2012 Fall - 2013 Summer	Visiting Scholar	Columbia University
2012-2013 AY	Professional Development Leave	The University of Akron
2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016; 2018:	Faculty Travel Grants	The University of Akron
2007-2023	Graduate Teaching Faculty II	The University of Akron
2004-2005 AY	Post-doctoral Teaching Fellowship	Fordham University

LANGUAGES

Native language: English

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