

JOSEPH P. LI VECCHI

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454 College of Arts & Sciences
The University of Akron
Akron, OH, 44325-1903

DEGREES:

- Feb. 2005 Degree: Doctorate, Philosophy (Ph.D.)
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
Directors: Rodolfo García-Vargas, O.P., Michael Tavuzzi, O.P.
Committee: Charles Morerod, O.P.; Alfred Wilder, O.P.; Rodolfo García-Vargas, O.P.
Abstract: This dissertation investigates the ontological status of *second intentional relations of reason*, such as genera, species, premises, conclusions, functions, predicates, quantifiers, names, and variables. Second intentional relations of reason were first thematized by medieval commentators on texts of Aristotle. Drawing on the work of thinkers from Parmenides to Quine, the dissertation focuses especially on Thomas Aquinas and Hervaeus Natalis. It includes a transcription and first ever translation of Hervaeus' *Quolibet III, q. I, a. 1, "De ente rationis"* (1307-1309). Drawing also on Hervaeus' *De secundis intentionibus*, and Cajetan's *De nominum analogia*, the dissertation asks whether the term *being* is predicable of second intentional relations of reason by analogy or merely by equivocation.
- Nov. 2001 Degree: Licentiate, Philosophy (Ph.L.)
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, making reference to texts of Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd, as well as contemporary philosophers and commentators.
- Oct. 1998 Degree: Baccalaureate, Philosophy (Ph.B.)
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 questions: 1) the origin and significance of the term *metaphysics* in relation to the eponymous work by Aristotle; 2) to explain the sense of this word in relation to the general development of philosophical thought beginning with the cosmology of φύσις of the earliest Greek philosophers, and extending to the metaphysical cosmology of Aristotle, and the meta-cosmological philosophy of Thomas Aquinas.
- May 1988 Degree Master of Architecture (M.Arch.)
Institution: Columbia University, New York, NY
- May 1982 Degree: Baccalaureate, Art (B.A.)
Institution: The University of California, Los Angeles, CA

PUBLICATIONS:

- 2020 ***The Philosophy of Being in the Analytic, Continental, and Thomistic Traditions: Divergence and Dialogue***
Bloomsbury Academic, London, 2020
Abstract: This book is co-authored by Frank Scalabrino and David Kovacs. It aims to foster mutual comprehension and dialogue between philosophers in the analytic, continental, and Thomistic traditions. A good many philosophical disagreements turn on how thinkers from different traditions approach the question of being. Relatively few have an adequate understanding of the treatment of this question outside of their own traditions, or feel adequately prepared talking to partisans of other traditions.
After introducing the project, and providing chapters recounting aspects of the philosophy of being that are relevant to dialogue with other traditions, the book concludes by gathering each author's evaluation of the other traditions, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and suggesting how each might further develop.
- 2014 **"Logical Objectivity and Second Intentions"**
Angelicum, vol. 91, 4, December 2014, 795-812.
Abstract: This article aims to inflect Fregean philosophical logic in light of medieval scholastic doctrine. Frege advances a conception of logic as being independent from all psychological acts of the knowing subject. Without calling into doubt logic's status as a paradigm of objectivity, the present essay challenges Frege's conception, both in terms of its own coherence, and in light of the scholastic theory of intentionality. Finding fault with two key doctrines of the analytic movement, the linguistic turn and anti-psychologism, it reinterprets them to exclude only those psychological acts that engender subjective interpretive variability. It then describes logic's dependence on psychological acts of a non-interpretive nature that ensue as a natural result of intellectual apprehension. These acts, thematized in the medieval scholastic tradition as "second intentional relations of reason", do not infect logic with subjective variability, but determine the very parameters of objectivity.
- 2014 **Reprint of "Analogical Deduction via a Calculus of Predicables"**
Logik, Naturphilosophie, Dialektik, Zur modernen Deutung der Aristotelischen Logik, Bd. XI, ed. Niels Offenberger and Alejandro Vigo, Hildesheim, Zürich, New York, Olms, 2014.
- 2010 **"Aquinas on the Matter of Mind"**
Angelicum, vol. 87, 2, June 2010, 371-382.
- 2010 **"Analogical Deduction via a Calculus of Predicables"**
Philo, vol. 13.1, Spring-Summer 2010, 53-66.
- 2008 **"Quine and Aquinas: On What There Is"**
The Modern Schoolman, vol. 85, No. 3, March 2008, 207-223.

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

- (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.

- (In progress) ***The Metaphysics of Being: Abstract:*** This book concerns the metaphysics of being. The various competing contemporary interpretations of metaphysics have met obstacles in establishing a commonly accepted point of departure. This work argues against interpretations of two general kinds: those that take appearance, becoming, or psychological states as their foundation, and those that deny the coherence of the metaphysics of being.
- (In progress) **"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.
- (In progress) **"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'.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 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"**, August 3
 Presentation to Visiting Scholars
 Columbia University Department of Philosophy, 716 Philosophy Hall
- 2013 **"Illogical Logicians: The Analytic Ideal of Absolute Objectivity"**, May 24
 Presentation to Visiting Scholars
 Columbia University Department of Philosophy, 716 Philosophy Hall
- 2011 **"Nietzsche's Apollonian-Dionysian Dialectic and O'Neil's *The Great God Brown*"**,
 November 11
 Invited Lecture: School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration
 The University of Akron, 299 Guzzetta Hall
- 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*"**, March 10
 Invited Lecture: School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration
 The University of Akron, Akron, OH, 299 Guzzetta Hall

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

My current research aims to bring the best insights of medieval scholastic philosophy to bear on contemporary philosophical debate. Achievements in late 19th and 20th century philosophical logic led to the repudiation of traditional metaphysics. Reexamination of medieval texts on the nature and object of logic can offer insights into how contemporary logical theory might evolve. Such consideration could also strengthen contemporary efforts to revalorize traditional metaphysics as a subject of philosophical inquiry. Finally, contemporary philosophical psychology and neuro-philosophy could benefit from the insights of scholastic theories of intentionality and the nature of human cognition.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Fall 2013- present	Associate Professor of Philosophy	University of Akron, Akron, OH
Fall 2012- Summer 2013	Visiting Scholar in Philosophy	Columbia University, New York, NY
Fall 2011- Spring 2012	Associate Professor of Philosophy	University of Akron, Akron, OH
Fall 2005 - Summer 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, Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy, Philosophical Logic, Ancient Philosophy

COMPETENCE: 20th Century Analytic Philosophy

COURSES TAUGHT:

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

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND HONORS

Faculty Travel Grants, The University of Akron, 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, 2007-2014
Post-doctoral Teaching Fellowship, Fordham University, NY, 2004-2005

LANGUAGES

Native English speaker. Also: Latin, Italian, French, Spanish, some Ancient Greek and German.