Benjamin Robert Koons

Curriculum Vitae

Center for Thomistic Studies
University of St. Thomas
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Houston, TX 77006

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Academic Appointments

University of St. Thomas	Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the Center for Thomistic Studies Fall 2023–

Education

Yale University	Ph.D. in Philosophy and Classics, May 2024 Dissertation Title: *Aristotle on Privations* (committee: David Charles, Verity Harte, Michael Della Rocca, Laura Castelli) M.A. in Philosophy and Classics, 2022 M.Phil. in Philosophy and Classics, 2022
Oxford University	B.Phil. in Philosophy, 2017 Thesis (with distinction): *Aristotle's Cosmological Argument in Physics 8* (adviser: Lindsay Judson)
Princeton University	A.B. in Philosophy, 2015 (*magna cum laude*) Thesis Title: *The Definition of Soul in* De Anima 2.1-3 (adviser: Benjamin Morison) Medieval Studies Certificate

Areas of Specialization: Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy
Areas of Teaching Competence: Medieval Philosophy; Religious Epistemology

Publications

Refereed

1. "The Justice of Punitive Wars," *Journal of Controversial Ideas* 6.1 (May 2026): 1–16.
2. "Warranted Group Belief," *Erkenntnis* 91 (2026): 1909–29.
3. "Aristotle's Many Lives," *BioCosmos* 5 (2025): 29–40.
4. "The Four Causes of Sex," *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 98 (2024): 275–86.
5. "Warranted Catholic Belief," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 97.1 (Winter 2023): 1–28.
6. "Aristotle's Infallible Perception," *Apeiron* 52.4 (October 2019): 415–43.

Invited

7. "Courtroom Testimony and Faith in Aquinas," *Divinitas* (Forthcoming)

Reviews

8. David Riesbeck, *Aristotle on Political Community* (*Politics & Poetics* 2, June 2017)

Work under Review

A paper on Aristotle's *Poetics*

A contributed chapter for a book on Catholic postliberalism

Presentations

As speaker

"Aristotle's Four Causes of Imagination"

History of Philosophy Panel, American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, October 2025

"Aristotle's Four Causes of Tragedy"

Invited Paper, "Greek Writing Genres" conference at University of South Florida, April 2025

"The Four Causes of Sex"

Contributed Paper, American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, November 2024

Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium, Fall 2024

"Aristotle on Efficient Causation"

Aristotelian Metaphysics Panel, American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, November 2024

"Aristotle's Privations and Our Omissions"

"Philosophising with the Greats" conference, University of Oxford, March 2022

Baylor University, January 2023

University of St. Thomas, January 2023

"What gives the layperson in the pews warrant? A Catholic model of group warrant and its rivals"

"Warranted Catholic Belief" conference, St. Joseph's University, Macao, March 2022

"Warranted Catholic Belief"

Tenth Annual Aquinas Workshop: *Aquinas on Knowledge and Truth*, June 2021

"Warranted Group Belief"

UT-Austin Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, March 2019

"The Justice of Punitive Wars"
UConn Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 2019

"Heidegger and Plantinga on Other Minds"
CUNY Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, March 2017

As workshop presenter

"Aristotle's *De Motu Animalium* 6" (with Tim Clarke)
Aristotle's *Parva Naturalia* Workshop, Yale, June 2023

"Aristotle's *On Generation and Corruption* II.8" (with Sadie McCloud)
Cornell Ancient Philosophy Workshop, August 2022

"Aristotle's *On Dreams* 458a33–b25" (with Christopher Shields, University of Notre Dame)
Aristotle's *Parva Naturalia* Workshop, Yale, June 2022

"Courage in Plato's *Protagoras*" (with Jessica Moss, NYU)
Plato's *Protagoras* Workshop, Yale, Summer 2021

"Aristotle's *On Memory* 452b6–453a4" (with Emily Kress, Brown University)
Aristotle's *Parva Naturalia* Workshop, Yale, June 2019

As respondent

Comments on James Kintz (Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology), "Person without Relation? A Non-Aristotelian (but Thomistic) Response"
American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, November 2023

Comments on Joshua Hochschild (Mount St. Mary's), "'Real Presence' Isn't Enough"
Eucharistic Metaphysics workshop led by Gyula Klima (Fordham), Thomistic Institute, July 2022

Comments on Christopher Shields (Notre Dame), "Aquinas on Subsistent Being"
History of Hylomorphism Conference, Yale, April 2019

Comments on Miira Tuominen (University of Jyväskylä), "Varieties of Hylomorphism in Commentaries on Aristotle's *De Anima*?"
History of Hylomorphism Conference, Yale, April 2019

Comments on Stephen Menn (Humboldt), "Sophisms, One-Many Problems, and the Argument-Structure of Metaphysics Z.6"
Aristotle's *Metaphysics* Zeta 1–6 Conference, Oxford, June 2016

Teaching

University of St. Thomas

Plato's *Republic* [graduate seminar] (Fall 2026)

Epistemology (Fall 2024)

Aristotle's *De Anima* [graduate seminar] (Fall 2024)

Aquinas Seminar (Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

Philosophy of Nature and the Human Person (Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Summer 2026)

Philosophy of Aristotle (Fall 2023)

Yale

Medieval Metaphysics (Spring 2023)

Dissertation committees

Timothy Jacobs (dissertation committee)
Elliot Polsky (reader)
Michael Politz (proposal committee)
Ginna Pennance-Acevedo (proposal committee)
Jaron Neufeld (proposal committee)

Undergraduate supervising

Undergraduate capstone projects and senior essays
Marisol Carty, Spring 2023
Odilo Vo, Fall 2023
Kenza Zerouali, Spring 2025

Other teaching experience

"The Presocratic Philosophers," private tutoring sessions, Fall 2019–Fall 2020

"The Virtues," Intercollegiate Summer English Camps, Summer 2012
English lessons for high-school age students in rural China and Beijing

Public Engagement
"Aristotle on Tragedy," Houston Institute, Spring 2026

"Aristotle and the Marvel Cinematic Universe," November 2025, special Center for Thomistic Studies colloquium for undergraduate students

"Warranted Catholic Belief," appeared on philosophy podcast/YouTube channel Furthering Christendom, May 5, 2023

Professional and University Service
Editor, Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association (Fall 2024–)

Faculty Development Committee (May 2025–)

Comprehensive Exams Faculty Coordinator, Center for Thomistic Studies (Fall 2023–Spring 2026)

Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Philosophy Department

Academic Assessment Task Force (Fall 2024–Spring 2025)

Referee: *Philosophical Studies, Philosophers' Imprint, The Thomist, ACPQ*

Languages
Ancient: Latin, Ancient Greek
Modern: German (intermediate), French (professional reading)

Professional Service
Referee: *Philosophical* Studies, Philosophers' *Imprint*, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly, The Thomist*

Editor, *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* (Fall 2024–)
Service to Philosophy Department, Yale University
Professionalization Representative, Spring–Fall 2020
Colloquium nominating committee member, Spring 2019
Prospective students committee, Spring 2019

Thomistic Institute, Yale University Grad Student Chapter
President, 2019–present
Politics & Poetics (peer-reviewed interdisciplinary humanities journal)
Assistant editor, Fall 2017–Spring 2018

Selected Honors, Awards, and Grants

Selected Scholarships and Grants

A. Bartlett Giamatti Memorial Graduate Fellowship, Yale University, 2018-2020 (additional financial awards for two years, reserved for the department's "top candidates")

MacMillan Fund conference scholarship, Yale University, 2019

Thomistic Institute graduate student scholarship, 2019, 2021

Richard Weaver Graduate Fellowship from the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2016-2017

Selected Honors and Awards

Honorable Mention for paper "The Justice of Punitive Wars" (Graduate Category), Oxford Uehiro Prize in Practical Ethics, 2016

Phi Beta Kappa, 2015

Princeton University's Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence, 2013

Eagle Scout, 2011