

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### BRANDON ZIMMERMAN

Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
203 Sullivan Hall  
University of St. Thomas  
3800 Montrose Blvd  
Houston, TX 77006

[brandon.zimmerman@stthom.edu](mailto:brandon.zimmerman@stthom.edu)

<https://cua.academia.edu/BrandonZimmerman>

Areas of Specialization: Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

Areas of Competency: Philosophy of God, Philosophical Anthropology

#### I. Education

Ph.D in Philosophy with distinction, 2026, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

Title: *Does Plotinus Present an Account of Creation*

Committee: Dr. Matthias Vorwerk (Advisor), Dr. Gregory Doolan, Dr. Thérèse-Anne Druart

M.A. in Philosophy (*cum laude*), 2009. The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Thesis—*Sight Becomes Seeing: Plotinian Emanation as a Dynamic of Procession and Return*

Directed by Dr. Matthias Vorwerk. Reader: Dr. Thérèse-Anne Druart

B.A. (*summa cum laude*), 2005. Majors: History, Philosophy. Minor: Political Science.

The Templeton Honors College at Eastern University, St. Davids, PA.

Philosophy Thesis—*The Fall and Rise of the Human Will: Saint Augustine's Story of the Will, from the Creation to the Resurrection of the Dead.*

History Thesis—*The Birth of American Federalism, 1763–1789.*

#### II. Teaching Experience

University of St. Thomas (Houston), Fall 2024–Present

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Courses planned and taught with number of times taught:

*Philosophy of Nature and the Human Person* (10)

*Metaphysics* (4)

*Ancient Philosophy* (1)

*Medieval Philosophy* (1)

Catholic Theological Institute, 2018–Summer 2024

Lecturer in Philosophy. Promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2019.

*Ancient Philosophy* (6)

*Medieval Philosophy* (4)

*Medieval Church History* (2)

*Logic I: Terms, Propositions, Syllogisms* (2)

*Philosophy of God* (2)  
*Creation and Christian Anthropology* (2)  
*Metaphysics* (1)  
*Political Philosophy* (1)  
*Basic Biblical Greek* (1)  
*Early Church History* (1)  
*Introduction to Philosophy* (1)  
*Philosophy Research Paper* (25 papers moderated), Coordinator (2)  
Coordinator for Theology Research Paper (3) and Comprehensive Exams (5)

Good Shepherd Seminary, Fall 2013–2017

Lecturer in Philosophy

Courses planned and taught with number of times taught:

*Philosophy of Human Person and Knowledge* (4)  
*Logic and Metaphysics* (3)  
*Ethics* (3)  
*Philosophy of Religion* (2)  
*Ancient and Medieval Philosophy* (1)  
*Modern and Contemporary Philosophy* (1)  
*Social Anthropology* [Political and Economic Thought] (1)  
*English* [Grammar and Literature] (1)  
*Introduction to New Testament Greek* (2)  
*Introduction to Latin* (1)

Courses I participated in with other faculty:

*Research Paper* (3)  
*Comprehensive Seminar* (4)

Catholic Distance University, Fall 2012–Spring 2013

Independent Study Course Instructor

Courses supervised:

*Jesus Christ: Man, God, Savior*  
*Jesus Christ, Mary, and the Grace of God*  
*The Church and Human Destiny*

The Catholic University of America, Summer 2012.

Adjunct Philosophy Instructor for *The Classical Mind* (1)

First Year Experience Teaching Fellow. Fall 2009–Spring 2012

Courses Taught:

*The Classical Mind* (6)  
*The Modern Mind* (6)

### III. Publications

#### A. Books

Plotinus. *Enneads I.2, I.7, and I.9*. Translation, Introduction and Commentary, with the assistance of Suzanne Stern-Gillet. Forthcoming with *Parmenides Press*.

## B. Research Articles

- “Augustine on the Achievements of the Platonists: A Model for Reconciling Faith and Philosophy,” forthcoming in the Proceedings of *Conférence Mondiale des Institutions Universitaires Catholiques de Philosophie World Conference Manila 2022*.
- “The Development of First-Principle Monism in the Neopythagorean Tradition.” Forthcoming in *From the Pseudopythagorica to the Neopythagoreans. Further Studies on the Texts Attributed to Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans*. Edited by Constantinos Macris, Tiziano Dorandi, and Luc Brisson. Baden-Baden: Academia Verlag, 2025. 437–503.
- “*The Lovers* as an Introduction to Socratic Philosophy.” *South Pacific Journal of Philosophy and Culture* 15 (2022–2025): 72–82.
- “Is Thomas Aquinas’s Account of Creation Compatible with Contemporary Science?” *Australasian Catholic Record* 97 (2020): 320–31.
- “Peter Lombard on the Doctrine of Creation: A Discussion of *Sentences* Bk II, D. 1, C 1–3.” *Australasian Catholic Record* 96 (2019): 83–90.
- “Aquinas on Polygamy.” *Melanesian Journal of Theology* 34 (2018): 28–53.
- “Plotinus as a Precursor to Aquinas.” *South Pacific Journal of Philosophy and Culture* 13 (2016–2017): 9–26.
- Critical Study of Andrew Murray, *Thinking About Political Things: An Aristotelian Approach to Pacific Life*. *Melanesian Journal of Theology* 32 (2016): 177–92.
- “Does Plotinus Present a Metaphysics of Creation?” *The Review of Metaphysics* 67 (2013): 55–105.

## C. Translations

Thomas Aquinas. *De articulis fidei et ecclesiae sacramentis*. Forthcoming with Aquinas Institute.

## D. Popular Articles

- “Developing a Culture of Encounter According to *Fratelli Tutti*.” Forthcoming in *Catalyst*.
- “Religious Freedom is a Christian Value.” *Church Alive* 3 (2021) 8–9.
- “Political Discourse in Multi-cultural Societies.” *Catalyst* 49 (2019): 16–24.
- “Plato’s Argument for Celibacy.” *Australasian Catholic Record* 92 (2015): 473–81.
- New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012–13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Edited by Robert Fastiggi and Joseph Koterski. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2013:
- i) Entries for “The Academy,” “Aristocracy,” and “Psychophysical Parallelism”;
  - ii) The following terms for the entry “Technical Terms in Philosophy”:
    - “Contraries and Contradictories,” “Elenchus,” “Hypothesis,” “the Limits of Knowledge,” “Material Implication,” “Possibility,” “Potentiality,” “Primary and Secondary Qualities,” “Substrate”;
  - iii) Updated the bibliographies for the entries “Cynics” and “Cambridge Platonists.”

## C. Book Reviews

- Carl Sean O'Brien and Sarah Klitenic Wear. *Platonic Principles. Essays in Honor of Lloyd Gerson*. Forthcoming in the *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*.
- Giulia De Cesaris. *Speusippus. A Forgotten Voice of Platonism*. Forthcoming in *The Review of Metaphysics* 79 (2026).
- Yoav Meyrev, *Themistius: On Aristotle Metaphysics 12*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 76 (2023): 773–75.
- Lloyd P. Gerson and James Wilberding (eds.), *The New Cambridge Companion to Plotinus*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 76 (2022): 349–51.
- Eyjólfur K. Emilsson, *Plotinus*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 72 (2018): 131.
- Peter Adamson, *A History of Philosophy without Gaps*, vols 1–3. *The Australasian Catholic Record* 94 (2017): 379–84.
- Stephen Clark, *Plotinus: Myth, Metaphor, and Philosophical Practice*. *Review of Metaphysics* 70.3 (2017): 551–53.
- Eric Perl, *Thinking Being. Introduction to Metaphysics in the Classical Tradition*. *Australasian Catholic Record* 93 (2016): 376–78.
- Svetla Slaveva-Griffin and Pauliina Remes (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Neoplatonism*. *Phronema* 93 (2016): 166–75.
- George Karamanolis, *Ancient Christian Philosophy* and Sébastien Morlet, *Christianisme et philosophie: les premières confrontations (Ier-Vie siècle)*. *Australasian Catholic Record* 92 (2015): 252–56.
- Mark J. Nyvlt, *Aristotle and Plotinus on the Intellect*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 68.2 (2014): 440–42.
- Dmitri Nikulin (ed.), *The Other Plato: The Tübingen Interpretation of Plato's Inner-Academic Teachings*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 67.4 (2014): 879–81.
- Jean-Marc Narbonne, *Plotinus in Dialogue with the Gnostics*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 66.3 (2013): 845–47.
- David Burrell et al (eds), *Creation and the God of Abraham*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 66.2 (2012): 868–70.
- H.S. Gerdil, *The Anti-Emile: Reflections on the Theory and Practice of Education Against the Principles of Rousseau*, trans. William Frank. In *The Review of Metaphysics* 65.4 (2012): 872–74.
- Alison L. LaCroix, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 65.2 (2011): 429–31.
- Eric Salem, *In Pursuit of the Good: Intellect and Action in Aristotle's Ethics*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 65.1 (2011): 181–83.
- Jürgen Habermas et al, *An Awareness of What is Missing: Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular Age*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 64.4 (2011): 861–63.
- Tobias Hoffmann, *Weakness of Will from Plato to the Present*. *The Review of Metaphysics* 64.1 (2010): 148–50.

Philip Cary, *Inner Grace: Augustine in the Traditions of Plato and Paul* and *Outward Signs: The Powerlessness of External Things in Augustine's Thought. The Review of Metaphysics* 62.3 (2009): 641–44.

#### IV. Academic Presentations

##### 1. Philosophy

- “Thomas Aquinas’s Philosophical Account of Creation,” to be delivered at Thomistic Summer Conference entitled “The Light of Being: Metaphysics and Theology in St. Thomas Aquinas,” at Thomas Aquinas College, New England, July 30–August 2, 2026; and delivered at the Doherty Library at the University of St. Thomas, on April 21, 2026.
- “Do Go Gentle into that Good Night: Late Antique Arguments Against Suicide,” to be delivered at the Life and Learning Annual Conference 2026: “Protecting the Vulnerable at Life’s Beginning and Natural End,” at the University of St. Thomas, on June 6, 2026.
- “The Platonic Origins of the Via Negativa,” delivered at the Centre for Thomistic Studies at University of St. Thomas (Houston), October 3, 2025.
- “Plotinus’s Argument Against First-Principle Dualism,” delivered at the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy’s panel at American Philosophical Association’s Central meeting on 20 February, 2025.
- “Completing Plato’s Project: Plotinus’s Arguments for a First Principle”, delivered at the Centre for Thomistic Studies at University of St. Thomas (Houston), 12 February, 2024; at University of Dallas, 13 February, 2024; and St. John Vianney Seminary (Denver), 15 February, 2024.
- “Augustine on the Achievements of the Platonists: A Model for Reconciling Faith and Philosophy,” delivered at *Conférence Mondiale des Institutions Universitaires Catholiques de Philosophie World Conference Manila 2022* at University of Santo Tomas, 16–18 November, 2022.
- “The Parallel Development of the Doctrine of Creation among Christians and Pagans,” delivered at a faculty colloquium at Catholic Theological Institute, 27 September 2019.
- “Aquinas on the Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Investigation of Creation,” delivered at *Melanesian Association of Theological Schools 2019 Conference* at Christian Leaders Training College, 1–3 July 2019.
- “Political Discourse in Multi-cultural Societies,” delivered at *Melanesian Association of Theological Schools 2018 Conference* at Pacific Adventist University, Port Moresby on July 17–19, 2018.
- “‘Matter is not a principle.’ Neopythagorean Attempts at Monism,” delivered at the *Society for Classical Studies* Annual Meeting in Boston, on January 4–7, 2017.
- “Thomas Aquinas on Polygamy,” delivered at the *Melanesian Association of Theological Schools 2017 Conference* at Catholic Theological Institute, Port Moresby on July 11–13, 2017.
- “Was *creatio ex nihilo* First Formulated by the Neopythagoreans?” delivered at the 38<sup>th</sup> *Australasian Society for Classical Studies* at Victoria University, Wellington, January 31–February 3, 2017.
- “Augustine on Creation and Platonism,” delivered at the 37<sup>th</sup> *Australasian Society for Classical Studies* at the University of Melbourne, Melbourne on February 2–5, 2016.

- “Playthings, Political Pessimism, and Cosmic Justice: Plato’s *Laws* and Plotinus’s *On Providence*,” delivered at the *Biennial Conference in Philosophy, Religion, and Culture* at Sydney Catholic Institute, Sydney on October 3–5, 2014.
- “Plato on Celibacy” and “Good Shepherd Seminary Curriculum” delivered at the *Melanesian Association of Theological Schools 2014 Conference* at Christian Leadership Training College, Banz, Papua New Guinea on July 9, 2014.
- “Aquinas, Avicenna, and the Meaning of Creation,” delivered at the *American Catholic Philosophical Association* annual meeting in Los Angeles, November 2–4, 2012.
- “Plotinus’ Arguments Against Pantheism” delivered in the panel “Transcendence and Immanence of the First Principle in Western Thought,” organized by Deepna Majumdar, at the annual *Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy* meeting at Fordham University, October 19–21, 2012.
- “The Philosopher Must Not Be Second-Rate at Justice: A Close Reading of Plato’s *Lovers*,” delivered at the *Graduate Student Association Interdisciplinary Conference: Service in Scholarship* at the Catholic University of America, March 29, 2012.
- Comment on “A Lump in the Throat: William James’ Conception of Emotions,” by Jonathan Chalker delivered at *Emotion*, a graduate philosophy conference at the Catholic University of America, March 30–31, 2011.
- “Aquinas, Avicenna, and the Meaning of Creation” delivered at *CUA Workshop in Medieval Philosophy* at the Catholic University of America, February, 17–18, 2012
- “*The Lovers* as an Introduction to Socratic Philosophy,” and comments on three papers on medieval political philosophy, delivered at the *Northeast Political Association 2011 Conference*, in Philadelphia, November 17–19, 2011.
- “Does Plotinus Present a Metaphysics of Creation?” delivered at the 2011 *International Society of Neoplatonic Studies Conference* in Atlanta, June 22–26. Awarded a Travel Stipend by ISNS for this paper.
- “Plotinus as a Precursor to Aquinas,” delivered at *Faith Informing Scholarship, an Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference*, at the Catholic University of America, March 31, 2011.
- “Playthings, Pessimism, and Justice: Plotinus’ Use of Plato’s *Laws*” and comments on three papers on Plato’s *Republic*, delivered at the *Northeast Political Association 2010 Conference*, in Boston, November 11–13, 2010.

## 2. Theology & Education & Popular

- “Applying Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to Orientation,” delivered at Orientation Leaders Training, on May 27, 2027 at the University of St. Thomas.
- “Is Liberal Learning Practical? Sic et Non,” delivered at Merit and Mission Scholars Invitational, Liberal Learning Track on February 28, at the University of St. Thomas.
- “Aquinas’s Arguments Against Polygamy,” delivered at Honors Program Colloquium on February 26, 2026 at the University of St. Thomas.

“Applying Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to Student Leadership,” delivered to the Registered Student Organizations general meeting on January 20, 2026; and Student Government Association 2026 Spring Training on January 31, 2026 at the University of St. Thomas.

Primary author of the materials for a press conference on “The Statement for Inter-Religious Dialogue and Cooperation and against Religiously-Motivated Violence” for the Papua New Guinea Catholic-Muslim Dialogue, delivered at the Catholic Bishops Conference for PNG/SI (Port Moresby) on 5 July, 2024.

“Five Goals of Intellectual Formation,” delivered at a faculty colloquium for Catholic Theological Institute, Port Moresby, 28 June, 2024.

“Intellectual Formation,” delivered in three sessions at *Fullness of Life: Annual Meetings of Association of Melanesian Formators* at Alexishafen Retreat Centre, Madang, 27 September 2023.

“Developing Unit Outlines,” a workshop led at *Melanesian Association of Theological Schools Conference* at Sonoma Adventist University, 14 June, 2022.

“Religious Freedom is a Christian (and Muslim?) Value,” delivered at *Melanesian Association of Theological Schools Conference* at Sonoma Adventist University, 5–6 October, 2021.

“Developing a Culture of Encounter According to *Fratelli Tutti*,” delivered at *Symposium on Fratelli Tutti*, at Catholic Theological Institute, 28 November 2020.

## V. Professional Service

### 1. University of St. Thomas (Houston)

A. Core Fellow, May 2026 – present; provisional Fellow, September 2024–2026.

#### B. Department of Philosophy

Representative for Merit and Mission Scholars Invitational, Liberal Learning Track on February 28, 2026.

Committee for philosophy undergraduate scholarships, 2026.

Committee for undergraduate engagement, 2026.

C. Institutional Review Board, non-scientist position and alternate for the School of Arts of Science, Fall, 2026–present

D. UST Network for Institutional Tracking and Excellence (UNITE), Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness Representative for the Division of the Core and Centers of Excellence. Spring, 2026–present.

E. Course Designer for the Educating for Purpose pilot program for Spring, 2026.

### 2. Catholic Theological Institute, Port Moresby

A. Discipline Leader for Humanities and Social Sciences, February–May, 2024

In partnership with the Dean, I supervised the effective delivery of the courses on philosophy, languages, academic methodology, and social science. I accompanied the students through their philosophy (pre-theology) and assisted them in meeting CTI’s academic standards.

#### B. Dean of Studies, 2018–2023.

In this office, I developed and executed all aspects of a six-year academic formation program for the Catholic priesthood, including student admissions, lecturer recruitment, academic counseling and scheduling, preparation of marks, curriculum development, performance review of academic staff, tuition billing, organizing graduation, student progress reports to religious superiors, and organizing faculty colloquia, faculty in-services, and public lectures. I served as Acting President when the President was away.

I have led the following projects:

Institutional Registration with the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science, and Technology. Submitted in December 2018. Registration granted in January 2020.

Affiliation with University of Santo Tomas (UST), Manila. Submitted in June 2019.

Approval by UST in January 2020. Approved by the Dicastery for Education and Culture in December 2022.

Accreditation of Philosophy, Theology, and Christian Studies programs with PNG Department of Higher Education, Research, and Technology (DHERST). Submitted in September 2019. Resubmitted in September 2020. Granted in August 2021.

Rewriting of the CTI Statutes and Bylaws in 2022.

Revision of the bibliographies and descriptions for all of CTI's units for the 2023 Affiliation Report to UST.

Revision of the Ratio studiorum for PNG/SI in 2023 in order to satisfy the Dicastery of Education and Culture regarding the calculation of academic credits.

I have also done the following:

Collaboratively planned and began the application for renewal of registration with DHERST in 2022.

Organized meetings of deans and academic directors for the PNG/SI Bishops' Conference in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Led the team that drafted the chapter on the academic program for the 2021 *Ratio Nationalis* for PNG/SI seminaries.

Revised CTI's academic programs to meet the requirements of *Veritatis Gaudium* (2018), *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation* (2016), and PNG *Qualifications Framework* (2018).

Instituted new Certificate and Bachelor of Christian Studies programs for non-seminarians.

Instituted peer-teaching evaluation, student teaching evaluations, and graduate exit surveys.

Restarted the Library Board and Board of Studies.

Annually prepared the CTI Handbook.

I have served on the following:

Faculty Board, 2018–present. Chair, 2018–2022, 2024; Governing Council, 2018–2023; Board of Studies (chair), 2018–2024; Admissions Board (chair), 2018–2023; Finance Committee, 2018–2023; Library Board, 2018–2019.

3. Editorial Board, *The South Pacific Journal of Philosophy and Culture*, 2018–present.  
I led the project of putting the volumes of this journal online.
4. Secretary and Treasurer for the Melanesian Association of Theological Schools, 2019–2022.
5. Editorial Board, *The Melanesian Journal of Theology*, 2018–2022.  
I led the search for a new editor in 2021.
6. Secretary for Inter-faith and Ecumenical Dialogue for the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG/SI, 2019–2022.  
I organized semi-annual meetings with the Muslims, Lutherans, and Anglicans and advised the CBC on inter-faith and ecumenical issues.
7. Good Shepherd Seminary:  
Faculty Representative to the Governing Council, 2017.  
Director of the BA Program in Religious Studies, November, 2015–2017.  
Faculty editor of *The Shepherd*, 2013–2017.  
Member of the Faculty Board, 2013–2017.  
Faculty representative for the Academic Board, 2013–2017.  
Organizer of semi-annual academic lectures, 2013–2017.  
Assistant Dean of Studies, 2016.  
Member of the Library Board, 2013–2015; 2017.
8. Catholic University of America:  
Co-coordinator of the 2012 Graduate Philosophy Conference.  
Committee member for the 2010, 2011, and 2013 Graduate Philosophy Conferences.  
Co-coordinator of the 2011 and 2012 Spring Lectures Series  
Research Assistant for Msgr. John F. Wippel, 2006–2007.  
Reference Assistant in Religious Studies and Philosophy Library of Mullen Library, Catholic University of America, 2006–2012.
8. *The Review of Metaphysics*  
Assistant Treasurer, 2009–2011; Manager, 2008–2009; Subscriptions Manager, 2006–2007.

#### VI. Languages

I can read Ancient Greek, French, German, and some Ecclesiastical Latin.

#### VII. References

1. Dr. Matthias Vorwerk, Provost, University of Dallas.  
mvorwerk@udallas.edu. 972.721.5226. (USA)

2. Rev. Dr. Joseph Vnuk OP, former President, The Catholic Theological Institute.  
Lecturer in Systematic Theology, Catholic Theological College, Melbourne  
joseph.vnuk@op.org.au. 61.4.5012.6503. (Australia)
3. Bishop Donald Lippert OFM Cap, Mendi Diocese  
Chairman of the Governing Council of Catholic Theological Institute.  
dlippert.mendi@gmail.com
4. Dr. William Britt IV, Dean of Studies, Catholic Theological Institute  
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy  
will.britt14@gmail.com, 909.557.4684
5. Dr. Erik van Versendaal, Director of the Core, University of St. Thomas  
Erik.vanVersendaal@stthom.edu, 913.703.5694