

LISA HOLDSWORTH

4218 Yoakum Blvd (203) Houston, TX 77006

lisa.holdsworth@stthom.edu**EMPLOYMENT**

Assistant Professor; University of St. Thomas (Houston), TX. August 2023-Present.

Visiting Assistant Professor; Christendom College, Front Royal, VA. August 2022-May 2023.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy, (December 2025)

Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL.

Title: "On the Relationship Between Inner and Outer '*Verba*' in Augustine." Supervisor: Dr. Seamus O'Neill

Master of Arts in Philosophy (October 2017)

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.

Thesis: "*Synderesis* in Aquinas." Advisor: Dr. Angela KnobelBachelor of Arts in Philosophy, *Magna Cum Laude* (May 2012)

Christendom College, Front Royal, VA.

Certificate of Christian Humanities (April 2011)

Concentration in Philosophy, *Summa Cum Laude*

Seat of Wisdom College, Barry's Bay, ON.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Augustine
- Ancient Philosophy of Language
- Hellenistic and Late Antique Philosophy, esp. Stoicism
- Plotinus
- Ancient Philosophy
- Habits and habituation in Aquinas' metaphysics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

- Metaphysics
- Aquinas
- Medieval Philosophy
- History of Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS"Augustine on the "Greatest Distance," between Divine and Human Speech." *Augustinian Studies* (September, 2026)"Aquinas and the Natural Habit of Synderesis: A Response to Celano." *Diametros* 47 (2016): 35-49.

PRESENTATIONS

“Augustine and Rousseau on Natural vs. Linguistic Bonds.” 50th Annual International Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies Conference. Villanova, PA. October 24-26th, 2025.

“Augustine on the ‘Greatest Distance’ between Divine and Human Speech.” XIX International Conference on Patristic Studies. Oxford, England. August 5-9th, 2024.

“Righting Oneself Like the Turtle: Augustine’s Stoicizing Ethics in *Civ. Dei* XIX.” Society for Augustinian Philosophy at the American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference. Houston, TX. November 16-19, 2023.

Sensing Like the Chameleon: Active Perception in Augustine’s *De Trinitate* XI.2.5.” Society for Augustinian Philosophy at the American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference. New Orleans, LA. November 17-20, 2022.

“Three Levels of the Word in Augustine’s *De Trinitate* IX.10.15” Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies Conference. Villanova, PA (online). October 16-18, 2020.

“Sign-inference vs. Demonstration in Aristotle’s *Organon* ... and Beyond.” Atlantic Classical Association Conference. St. John’s, NL, Canada. October 18-19, 2019.

“The Metaphysical Status of Signs in *De Doctrina Christiana* I.2.2” International Society for Neoplatonic Studies. Ottawa, Canada. June 12-16, 2019.

“Natural Habits in Aquinas.” Symposium Thomisticum. Athens, Greece. June 7-9, 2018.

“Diverging Semiotic Distinctions in Augustine and Peirce.” American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference. Dallas, TX. November 17-19, 2017.

“Fundamental Human Attunement in Heidegger, St. Thérèse, and G.K. Chesterton.” Art, Nature, and the Sacred. Gonzaga University Philosophy Graduate Conference. Spokane, WA. January 28-29, 2017.

“Social Media: Indicative or Representative Signs?” Social Media and Human Flourishing Colloquium. Newman Institute of Catholic Studies and McGill University. Montreal, Canada. September 16-17, 2016.

“Poets, Politics and Prophecy in Plato’s *Laws*.” Wilson College Humanities Conference. Chambersburg, PA. February 28, 2015.

INVITED LECTURES/PANELS

“Responses to the Suicide Epidemic.” Panel Participant. University of St. Thomas, Houston. November 20th, 2025.

“An Augustinian Perspective on Free Speech and Social Bonding.” Honors Colloquium. University of St. Thomas, Houston (TX). September 23rd, 2025.

“What’s a Word Made of? Tracing a Debate on Speech from its Ancient Beginnings into Augustine and Boethius.” Medieval and Early Modern Series. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s, NL. October 26, 2021.

“Vocal Speech and Inner Thought in Ancient Philosophy of Language.” Guest Lecture for PHIL 2060: Philosophy of Language and Mind. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s, NL, Canada. November 18, 2020.

“Did Augustine give up on the Liberal Arts?” Seat of Wisdom College Alumni in Academics Lecture Series. Barry’s Bay, ON, Canada (Online). November 6, 2020.

“Grammatical Reasoning, Grammatical Culture.” Classics and Conversation at Memorial University.
St. John’s, NL, Canada. March 27, 2020.

“Ryan Wilson on ‘How to Think like a Poet.’” Memorial University Philosophy Jockey Club (Open to the
public) St. John’s, NL. November 29, 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:

SPRING 2026; Philosophy Senior Seminar (Presocratic Philosophy). University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

SPRING 2026; Foundations of Liberal Learning (x3). University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

FALL 2025; Foundations of Liberal Learning (x2). University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

FALL 2025; Philosophy of Nature and the Human Person (x2). University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

FALL 2025; Philosophy of Nature and the Human Person (x2) University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

SPRING 2024; Philosophy of Nature and the Human Person (x2) University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

SPRING 2024; Traditional Logic. University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

FALL 2023; Philosophy of Nature and the Human Person (x3) University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

FALL 2023; Foundations of Liberal Learning. University of St. Thomas; Houston, TX.

SPRING 2023; Philosophy of Human Nature (x3) Christendom College; Front Royal, VA.

SPRING 2023; Stoicism. Christendom College, Front Royal, VA.

FALL 2022; History of Medieval Philosophy (x2) Christendom College; Front Royal, VA.

FALL 2022; Ethics (x2) Christendom College; Front Royal, VA.

FALL 2021; Metaphysics. Upper Level Philosophy Major Requirement.
Department of Philosophy, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

SPRING 2018; The Modern Mind. Two sections of the second course in a year-long introduction to philosophy
The School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America.

FALL 2017; The Classical Mind. Two sections of the first course in a year-long introduction to philosophy
The School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America.

SPRING 2016; English Academic Lectures: University Level ESL course.
Introduction to English Program, The Catholic University of America.

FALL 2015; English Academic Lectures: University Level ESL course.
Introduction to English Program, The Catholic University of America.

Teaching/Research Assistance:

SUMMER 2021; RA, Mind and Language Research Group (SSHRC funded research project on Irony).
Memorial University of Newfoundland.

WINTER 2021; Teaching Assistant. PHIL 2030: Logic. Memorial University of Newfoundland.

FALL 2020; RA, Mind and Language Research Group. Irony in Ancient Philosophy/Heraclitus.
Memorial University of Newfoundland.

WINTER 2020; Ethics. Department of Philosophy, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

FALL 2019; RA, Augustine's Demonology (SSHRC funded research project). Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Tutor:

WISDOM Homeschooling Online Program, AB, Canada.
Introduction to Great Books. Fall 2013, Spring 2014 x2.
Classic English Poetry. Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014.
History of the Old Testament Era. Fall 2014.

Teacher:

St. John's Choir School, Calgary, AB, Canada. AY 2013-14.
History and Literature (Grades 3-8). Played a formative role in the school's foundation year.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Philosophy Club Faculty Advisor, University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX). Spring 2025-Present.

Philosophy Undergraduate Events Coordinator, University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX). Spring 2025-Present.

Philosophy Department Search Committee Member (VPAA Representative). University of St. Thomas (TX).
November-March 2023-24.

Seat of Wisdom College Program Advisory Committee – External Faculty Member, Philosophy. August 2022-Present.

Panel Organizer - International Society for Neoplatonic Studies. Athens, Greece (Online). June 10-12, 2021.

Seat of Wisdom College Presidential Search Committee – Elected alumni member. October 2020-May 2022.

Seat of Wisdom College, “Alumni in Academics Lecture Series” – Founder and chief organizer. Sept. 2020, ongoing.

Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Council Philosophy Graduate Student Representative. AY 2019-20, 2020-21.

Interdepartmental (Philosophy and Classics) Social Sports Competition Organizer.

CUA Graduate Student Association (Vice-President, AY 2017-2018; Academic Senator, AY 2016-2017).

Graduate Representative to the Faculty Academic Senate. AY 2016-2018.

Assistant Coordinator, Summer Institute of Catholic Thought. The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.
June 2016.

Volunteer, Philosophy Graduate lectures and conference. Session moderator: 2015. Volunteer: 2016.

Workshop given for undergraduates: "Graduate Studies in Philosophy," Seat of Wisdom College, Barry's Bay, ON.
November 25, 2015.

AWARDS/GRANTS

- Crosbie Fellowship, Department of Philosophy Memorial University (named fellowship awarded to one incoming PhD student). \$60,000.
- Lawrence and Gladys Sweeney Scholarship for research in Co. Donegal, Ireland. \$7,340.
- Tuition Scholarship & Merit Stipend, CUA School of Philosophy.
- Academic Scholarship, Christendom College, Front Royal, VA.

LANGUAGES

- Ancient Greek (reading)
- Latin (reading)
- French (reading and speaking)
- German (preliminary reading)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Society for Neoplatonic Studies
American Catholic Philosophical Association