

STEPHEN R. OGDEN
curriculum vitae

The Catholic University of America
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Academic Positions

The Catholic University of America

Assistant Professor, School of Philosophy, Aug. 2017 – present

Johns Hopkins University

Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy, 2015 – 2017

Education

Yale University, Ph.D.

Dept. of Philosophy, Dept. of Religious Studies, May 2015

Dissertation: *Receiving and Making Aristotle's Intellect: A New Assessment of Averroes and Aquinas*

Advisers: John Hare and Verity Harte

Committee: Frank Griffel, Deborah Black, and Gyula Klima

Yale University, M.A., M.Phil.

Dept. of Philosophy, Dept. of Religious Studies, 2013

Yale Divinity School, M.A.R. *summa cum laude*

Philosophy of Religion, 2009

Rhodes College, B.A. *summa cum laude*

Philosophy, Religious Studies, 2005

Areas of Specialization

Arabic-Islamic Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Aristotle, Philosophy of Religion

Areas of Competency

Ancient Philosophy, Metaphysics, Ethics, Epistemology

Publications

Avicenna and Spinoza on Essence and Existence, *The Blackwell Companion to Spinoza*, edited by Yitzhak Melamed. (invited contribution, in preparation)

On a Possible Argument for Averroes's Single Separate Intellect, *Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy* 4 (2017), 27-63.

Individuation and the Afterlife According to Some Muslim Philosophers and Aquinas. In *The Metaphysics of Personal Identity*, Proceedings of the Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics, vol. 13, edited by Stephen Ogden, Gyula Klima, and Alexander Hall, 33-62. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016.

Problems in al-Ghazali's Perfect World: Objections and Counter-Objections to His Best Possible World Thesis. In *Islam and Rationality: The Impact of al-Ghazali. Papers Collected on His 900th Anniversary, Vol. 2*, edited by Frank Griffel, 54-89. Brill, 2016.

Maimonides, Aquinas, and Particularity: Comments on Seeskin's 'Creation and the Argument from Particularity.' In *Maimonides on God and Duns Scotus on Logic and Metaphysics*, Proceedings of the Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics, vol. 12, edited by Gyula Klima and Alexander Hall, 17-22. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015.

Edited Volume

The Metaphysics of Personal Identity, Proceedings of the Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics, vol. 13, introduction and co-edited with Gyula Klima and Alexander Hall. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016.

Dissertation Description

I undertake a fresh and comprehensive analysis of the medieval debate between Ibn Rushd (Averroes) and Thomas Aquinas on intellect, concerning whether intellect can only be ascribed properly to separate substances or whether it is an intrinsic power of the human being. The dissertation features three significant contributions. First, against much ancient and contemporary consensus, I argue for a revival of their markedly similar interpretations of Aristotle's *De Anima* III.4-5. Second, I critically examine with a new level of detail and balance the most important philosophical arguments for each thinker's view. Finally, my approach to Averroes and Aquinas on psychology pays special attention to their metaphysics in a way that has not previously been attempted in a single study. In particular, I examine the impact of their positions on individuation and persistence, underscoring their competing accounts as distinct brands of hylomorphism.

Presentations

- "The Unity Argument in Averroes"—Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy sponsored session, American Philosophical Association Eastern meetings, Jan. 2018
- "From Universal Form to Universal Nous: A Conditional Argument in Aristotle"—American Catholic Philosophical Association meetings, Nov. 2017
- Comments on Richard Taylor, "Averroes on the Attainment of Happiness"—University of Toronto Medieval Colloquium, Sep. 2017
- "Avicenna's Emanationist Abstraction"—University of Notre Dame, Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group Fall Meeting, Aug. 2017
- "Ibn Rushd on the Nature of the Intellects in *De Anima* III"—University of Gothenburg, Representation and Reality, Workshop 15 De Anima in the Arabic Tradition, Apr. 2017

- “Proving Averroes’s Moderate Particularism on Substantial Form”—Providence College, Metaphysics in the Tradition of Aristotle workshop, Sep. 2016
- “The Avicennan Averroes: On Common Natures”—Marquette University, Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group Fall Workshop, Sep. 2016
- Invited response to “Dreams, Nightmares, and a Defense Against Arguments from Evil,” Gabriel Citron, Association for the Philosophy of Judaism online symposium, May 2016
- “The Unity Argument in Averroes”—Johns Hopkins Mellon Humanities Seminar, April 2016
- “On a Possible Argument for Averroes’s Single Separate Intellect”—Johns Hopkins Philosophy Colloquium, Sep. 2015
- “Averroes and the Determinate Particular Argument”—Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy, May 2015
- “Aristotle’s Intellect as *Hexis*”—American Catholic Philosophical Association meetings, Oct. 2014
- “The All-or-Nothing Reading: How Averroes and Aquinas Agreed on Aristotle’s *De Anima* III.4-5”—Arxai: Commentary as Philosophy and the Abrahamic Interpreters, Istanbul, Jul. 2014
- “Individuation and the Afterlife According to Some Muslim Philosophers and Aquinas”—Western Michigan University, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics, May 2014
- Comments on “Creation and the Argument from Particularity,” Kenneth Seeskin—Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics, American Catholic Philosophical Association meetings, Nov. 2013
- “Averroes’s Arguments from Universals for a Separate Material Intellect”—University of Toronto Medieval Colloquium, Sep. 2013
- “Reviving the Crucial Agreement of Averroes and Aquinas on *De Anima* III.4-5”—Marquette University, Averroes and His Philosophy workshop, Aquinas and the Arabs International Working Group, Jun. 2013
- “A Contextualist Look at Skeptical Theism”—Saint Louis University, The Problem of Evil conference, Mar. 2013
- “A Contextualist Look at Skeptical Theism”—Oxford University, Workshop on Contextualism and Pragmatic Encroachment, New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology, Mar. 2013
- “Problems in al-Ghazali’s Perfect World”—University of Toronto, The Varieties of Possibility conference, Mar. 2012
- “Without an Image *Emotion* Is Impossible: The Role of *Phantasia* in Aristotle’s Conception of the Emotions” (abstract accepted)—The Catholic University of America, Emotion conference, Feb. 2012
- “Thomistic Hylomorphism and Human Persistence” (abstract accepted)—2011 International Conference of Religious Doctrines and the Mind-Body Problem, Qom, Iran, Oct. 2010

Other Academic Activities

- Invited speaker, “Hylomorphisms: Medieval and Modern,” *Prometheus* undergraduate philosophy journal kick-off event, Nov. 2016
- Participant, Mellon Seminar in the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University, 2015 – 2017

Selected participant, Why Is There Anything? Cosmos, Logos, and the Why of the Universe conference, Yale University, Oct. 2011

Selected participant, Themes in the Philosophy of Peter Geach and Thomas Aquinas, Thomistic Seminar, Princeton University, Aug. 2011

Honors and Fellowships

Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy Founder's Award, "The Unity Argument in Averroes" (best paper on Medieval or Renaissance philosophy by a younger scholar), 2017

Finalist for Johns Hopkins University Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award (one of five finalists for Graduate Teaching and Mentoring), 2017

Dissertation, Winner of the Veritas et Amor Contest, Circolo San Tommaso d'Aquino (best thesis/monograph on the thought of Aquinas by a younger scholar), 2015

Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2015

University Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University, 2014

Associates in Teaching Fellowship, Yale University, fall 2013

Lilly Graduate Fellows Program, 2009-2012

Franke Fellowship in the Humanities, Yale University, 2010 – 2011

Graduate Student Fellowship, Yale University, 2009 – 2013

Dwight-Hooker Fellowship, Yale Divinity School, 2009

Gaylord B. Noyce Scholarship, Yale Divinity School, 2007

Society of Phi Beta Kappa, Rhodes College, 2005

State Finalist (TN), The Rhodes Scholarship, Oxford University, 2004

Teaching Experience

The Catholic University of America

The Classical Mind, PHIL 201, fall 2017

The Classical Mind (Honors), PHIL 211, fall 2017

Johns Hopkins University

Islamic Political Philosophy, spring 2017*

Aquinas, spring 2017 directed study course*

Aristotelian Philosophical Psychology, fall 2016*

Introduction to Philosophy, summer 2016

Medieval Philosophy, spring 2016*

Arabic-Islamic Philosophy, fall 2015*

Yale University, Associate in Teaching Fellow (co-instructor)

Introduction to Medieval Philosophy, co-taught with Paul Franks, fall 2013*

Yale University, Teaching Fellow (teaching two weekly sections, advising, grading)

Philosophy of Religion, with John Hare, spring 2015*

Introduction to Ancient Philosophy, with Verity Harte, fall 2012

Survey of Medieval Theology, with Denys Turner, spring 2012*

N.B. Courses with an asterisk (*) included both graduate and undergraduate level.

Service

Referee, *Faith and Philosophy*, 2017
 Co-organizer, Working Group in Arabic Philosophy, Yale University, 2014 – 2015
 Referee, Yale-University of Connecticut graduate philosophy conference, spring 2012
 Organizer, Philosophy of Religion Colloquium, Yale University, 2010 – 2011

Languages*Classical*

Arabic (reading)
 Greek (reading)
 Latin (reading)

Modern

Arabic (reading and some speaking)
 French (reading)
 German (reading)
 Spanish (reading and some speaking)

References

<i>John Hare</i> , Yale University Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies	john.hare@yale.edu 203-432-5343
<i>Verity Harte</i> , Yale University George Saden Professor of Philosophy and Classics	verity.harte@yale.edu 203-432-1697
<i>Frank Griffel</i> , Yale University Professor of Religious Studies	frank.griffel@yale.edu 203-436-5250
<i>Deborah Black</i> , University of Toronto Professor of Philosophy	deborah.black@utoronto.ca 416-946-5983
<i>Gyula Klima</i> , Fordham University Professor of Philosophy	klima@fordham.edu 718-817-3286
<i>Paul Franks</i> , Yale University Professor of Philosophy, Religious Studies	paul.franks@yale.edu 203-432-1683
<i>Denys Turner</i> , Yale University Horace Tracy Pitkin Professor of Historical Theology	denys.turner@yale.edu
<i>Yitzhak Melamed</i> , Johns Hopkins University Charlotte Bloomberg Professor of Philosophy	ymelame1@jhu.edu 410-516-0568