



Photo credit: Nicholas Arthur Lanros

## Jeffrey Dirk Wilson

“For natures such as mine, a journey is invaluable: it enlivens, corrects, teaches, and cultivates.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



**With tomatoes on my right, cucumbers on my left, and apples behind me.**

“The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add an useful plant to its culture.”

Thomas Jefferson



**Jeffrey Dirk Wilson**  
100c Aquinas Hall  
School of Philosophy  
The Catholic University of America  
202.319.5910      410-452-8465  
[wilsonjd@cua.edu](mailto:wilsonjd@cua.edu)

---

**Areas of Specialization:**

Ancient Greek Philosophy  
Metaphysics  
Political Philosophy

**Areas of Competence:**

Art and Language  
Epistemology  
Ethics  
Human Nature

**Academic Experience:**

Clinical Associate Professor, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America; courses taught: “The Classical Mind,” “The Modern Mind,” “Metaphysics,” “Philosophy of Art” “Philosophy of Knowledge,” “Philosophy of Human Nature,” “Philosophy of Natural Right and Natural Law,” “Political Philosophy,” “Philosophy of Language”: 2015-present.

Clinical Assistant Professor, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America: 2009-2015.

Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, St. Mary’s Seminary and University, School of Theology; course taught: “Metaphysics”: winter-spring 2013.

Lecturer (full-time), Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Maryland; courses taught: “From Cosmos to Citizen,” “From Self to Society,” “Moral Philosophy”: 2007-2009.

Lecturer, The School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; courses taught: “The Classical Mind,” “The Modern Mind”: 2005-2006, fall 2006.”

Member of the Library Committee for the School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.: 2005-2006.

Member, Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): 2001-2007.

Teacher, Carpathian English Summer School, Ukrainian Catholic University: July, 1998.

**Formal Education:**

Doctor of Philosophy, dissertation: *From Concrete to Concept: How Greek Philosophers Conceptualized Homeric Depiction*; directed by Dr. Matthias Vorwerk, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. (2004-2005 spent at the University of Paris-X at Nanterre with work at the Sorbonne and other Paris faculties): degree conferred October 31, 2009.

Licentiate in Philosophy, thesis: “Homer’s Paradigm of Being: A Philosophical Reading of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*,” supervised by Dr. Richard F. Hassing, The School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.: 2004.

Master of Letters, thesis: “An Historical and Theological Commentary on ‘*On Consideration*’ by St. Bernard of Clairvaux,” supervised by Sir Richard W. Southern, University of Oxford, England: 1983.

Master of Divinity, thesis: “Pre-Conquest Old English Sermons on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,” supervised by Dr. Milton McCormick Gatch, Union Theological Seminary, New York (including one year of work at New College, University of Edinburgh): 1979.

Bachelor of Arts, Bowdoin College (junior year abroad at Hamburg University, Germany and a brief period of special study at Trinity College, University of Glasgow, Scotland), High Honors in German: 1976.

### **Other Experience:**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): June 10, 1979-May 1, 2007.  
Interim Pastor, West Grove Presbyterian Church, West Grove, Pennsylvania: 2006-2007.  
Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, York, Pennsylvania: 1986- 2004; Stated Supply: 1983-1986.  
Member, Permanent Judicial Commission for the Synod of the Trinity: 2003-2007.  
Chair, Area IV Committee on Ministry, Presbytery of Donegal: 1999-2002; member: 1992-1998.  
Wine and Spirits Editor, *Kinesis* (a now-defunct literary magazine), 1995-1997.  
President, County Council of Harford County, Maryland: 1990-1994.  
Newspaper columnist: 1983-2005.  
Farmer: lifelong.

### **Articles:**

#### **Academic—**

“Wonder and the Discovery of Being: Homeric Myth and the Natural Genera of Early Greek Philosophy.” *The Review of Metaphysics* 70 (March 2017) : 411-33.

“Plato's Educational Paradigm Shift: From Authority to Dialectic.” In Proceedings of the 2016 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Education, Language, Art and Inter-cultural Communication (ICELAIC 2016). Edited by Eric McAnally et. alia. January 2017.

“A Consideration of Roland Barthes’s *The Pleasure of the Text*: From an Erotics to an Agapics of Reading.” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 56, no. 4 (December 2016): 469-86.  
Online First:

[https://www.pdcnet.org/pdc/bvdb.nsf/purchase?openform&fp=ipq&id=ipq\\_2016\\_0056\\_0004\\_0469\\_0486&onlyautologin=true](https://www.pdcnet.org/pdc/bvdb.nsf/purchase?openform&fp=ipq&id=ipq_2016_0056_0004_0469_0486&onlyautologin=true)

“Plato on Homer: Heroic Liars and the Concept of Injustice in Hippias minor.” *Bulletin of the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia*. Philosophy Series 2016, No. 2 (Summer 2016): 95-101.

“Pinocchio and the Puppet of Plato’s *Laws*.” In *Civic Republicanism, Enlightenment and Modernity: Ancient Lessons for Global Politics*. Edited by Geoffrey Kellow and Neven Brady Leddy. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016.

“Being.” Revision of article originally by Ralph Matthew McInerney. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

“Distinctions, Kinds of.” Revision of article originally by John Joseph Glanville. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

“Scientism.” Revision of article originally by Edward Quinlisk Franz. *New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement 2012-13: Ethics and Philosophy*. Ed. Robert L. Fastiggi. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

“Vico’s Metaphysics of Poetic Wisdom.” *Clio* 41, no. 3 (Summer 2012): 339-58.

“St. Aelred of Rievaulx’s Model of Spiritual Friendship as a Paradigm for Ecumenical Conversation.” In *Friendship as an Ecumenical Value: Proceedings of the International Conference Held on the Inauguration of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies (Lviv, 11-15 June 2005)*, edited by Antoine Arjakovsky and Marie-Aude Tardivo,

157-167. Lviv: Ukrainian Catholic University Press, 2006.

“Husbandry: A Treatment of Genesis 1:24-31,” *The Register* 3/2 (2001): 76-81.

“Preaching as Pastoral Care.” In *Beside Still Waters*, edited by J. Stephen Muse, 157-180. Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 2000.

“Reformed Christians: *Quo Vadamus?*” *The Register* 2/1 (2000): 73-76.

“Telling Time By Prayer.” *Pastoral Forum* 15/1 (1997)

“The Dawning Silence.” *The Expository Times* 97/6 (March 1986): 173-74.

“The Prayer of Naked Living.” *The Expository Times* 93/1 (October 1981): 20-21.

“The Integrity of John 3:22-36,” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 10 (1981): 34-41.

#### **Non-academic—**

“Dancing through *Heaven’s Gate*.” *Oxford Today*. August, 2014.  
<http://www.oxfordtoday.ox.ac.uk/features/dancing-through-heavens-gate> .

“Aristotle on the Family: Philosophy in the Catholic Church.” *The Crosier* 1, no. 1 (2014): 9-14.

#### **Book Reviews:**

Verene, Donald Phillip. *Moral Philosophy and the Modern World*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2013, *The Review of Metaphysics* 68/2 (December 2014) : 448-50.

Widder, Nathan. *Political Theory after Deleuze*. New York: Continuum, 2012, *The Review of Metaphysics* 67/3 (March 2014) : 672-74.

Thomas L. Cooksey. *Plato’s “Symposium”: A Reader’s Guide*. London and New York: Continuum, 2010, *The Review of Metaphysics* 65/1 (September 2011) : 150-52.

Steven Berg. *Eros and the Intoxications of Enlightenment: On Plato’s “Symposium”*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2010, *The Review of Metaphysics* 64/3 (March 2011) : 625-27.

#### **Invited Lecture:**

“Political Theology: A Clear and Present Danger—Lessons from Nazism to the Present.”  
 Washington College, Chestertown Maryland, March 8, 2011.

#### **Conferences and Presentations:**

Metaphysical Society of America: annual meeting held at St. John’s College, Annapolis, Maryland: paper given on “The Discovery of Being: From Homeric Myth to the Natural Genera of Early Greek Philosophy”: March 18, 2016.

Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: “A Political Archeology of *Iliad* 2.1-277”: November 14-16, 2013.

“The Last Chapter” at Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: “The *Nicomachean Ethics* through the Rear-View Mirror: 10.7-8”: October 3-4, 2013.

Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts: “Aristotle’s Natural Political Justice”: November 15-17, 2012.

Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: “Aristotle’s Politics of Friendship”: November 16-18, 2011.

Vico and the Humanist Tradition Seminar held by the Institute for the History of Philosophy of the Department of Philosophy at Emory University, invited participant: June 6–17, 2011.

Metaphysical Society of America annual meeting held at Emory University: paper given on

“Foucault as Inverted Neo-Platonist in ‘A Preface to Transgression’”: March 11-12, 2011. Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy in conjunction with the American Philological Association annual meeting held in San Antonio, Texas: paper given on “Aristotle on Food as Definitively Human Artifact”: January 6-9, 2011.

Northeastern Political Science Association annual meeting held in Boston, Massachusetts: paper given on “Erik Peterson’s ‘Monotheism as Political Problem’”: November 11-13, 2010.

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy annual meeting held at Fordham University: paper given on “The Mean of Mixed Polity in Plato’s *Laws*”: October 15-17, A.D. 2010.

Metaphysical Society of America annual meeting held at Emory University: paper given on “The Metaphysics of Poetic Wisdom”: March 13-14, 2009.

Faith and the Disciplines Conference held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia: invited speaker on faith and teaching politics: July 16-20, 2008.

Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv: invited speaker in the international conference on “Friendship: An Ecumenical Value,”: June 11-15, 2005.

Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.: invited participant in the Williamsburg Consultation on “Is There a Reformed Tradition?”: May, 1999.

Public lecturer on politics, agricultural policy, and international issues: 1996-2008.

### **Honors:**

Aristotle Prize, Metaphysical Society of America: 2009.

Full tuition scholarship at the School of Philosophy of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.: 2002-2005.

Pastoral Study Grant from the Louisville Institute for the project, “The Contemplative Congregation: Moving Monasticism Out of Doors”: 2000.

Hitchcock Prize in Church History, Union Theological Seminary: 1979.

Roothbert Fellow: 1978.

### **Faculty Activities:**

Led graduate student German reading group, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America: Schleiermacher’s introductions to Plato’s dialogues, 2011-12; Past German Reading Exams 2012-2013; Walter Benjamin, “Die Aufgabe des Übersetzers” 2013; Past German Reading Exams 2014-2017.

Participant in Greek reading group, School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America: Plotinus. *Ennead* 5.1 (10), 2010-2011; Platonic myths, 2011-12.

Mentored senior honors thesis: Kayla Garry. *The Contemplative Philosophy and Theology of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Cistercian Mystics*. Mount St. Mary’s University: 2009-2010.

Participant in Greek reading group: Aristotle. *On the Parts of Animals*, Book 1. The Catholic University of America: 2009-2010.

Led faculty reading group: Jean Leclercq. *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*. Mount St. Mary’s University: 2007-2008.

### **Languages:**

Reading, writing, speaking—	Reading—
German	Latin
French	Greek

**Memberships:**

American Catholic Philosophical Association  
Metaphysical Society of America  
Northeastern Political Science Association  
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy