

Christopher Hauser

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Areas of Specialization and Competence

AOS: Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

AOC: Medieval Philosophy, Metaphysics & Epistemology

Education

2014-2020 **Ph.D, Philosophy, Rutgers University**

- Dissertation: “Essence, Definition, and Scientific Inquiry in Aristotle” (defense planned for April 2020)
- Committee: Robert Bolton (chair); Marko Malink (external; NYU); Jonathan Schaffer; and Dean Zimmerman

2010-2014 **B.A., Philosophy and History, *summa cum laude*, Dartmouth College**

- Phi Beta Kappa (top 20 students in Dartmouth’s graduating class of 2014)
- Honors Thesis: *Grounding, Explanation, and Analogical Being* (advised by Christine Thomas, Dartmouth Philosophy Department)

Languages

Ancient Greek (reading), Latin (reading)

Publications

1. “On Being Human and Divine: The Coherence of the Incarnation,” *Faith and Philosophy* (forthcoming). Available [here](#).
2. “Aristotle’s Explanationist Epistemology of Essence,” *Metaphysics* 2:1(2019), 26-39. Available [here](#).

Papers Currently Under Review

3. “Aristotle’s Epistemology of Essence,” revise & resubmit at *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy*
4. “Aquinas on Persons, Psychological Subjects, and the Coherence of the Incarnation,” under review

Papers In Progress

5. “Forms, Souls, and *Hypokeimena* in Aristotle”
6. “Aquinas on the Separability of the Human Soul”
7. “A Nominally Interconnected but Non-Monistic Cosmos”

8. “Fundamental Facts and Fundamental Entities”

Awards and Honors

May 2018	Rutgers School of Arts & Sciences Award for Distinguished Contribution to Undergraduate Education (one of four graduate student recipients from the Rutgers School of Arts & Sciences)
May 2018	Rutgers TA-GA Professional Development Fund Award (competitive research award)
May 2017	Rutgers TA-GA Professional Development Fund Award (competitive research award)
May 2016	Rutgers University Special Study Award (competitive research award)
May 2015	Rutgers University Special Study Award (competitive research award)
May 2015	Dartmouth College General Fellowship (competitive research award)
Sep 2014	Center Fellowship, Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion (award for research in philosophy of religion)
Jun 2014	Francis W. Gramlich Philosophy Prize (awarded annually by the Dartmouth Philosophy Department to one or two graduating majors)

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

Nov 2019	Invited Comments on De Ribera-Martin’s “Generation and Homonymy in Aristotle’s <i>Generation of Animals</i>” <i>2019 Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association</i> Minneapolis, MN
Jun 2019	“Aquinas on the Separability of the Human Soul” <i>14th Annual Conference on Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition: Plato and Platonism</i> Marquette University
Sep 2018	“Forms, Souls, and <i>Hupokeimena</i> in Aristotle” <i>New York Area Classical Philosophy Work-In-Progress Group</i> New York University
June 2018	“Aristotle’s Epistemology of Essence” <i>13th Annual Conference on Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition: Principles, Cosmology, and First Philosophy</i> Marquette University
May 2018	“Aristotle’s Epistemology of Essence” <i>Recent Work on Aristotle’s Posterior Analytics</i> (Invited Paper) Brown University
Feb 2018	“A Nominally Interconnected but Non-Monistic Cosmos” <i>Symposium Paper for 2018 Meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association</i> Chicago, IL
Oct 2017	“Aristotle’s Epistemology of Essence”

Dialectic and Analytics in the Aristotelian Tradition
Providence College

- Aug 2017 **“Fundamental Facts and Fundamental Entities”**
3rd Epistemology of Metaphysics Workshop
University of Helsinki
- Jul 2017 **“Persons, Natures, and the Incarnation”**
2nd Triennial Dominican Colloquium: Person, Soul, and Consciousness
Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley
- Jun 2017 **“Forms, Souls, and *Hupokeimena* in Aristotle”**
12th Annual Conference on Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition: Soul and Nature
Marquette University
- Apr 2017 **“Aristotle’s Epistemology of Essence”**
2nd Annual University of Chicago Graduate Student Conference in Ancient Philosophy: Argument in Ancient Thought
University of Chicago

Teaching, Mentoring, and Advising

Award Recipient:

- May 2018 Rutgers School of Arts & Sciences Award for Distinguished Contribution to Undergraduate Education
- One of four graduate student recipients from the Rutgers School of Arts & Sciences. For more details, see here: <https://sas.rutgers.edu/news-events/news/newsroom/achievements/2664-2018-awards-for-distinguished-contributions-%09to-undergraduate-education>

Courses Taught at Rutgers (as Sole Instructor):

- Fall 2019 **Phil 103: Introduction to Philosophy (Online)**
- Sum 2019 **Phil 103: Introduction to Philosophy (Online)**
- Spr 2018 **Phil 204: Introduction to Classical Greek Philosophy**
- Fall 2017 **Phil 204: Introduction to Classical Greek Philosophy**
- Spr 2017 **Phil 305: Philosophy in the High Middle Ages**
- Fall 2016 **Phil 204: Introduction to Classical Greek Philosophy**
- Successfully applied to make “Phil 204: Introduction to Classical Greek Philosophy” satisfy Rutgers’ Arts & Humanities core curriculum requirement.

Courses Taught at Rutgers (as Teaching Assistant):

- Spr 2017 **Phil 104: Introduction to Philosophy** (TA for Professor Stephen Stich)
- Fall 2016 **Phil 104: Introduction to Philosophy** (TA for Professor Justin Kalef)

Commitment to Teaching & Mentoring:

- 2019-ongoing Member of the Mellon Philosophy as a Way of Life Network
- The network consists of over 100 philosophers from diverse institutions who research philosophy as a way of life, share curricula and innovative assignments, train instructors to teach materials from non-Western philosophical traditions, and support one another as we seek to find better ways to engage our students. For more information, see <https://philife.nd.edu/key-principles/>
- 2017-ongoing Mentor for the Rutgers Philosophy Department’s Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program
- I have mentored two undergraduate students interested in pursuing a PhD in ancient philosophy. One just began his first year in Yale’s Classics and Philosophy Joint PhD Program in Fall 2019. The other has not yet applied.
- Mar 2019 Participant in Rutgers Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop
- This workshop focused on helping instructors develop concrete strategies for making their courses accessible to and impactful for a diverse body of students, especially students from underrepresented groups. Topics covered included backwards planning, assessment for learning, differentiation, and active learning.
- 2016-2018 Undergraduate Advisor for Rutgers Philosophy Department
- One of two official undergraduate advisors for the department, I met with students to provide advising on major/minor declaration, course selection, career and study abroad plans, and applications to graduate and law school. I also regularly advised transfer students from NJ community colleges.
- Dec 2017 Participant in the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT)’s Workshop on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy
- Spr 2015 Completed Rutgers’ “Introduction to College Teaching” elective course (Rutgers TA Project)
- 2011-2014 Writing Tutor and First Year Seminar Writing Assistant (Institute for Writing & Rhetoric, Dartmouth College)

Service

Grant Writing:

- May 2019 Co-authored (with Dean Zimmerman and Laura Callahan) the grant proposal for an approved \$1,031,088 Templeton Foundation interdisciplinary grant entitled “Science-Engaged Philosophy of Religion: God, Time, and Creation” <https://www.templeton.org/grant/science-engaged-philosophical-theology-god-time-and-creation>
- Oct 2018 Co-authored (with Dean Zimmerman and Laura Callahan) the grant proposal for an approved \$234,343 Templeton Foundation grant for a Rutgers Postdoctoral Fellowship in Science-Engaged Philosophy of Religion <https://www.templeton.org/grant/rutgers-postdoctoral-fellowship-in-science-engaged-philosophy-of-religion>

Editorial Service:

- 2017-2019 Managing Editor, *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, Vols. 11 & 12
2018-2019 Managing Editor, *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion*, Vol. 9
2011-2014 Editor-in-Chief, *The Dartmouth Apologia*, Undergraduate Journal of Christian Thought (editor-in-chief: 2012-2013; editor: 2011-2012, 2013-2014)

Research Assistance:

- Jan-May 2019 Research Assistant for Mark Johnston (Henry Putnam Professor of Philosophy and Director of Program in Cognitive Science, Princeton University)
- Provided detailed comments on drafts for Mark’s ongoing research projects in the philosophy of perception, philosophy of religion, and metaphysics.
- Jan-Aug 2016 Research Assistant for Martin Lin (Associate Professor, Rutgers Philosophy Department)
- Provided detailed comments on draft chapters for Martin’s book on Spinoza.

Events Organized:

- 2017-2019 President and Founder, Rutgers University Chapter of the Thomistic Institute. Invited speakers included Eleonore Stump (on Guilt, Forgiveness, and Simon Wiesenthal’s book *The Sunflower*), Jeffrey Brower (on Divine Omnipresence), Alexander Pruss (on Infinite Causal Series and the Kalam Cosmological Argument), and Daniel De Haan (on Neuroscience and the Soul)
- 2016-2018 Organizer, Rutgers Metaphysics Reading Group for faculty and grad students
2016-2018 Organizer, Rutgers Philosophy of Religion Reading Group for faculty and grad students
- Oct 2018 Co-Organizer, Peter Kivy Memorial Conference at Rutgers
Aug 2018 Co-Organizer, Metaphysical Mayhem Workshop at Rutgers
June 2018 Co-Organizer, Pantheism and Panentheism Workshop at Rutgers
Oct 2017 Co-Organizer, Rutgers Lectures in Philosophy: Sir Richard Sorabji on Free Speech
Oct 2016 Co-Organizer, 2016 Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers at Rutgers

Graduate Coursework

All courses were taken at Rutgers unless otherwise indicated. An asterisk indicates that the course was audited (i.e., not taken for credit).

<u>History of Philosophy</u>	<u>Instructor(s)</u>
Aristotle on Perception and the Intellectual Virtues	R. Bolton
Mind, Soul, and Knowledge in Aristotle	R. Bolton
Aristotle’s <i>Topics</i> and <i>Analytics</i>	R. Bolton
Aristotle’s <i>De Anima</i>	R. Bolton
*Aristotle’s <i>Metaphysics</i> Zeta (Princeton)	B. Morison & H. Lorenz
*Aristotle’s <i>Metaphysics</i> Zeta (NYU)	M. Malink
*Aristotle’s <i>De Anima</i> Book II (Princeton)	B. Morison & H. Lorenz

*Aristotle's Logic (NYU)	M. Malink
*Plato on Virtue and Knowledge (Princeton)	M.M. McCabe
*Aristotle's <i>Metaphysics</i> Zeta-Eta (Yale)	David Charles
Hume's <i>Treatise on Human Nature</i>	M. Bolton
Kant's Philosophy of Religion	R.M. Adams
<i>Metaphysics & Epistemology</i>	
Grounding and Causation Independent Study	J. Schaffer
God and Metaphysics	R.M. Adams
Logic and the One (Princeton)	S. Dasgupta & B. Kment
*Humean Supervenience	J. Schaffer & B. Loewer
*Structuralism and the Metaphysics of Science	T. Sider
Epistemology of Perception	S. Schellenberg
Seminar in Epistemology	A. Goldman
Formal Methods for Philosophical Analysis	A. Gillies
<i>Philosophy of Religion</i>	
Metaphysics of Christology	M. McCord-Adams
Kant's Philosophy of Religion	R.M. Adams
God and Metaphysics	R.M. Adams
*Foreknowledge, Free Will, and Providence	K. DeRose & D. Zimmerman
<i>Ethics & Value Theory</i>	
Inequality & Parfit's <i>On What Matters</i> Volume 3	D. Parfit & L. Temkin
*Incomparability and Parfit's <i>On What Matters</i> Volume 2	D. Parfit & R. Chang

Medieval Philosophy Summer Seminars for Graduate Students

Aug 2018	<p>“Thomistic Seminar: Philosophical Anthropology” <i>Witherspoon Institute</i>, Princeton; one of ~15 accepted participants <u>Instructors:</u> Profs. Candace Vogler (Chicago), Anselm Müller (Chicago), Therese Cory (Notre Dame), and Michael Gorman (Catholic University of America)</p>
Aug 2017	<p>“Thomistic Seminar: Aquinas and Charles Taylor” <i>Witherspoon Institute</i>, Princeton; one of ~15 accepted participants <u>Instructors:</u> Profs. Candace Vogler (Chicago), John Haldane (Baylor), Therese Cory (Notre Dame), and John O’Callaghan (Notre Dame)</p>
Aug 2016	<p>“Thomistic Seminar: Aquinas and Contemporary Ethics” <i>Witherspoon Institute</i>, Princeton; one of ~15 accepted participants <u>Instructors:</u> Profs. Candace Vogler (Chicago), Sarah Broadie (St. Andrews), John Haldane (St. Andrews), and Thomas Cavanaugh (San Francisco)</p>
Jun 2016	<p>“Aquinas’s Five Ways and Where They Lead” Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome; one of ~15 accepted participants <u>Instructor:</u> Prof. Stephen Brock (Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome)</p>
Jun 2015	<p>“Metaphysics and the Soul in Thomas Aquinas” Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome; one of ~15 accepted participants <u>Instructor:</u> Prof. Stephen Brock (Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome)</p>

Dissertation Abstract: “Essence, Definition, and Scientific Inquiry in Aristotle”

My dissertation examines the account of the aims and methods of theoretical inquiry which Aristotle expounds at length in his *Posterior Analytics* and deploys throughout his philosophical and scientific treatises. In his *Posterior Analytics*, Aristotle articulates a theory of “science” (*epistēmē*), or what we might call “theoretical inquiry,” according to which a science is organized around certain principles (*archai*) and demonstrable truths concerning the kind (*genos*) studied by that science. The aim of the scientist is to acquire scientific knowledge (*epistēmē*) of the kind being studied, a scientific knowledge which consists in the ability to explain why the kind being studied has the features that it does by reference to the principles pertaining to that kind. The most prominent of the three types of principles mentioned by Aristotle are *definitions*, where a definition is understood to be an account which specifies its definiendum’s essence.

The core aim of my dissertation is to clarify Aristotle’s account of how we can come to know what the principles of a science are and, in particular, how we can come to know what the definition or essence of a kind is. This latter question is particularly pressing for essentialists like Aristotle who favor a non-modal account of essence, according to which the essence of something does not just consist of all the properties which it necessarily has if it exists. Even if an answer is found to the modal epistemological question of how we can come to know what a thing’s necessary properties are, the non-modal essentialist faces a further question as to how we can distinguish a thing’s essential properties from its non-essential but necessary properties.

In one part of my dissertation (“Aristotle’s Epistemology of Essence,” under review), I examine three existing interpretations of Aristotle’s views on this issue, namely, the Intuitionist View (defended by Frede, Irwin, and Ross), the Explanationist View (defended by Bolton, Charles, and Lennox), and the Socratic View (defended by Bronstein). I argue that the Explanationist View is superior to its competitors both as an interpretation of Aristotle and as a viable philosophical account of how we can come to know what something’s essence is. In doing so, I provide new arguments against the Intuitionist View and a serious challenge to the Socratic View, the interpretation which David Bronstein argues is superior both to the Intuitionist and the Explanationist interpretations in his 2016 book, *Aristotle on Knowledge and Learning: The Posterior Analytics* (arguably the leading current monograph engaging this issue).

Building on this initial discussion, I then defend the need for a refined version of the Explanationist View. Against the Explanationist interpretations defended by Bolton, Charles, and Lennox, I argue that Aristotle in fact proposes two different but complementary accounts of how we can come to know what the essence of something is. Consequently, I develop and defend an “enriched” Explanationist View which takes into account both of these distinct elements in Aristotle’s epistemology of essence. This chapter (“Aristotle’s Explanationist Epistemology of Essence,” forthcoming in *Metaphysics*) concludes by highlighting an insight that my discussion of Aristotle’s epistemology of essence offers to contemporary metaphysicians investigating how it is that we can come to know what something’s essence is.

In the final part of my dissertation, I return to the question of what role the method of “division” (*diairesis*) plays in Aristotle’s account of theoretical inquiry. Earlier, against Bronstein’s Socratic View, I argued that Aristotle does not invoke the method of division to explain how we can come to know the basic definition of a kind, i.e., a definition which specifies the essential features of a kind which explain why it has the other features that it does. But this raises the question of what role the method of division does play in Aristotle’s account of theoretical inquiry. In this last chapter of my dissertation, bringing together texts from the *Posterior Analytics* and a number of other treatises, I argue that the method of division plays a more preliminary role in Aristotle’s account of theoretical inquiry, a role that involves organizing the facts initially known through experience and empirical observation into different levels of generality so that an explanation at the right level of generality can be found for such facts.

References

Ancient Philosophy

Robert Bolton	Rutgers University	rbolton@philosophy.rutgers.edu
Marko Malink	New York University	mm7761@nyu.edu
David Bronstein	Georgetown University	db1096@georgetown.edu

Philosophy of Religion

Dean Zimmerman	Rutgers University	dwzimmer@philosophy.rutgers.edu
Jeffrey Brower	Purdue University	brower@purdue.edu

Medieval Philosophy

Jeffrey Brower	Purdue University	brower@purdue.edu
Dean Zimmerman	Rutgers University	dwzimmer@philosophy.rutgers.edu

Metaphysics

Dean Zimmerman	Rutgers University	dwzimmer@philosophy.rutgers.edu
Jonathan Schaffer	Rutgers University	jonathan.schaffer@rutgers.edu

Teaching

Elisabeth Camp	Rutgers University	emc233@philosophy.rutgers.edu
Dean Zimmerman	Rutgers University	dwzimmer@philosophy.rutgers.edu

General

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