

**Anselm Ramelow, O.P.**  
Professor of Philosophy  
***Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology***  
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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of Munich**, 1995. Philosophy, magna cum laude.

(Full doctoral scholarship of the *Hanns Seidel Stiftung*, Munich)

Completed doctoral studies in art history and history; also initial studies of theology, 1995/6.

**Thesis:** *Gott, Freiheit, Weltenwahl. Die Metaphysik der Willensfreiheit zwischen Antonio Perez, S. J. (1599-1649) und G.W. Leibniz (1646-1716).*

Thesis committee: Robert Spaemann und Rolf Schönberger (now Regensburg)

Published: Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997 (*Brill's Studies in Intellectual History* 72)

This study investigates the origins of the concept of "the best of all possible worlds". It exemplifies the character of modern metaphysics, which thinks mainly in terms of freedom and possibility. The book contains three parts. The first part tries to reconstruct this concept both historically and systematically; it deals with the concept of possibility beginning with High Scholasticism. The second part investigates the origins of this idea in the Jesuit theory of "scientia media", which is concerned with human freedom and divine foreknowledge. The third part deals with the question, whether there is any necessity to choose the best – a main theme in the late scholastic thought of the 17th century. This investigation of a concept unknown before the time of Leibniz reveals many new sources and fills a gap in the history of ideas.

M.A. **Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley**, 2002. Theology.

**Thesis:** *Beyond Modernism? - George Lindbeck and the Linguistic Turn in Theology*

Thesis committee: Richard Schenk, Timothy Lull, William O'Neill

Published: Neured: Ars Una 2005 (*Beiträge zur Fundamentaltheologie und Religionsphilosophie*, Band 9)

This study deals with the impact of contemporary philosophy on fundamental theology as exemplified in the theory of the Lutheran theologian George Lindbeck. Lindbeck uses Wittgenstein and the "linguistic turn" to develop a postmodern (or "postliberal") conception of theology; his position is contrasted with modern as well as a traditional approaches. This book is a fundamental attempt to bring modern discussions of epistemology and philosophy of language into dialogue with Aristotelian and Thomist traditions. The first part gives a critical analysis of George Lindbeck's position. It shows some of the internal problems that his proposal is generating (part II); but it also treats his larger claim to provide a "third paradigm" beyond both modernism and the traditional "cognitive-propositional" understanding of dogma. While Lindbeck's "postmodern" approach and modernism appear to be two sides of the same coin, the traditional approach, based on a renewed Thomistic epistemology and philosophy of language, is proposed as a deeper synthesis (part III).

**M.A. University of Freiburg, Germany, 1990.** History (highest grade)  
Studies in History, Art History, Greek and Philosophy

M.A. thesis: *Antoine Nicolas Servin and the Development of Criminal Law in the French Enlightenment and Revolution*

Thesis director: Ernst Schulin

Little study has been done on the intense discussion of criminal law in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, even though many important figures contributed (e.g. Marat, Robespierre, Brissot, Voltaire, Iselin). This thesis explores the theories of criminal law in the French Enlightenment by locating one of the authors (A.N. Servin) in the context between radical theories and the authors of the *Ancien Régime*. It also looks at the larger history of criminal law and the actual historical practice, which often diverged from the theories.

**M.Div. Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology.** 2002. Theology.  
(D'Onofrio Scholarship)

## **PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California**

September 2005 – Present

Member of Core Doctoral Faculty (CDF)

Areas: a) Systematic Theology and Philosophy

b) Religion and the Arts

**Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology, Berkeley, California**

2004 – Present

Associate Professor

**Berkeley Institute**

May 2016- Present

Senior Fellow

**Hochschule für Philosophie, Munich, Germany**

April 2009 – July 2009

Visiting Professor

(lecture, seminar, administering exams and thesis evaluation)

**University of San Francisco, San Francisco**

September 2002 – May 2003

Adjunct Professor

## CLASSES TAUGHT

### At DSPT/GTU

#### Regular Courses

Modern Philosophy	F 2004-25
Contemporary Philosophy	S 2005-26

#### Electives

“Leibniz' Theodicy”	Fall 2000
“Hegel's Phenomenology of the Spirit”	Spring 2002 and Spring 2013
“The Later Wittgenstein”	Fall 2002
“The Philosophical Aesthetics of Music”	Fall 2002
“Kant: <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> ”	Fall 2004
“Gadamer's Hermeneutics”	Spring 2005
“Philosophical Aesthetics”	Fall 2005
“Theological German”	Fall 2005
“Phenomenology”	Spring 2006
“Schleiermacher as Philosopher”	Fall 2006
“Fichte's <i>Wissenschaftslehre</i> ”	Spring 2007
“What is a Person?”	Spring 2007 and Fall 2011
“Hegel's Philosophy of Religion”	Fall 2008
“C.D. Friedrich, F.D. Schleiermacher and the Aesthetics of German Idealism”	Spring 2009
“The Linguistic Turn in Philosophy and Theology”	Spring 2009 and Spring 2013
“Philosophical Aesthetics I”	F09/F12/F13/F16/F19/S22/F24
“Philosophical Aesthetics II”	S10/S14/S17/S20/F22/S25
“Duns Scotus and William Ockham”	Spring 2010
“Does God Exist?”	Fall 2010/2015/2020
“Do we have Free Will?”	Spring 2011/Spring 2016/Spring 2021
“Hegel's Aesthetics”	Spring 2012
“Miracles”	Fall 2012/Fall 2018/S 2024
“M. Heidegger's <i>Being and Time</i> ”	Fall 2014
“Habermas”	Fall 2006/Spring 2016
“Philosophy of Religion: India & West”	Fall 2017
“Personal Identity”	Spring 2018
“Hegel and Kierkegaard”	Fall 2018
“Philosophy of Technology”	Fall 2021

#### Class Segments of GTU Doctoral seminars:

on George Lindbeck	Spring 2007
on Karl Rahner	Fall 2005/2006
on Hegel and Kierkegaard	Fall 2015
Hegel's Philosophy of Law	Spring 2017

#### Berkeley Institute (4-week seminars)

Philosophy of Architecture	Fall 2016
Leibniz' Metaphysics of Goodness	Spring 2017

Painting Reality	Fall 2017
Do We Have Free Will?	Spring 2018
Artificial Intelligence in a Human Context	Fall 2018
Can We Be Moral Without God?	Spring 2019
What is Architecture	Fall 2019
Aquinas' Ethics	Fall 2020
Why We Suffer	Fall 2021
Meaning and Making: The Role of Technology	Spring 2022
Intellectual Life as a Form of Religious Life	Spring 2024
Is it Rational to Believe in Miracles?	Fall 2024
Friendship in an Age of Technology	Spring 2025
Aquinas & The Challenge of Naming God	Fall 2025

### **University of San Francisco**

“Great Philosophical Questions” (Plato, Boethius, Descartes, Sartre)	Fall 2002 /Spring 2003
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### **Hochschule für Philosophie** (Munich, Germany (*Berchmannskolleg*))

Lecture: “Medieval Philosophy”	Spring 2008
Seminar: “Introduction to Thomas Aquinas”	Spring 2008

### **Priesterseminar Wigratzbad**

“Philosophische Logik”	1995/6
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## **THESES DIRECTED**

### **Doctoral Theses**

Pheasant Faustino, Hannah, *Decolonizing the Digital Sphere: A Discursive Approach to the Philosophy of Technology*  
GTU 2019 (PhD)

Park, Shin Young, *From Abyss to Glory: A Theo-Aesthetic Inquiry into the Self and the Other, and a Response to Postmodern Nihilism*  
GTU 2022 (PhD)

### **Master Theses**

Salzillo, Raphael Mary, *Hume And Aquinas On the Intelligibility of Theological Language*.  
DSPT 2005 (MAPh)

Cutter, Newell III, *Nietzsche's Moral Paradigms*.  
DSPT 2005 (MAPh)

Miller, Matthew Augustine, *Language, Meaning and The Limits of Conceptual Sovereignty in Quine And Aquinas*.  
DSPT 2007 (MAPh)

- Maichrowicz, Dominic David, *Edith Stein's Foundation of Being-Individual and Thomistic Thought*.  
DSPT 2009 (MAPh)
- Miller, Michael L., *Consciousness as Discourse: Hegel's Theory of Imagination And Sign*.  
DSPT 2010 (MAPh)
- Mosher, Gabriel Thomas, *Between Aquinas and Buber: W. Norris Clarke's Retrieval of Interpersonal Relationality in the Anthropology of St. Thomas Aquinas*.  
DSPT 2013 (MAPh)
- Novis, Edward, *Within Implicit Being: The Mediation of Subject and Substance in G.W.F. Hegel and St. Maximus The Confessor Through the French Hegelians*.  
DSPT/GTU 2013
- Morrison, Jillian Browning, *Re-presenting Representation: The First Things Towards Theological Aesthetics*.  
DSPT/GTU 2013
- Woldum, Hannah J., *The Way of the Logos: Beauty, Faith, and Reason in the Theology of Joseph Ratzinger*.  
DSPT 2014 (MAPh and MATH)
- Currie, Laura Elizabeth, *Approaching an Aesthetic Ecclesiology for the New Evangelization*.  
DSPT 2014 (MAPh and MATH)
- Sills, Matthew, *Thomas Aquinas and John Duns Scotus on the Will: A Comparison and Synthesis of the Essential Aspects of Man's Freedom*  
DSPT 2015 (MAPh and MATH)
- Brannan, Christopher, *Truth and Hermeneutics: How a Thomist Epistemology Can Illumine the Hermeneutic Circle*  
DSPT 2015 (MAPh)
- Senz, Nicholas, *The True Forestructure: Gadamerian Elements in Congar's Theology of Tradition*  
DSPT 2015 (MAPh and MATH)
- Hannah, Peter Junipero, *The Metaphysics of Meaning: Applying a Thomistic Ontology of Art to a Contemporary Hermeneutical Puzzle and the Problem of the Sensus Literalis*.  
DSPT 2016 (MAPh and MATH)
- Peters, Mark Randall, *Prophecy and Our Return to God: Dialogue or Theory?*  
DSPT 2020 (MAPh)

Rooney, Patrick, *The Uncomposed Composer: An Argument for the Existence of God*  
DSPT 2020 (MAPh)

Jorgensen, Cody, *The Intelligibility of the Symbolic:  
An Aristotelian-Thomistic Engagement with Susanne Langer*  
DSPT 2021 (MAPh)

Clark, Janice, *Hegel on Music: Sound and Sense in Sync*  
DSPT 2021 (MAPh)

Lerman, Josiah Lee, *On A Novel Problem and a Catholic Solution*  
DSPT 2021 (MAPh)

Peck, Joshua, *The Essence of Story:  
An Investigation of the Inception, Creation, and Reception of Stories*  
DSPT 2024 (MAPh)

Martinson Gordon, Freya, *The Circle of Artistic Contemplation and Action:  
A Thomistic Reading of John Paul II's Letter to Artists*  
DSPT 2024 (MAPh and MATH)

Ford, Elias Guadalupe, *Architecture's Role in Virtuous Development  
according to Aristotle and Christopher Alexander*  
DSPT 2025 (MAPh)

## **THESIS COMMITTEES**

### **Doctoral Thesis Committees**

Baik, Chung-Hyun, *The Holy Trinity- God for God and God for Us: Seven Positions on the Immanent-Economic Trinity Relation in Contemporary Trinitarian Theology*. Princeton Theological Monograph Series 145 (Eugene, Or.: Wipf and Stock Publishers/Pickwick Publications, 2011)

Brigham, Erin Michele, *Sustaining the Hope for Unity: Ecumenical Dialogue in a Postmodern World* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press/Michael Glazier, 2012)  
GTU 2010

Kim, Young Won, *Trial of Obedience to the Word of God: Anselm's Proslogion and the Renewal of Discourse Between Analogia Entis and Analogia Fidei*  
GTU 2012

Doebler, Peter L., *Seeing the Things You Cannot See: (Dis)-Solving the Sublime through the Paintings of Hiroshi Senju*  
GTU 2014

Cirelli, Blaise, *Dante in Conversation with Contemporary Theorists: Insights for the Western Secular Cognoscenti*  
GTU 2021

Gutgsell, Nancy, *The Science-Religion Interface in Seventeenth and Nineteenth-Century English Contexts: Natural Theology, Inductive Experimentation, and Scientific Societies*  
GTU 2022

### **Master Thesis Committees**

Skinner, Carrie (on Bonaventure and vestiges of the Trinity)  
DSPT 2005

Bonnie L. Soong, *Recovering Affability as a Contemporary Virtue.*  
DSPT 2006

Fadok, Christopher Paul, *Looking Forward to The Past: A Plea for Thomistic Intervention in the Philosophy of Mind.*  
DSPT 2006 (MAPh)

Gerlach, Eric, *"With Him, True Philosophy First Begins": Hegel's Praise of Eriugena And the Dialectical Rise of The Human Mind.*  
GTU/DSPT 2006 (MAPh)

Sigman, Ambrose, *Selfish Love: Eros, Agape, And Caritas in The Works of Saint Thomas Aquinas And Anders Nygren.*  
DSPT 2009 (MAPh)

Bjorge, Nathan W., *The Inverted Essence: The Young Hegelian Critique of Religion 1835 – 1845.*  
GTU 2009 (MATH)

Lendman, Daniel, *An Investigation of the First Principles of Method in the Natural Philosophy of Aristotle and Newton.*  
DSPT 2010 (MAPh)

Gawrylewski, Stephen V., *An Analysis of The Philosophical Congruencies Between the Tao-Te-Ching And Martin Heidegger's Early Writings.*  
GTU 2010 (MATH)

Grimm, Daniel F.B.T., *Distinguishing Human Sensation as Holistic from Animal Sensation.*  
DSPT 2013 (MAPh)

Kim, Simon Andrew, *Materiality, Immateriality, and Unity: A Thomistic Critique of John Searle's Biological Naturalism.*  
DSPT 2012 (MAPh)

- Ragusa, Christopher, *Only a Formality: Blessed John Duns Scotus on Being, The Trinity, and The Formal Distinction*.  
DSPT 2014 (MAPh and MATH)
- Klein, Dennis, *Nature, Obediential Potency, and Miracles: How St. Thomas' Accounting of Supernatural Action Affects Our View of Nature*.  
DSPT 2014 (MAPh)
- Johnson, John, *Passion and Beatific Connaturality According to St. Thomas Aquinas*.  
DSPT 2014 (MAPh)
- Brown, Caleb, *From Naming the Animals to Taming the Gods: Nietzsche, McLuhan, and Aquinas On Signification*.  
DSPT 2014 (MAPh and MATH)
- Furman, Megan, *In Pursuit of Happiness: The Beautiful-Moral Life According to Jacques Maritain*.  
DSPT 2014 (MAPh and MATH)
- Mikołajski, Tomasz, *The Paradox of Prayer to the Omniscient, Immutable and Omnibenevolent God*.  
DSPT 2015 (MAPh and MATH)
- Verrill, Robert, *Corporeal Substances, Tangible Qualities and The Four Elements*  
DSPT 2016 (MAPh)
- Sobrak-Seaton, Michaela, *What Language Tells Us About Who We Are: Thomas Aquinas and Donald Davidson on Language and Human Nature*  
DSPT 2016 (MAPh)
- Grace, Michael, *Aquinas's De Regno and the Recovery of Political Philosophy*  
DSPT 2017 (MAPh and MATH)
- Kreeger, Seth, *Understanding Thomas Aquinas' Doctrine of Analogy in Light of his Conception of the Science of Metaphysics*  
DSPT 2018 (MAPh)
- Shannon, Cailin, *Rethinking the "Nature" of Architecture: The Role of Ecological Context in Aesthetic Experience*  
UC Berkeley 2018 (Master of Science in Architecture)
- Karkoutli, Rhatib, *The Philosophy of Light in Dionysius and Suhrawardi*  
DSPT 2019 (MAPh)
- Belleza, Jose Isidro, *Lex Loquendi, Lex Orandi: Pickstock, Aquinas, and the Reform of the Roman Offertoria*  
DSPT 2019 (MAPh and MATH)

- Taylor, John, *Unconcealing Veritas' Adaequatio: Martin Heidegger, Thomas Aquinas, and the Being Of Truth*  
DSPT 2019 (MAPh)
- Kovacs, Elizabeth R., *Intention and Effect: Liturgical Anamnesis Withstanding Plato's Critique of Mimesis*  
DSPT 2020 (MATH)
- Selinger, Joseph, *Speaking the Unspeakable: Analogia Proportionalitatis and Formale Anzeige Compared*  
DSPT 2020 (MAPh)
- Crane, Jonathan, *The God of Love and His Forsaken: A Philosophical and Theological Examination of the Relationship Between the God of Love and Horrendous Evil*  
DSPT 2021 (MAPh and MATH)
- Rogers, Alex, *The Road to Damascus: St. Paul and the Phenomenology of the Event of Jesus Christ*  
DSPT 2021 (MAPh and MATH)
- Reveles, Joseph, *Ontology and Existentialism: Re-Examining the Heidegger-Sartre Debate*  
DSPT 2022 (MAPh)
- Strader, Paschal, *Arguments from an Ordered Universe: Fine-Tuning vs. Final Causality*  
DSPT 2024 (MAPh and MATH)
- Hall, Columban, *Finding Wisdom: Why Metaphysics Depends on a Proof for Immaterial Being*  
DSPT 2024 (MAPh)
- Pruett-Vergara, Paola, *The Mystery and the Glory: An Augustinian Critique of Giorgio Agamben's The Kingdom and the Glory*  
DSPT 2024 (MAPh)
- Guthrie, Aidan, *The Intellect According to Aristotle and the Early Reception of De Anima 3.5*  
DSPT 2024 (MAPh)
- Bahl, Clay, *Catholic Faith and Intellectual Responsibility: The Problem of Conscientious Doubt*  
DSPT 2026 (MAPh)

## **AREAS OF RESEARCH**

### **Current:**

- Thomas Aquinas
- Free Will
- Philosophical Aesthetics
- Philosophy of Religion (Philosophy of Miracles, Proofs for God, faith and reason/science)

- History of Philosophy (Modern and Contemporary, and some Medieval)
- Concept of Personhood
- Philosophy of Language

**Past:**

- Kant and German Idealism  
(studied with [Dieter Henrich](#) and others in Munich and Freiburg im Breisgau)
- Free Will (studies with [W. Pannenberg](#) and D. Henrich, Munich)
- Final Causality and Evolution Theory; concept of Personhood  
(studied with [Robert Spaemann](#), Munich)
- Medieval Philosophy ([Klaus Jacobi](#), Freiburg)
- New Testament ([Joachim Gnilka](#), Munich)
- Dogmatic Theology ([Gisbert Greshake](#), Freiburg)
- History of the Reformation (Klaus Deppermann, Freiburg)
- Philosophy of Law and History of Constitutional Law ([E. W. Böckenförde](#), Freiburg)
- Modern History ([Ernst Schulin](#) and [Heinrich August Winkler](#) in Freiburg; [Thomas Nipperdey](#) in Munich)
- Ancient History (studies with [Jochen Martin](#), Freiburg)
- Patristics ([Karl Suso Frank](#), Freiburg)
- Medieval History (Norbert Ohler, Eugen Hillenbrandt, Johanne Authenrieth, Karl Schmid, Hugo Ott)
- Medieval Architecture, particularly Gothic architecture ([Wilhelm Schlink](#), Freiburg, extensively); and Romanesque architecture (with Heinfried Wischermann, Freiburg)
- Christian Archeology of Ravenna (Otto Feld)
- Other Art History ([Erik Forssmann](#), [Stefan Kummer](#), [Jürg Meyer zur Capellen](#), [Oskar Bätschmann](#), [Rainer Crone](#)).
- Rene Girard and theories of sacrifice and atonement (with Richard Schenk, then Berkeley, CA)
- Biblical Inspiration and Inerrancy (with Richard Schenk, then Berkeley, CA)
- Human Knowledge of Christ (with Richard Schenk, then Berkeley, CA)

**CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND PAPERS**

**Lectures/Academic Conferences with Papers**

1. *VI. Internationaler Leibniz Kongress*, Hannover, Juli 1994. Lecture: “Konträre und kontradiktorische Freiheit: Gibt es reine Unterlassungen?”
2. June 2006 *CTSA Conference in San Antonio*, TX. Lecture: “Towards a Non-Reductionist Account of Language.”
3. *Aquinas Lecture*; Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley: “Language Without Reduction: Aquinas on the Linguistic Turns;” March 2006.
4. Invited Lecture at Univ. of Washington in Seattle, Oct. 2008: “When Understanding Seeks Faith.”
5. *Pacific Coast Theological Society*: Spring 2009 Meeting, April 18; response to Chris Ocker: “A Marriage of Convenience: Renaissance and Reformation.”

6. Invited lecture for San Francisco State University's *Philosophy of Religion Society*, Oct 27, 2009: "Faith and Reason."
7. Dominican conference, *Dominicans and the Challenge of Thomism*, June 30 – July 5, 2010, at the Priory of Saint Joseph, Warsaw, Poland, sponsored by The Thomistic Institute of the Polish Province of the Order of Preachers; invited response to L. Dewan, O.P. "Saint Thomas and Philosophia Perennis."
8. Invited lecture at Symposium on *René Girard and World Religions*, GTU, April 14-16, 2011; "Sacrifice in Hegel and Girard."
9. *Aquinas Lecture* at Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula, California, Sept. 23, 2011: "Does Art Imitate Nature? – The Case of Architecture."
10. Pacific Coast Theological Society: Fall 2011, Nov. 5; invited response to Elaine Belz, *The Poet Among Ruins*.
11. Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology; Response to "The Evidence of Creation and Supernatural Design in Contemporary Big Bang Cosmology and Space-Time Geometry Proofs" by Rev. Robert J. Spitzer, SJ; Saturday, October 13, 2012.
12. *Philosophy in the Abrahamic Traditions*, ACPA conference Nov. 2012, Marina del Rey, Los Angeles; presentation: "The Person in the Abrahamic Tradition: Is the Judeo-Christian Concept of Personhood Consistent?"
13. *Finally, the Beginning*, Panel at DSPT: Dec 12, 2012; Presentation: "Self-Transcendence in Pope Benedicts' Jesus of Nazareth III."
14. *Crossing Borders Conference*, Mazatlán, Mexico; March 7-9, 2013; Presentation: "The Rights of the Family."
15. Pacific Coast Theological Society, Berkeley, April 5, 2013: "Time and Eternity," response to Michael Dodds and Robert Russell.
16. *Dominicans and the Renewal of Thomism*, Thomistic Institute, Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C.; July 1-5, 2013; Presentation: "Aquinas on Supernatural Agency, Finite and Infinite."
17. *What Is It to Think with the Church?* 2014 Convocation of the College of Fellows of the DSPT, January 31, 2014; Presentation: "On the Place of the Sensus Fidelium."
18. *Dumb Ox Forum* of the DSPT, Feb 19, 2014; Lecture: "On Miracles."
19. *Dimensions of Spirit*, Conference of the Muilenburg-Koenig History of Religion Workshop, at San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA, Feb 24, 2014; Invited response to Philip Clayton (Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate School), "On Human Consciousness, Spirits, the World-Spirit, and Transcendent Spirit: Theological Assessments of Spiritual Experience in the 20th Century."
20. Dominican Colloquia in Berkeley, July 16-20, 2014: *What does Athens Have to Do With Jerusalem?* Talk: "Miracles as Intersection of Faith and Reason."
21. [\*How Does Music Imitate Nature?\*](#) invited lecture, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., Oct 24, 2014.
22. *Three Tensions Concerning Miracles: A Response to Edward Feser*, Book Symposium on *God: Reason and Reality*, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley, Nov.8, 2014.
23. Lecture "Natural Law, Choice and Happiness," *Dominican Interprovincial Gathering*, Oakland, California, Oct 3, 2015.

24. "A Coherent Education," *Faculty Dinner Talks, A Monthly Meeting of Scholars and Students*; Berkeley Institute, April 2015.
25. Presentation "Family and Philosophy;" DSPT, 2016 Convocation of the College of Fellows, January 29, 2016.
26. Lecture "The Nature of God;" *Faith and Reasons*, UC Berkeley, March 11, 2016, and panel discussion with Prof. Stanley Klein (UC Berkeley).
27. [\*Reasoning about Being and Beauty\*](#); invited lecture and discussion on *The Catholicism of Reason* by David Schindler Jr., at the John Paul II Institute in Washington DC., April 8, 2016.
28. How Does Architecture Imitate Nature? 4 Lectures at the *Berkeley Institute*, Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28.
29. Lecture and discussion "The Transcendence of God;" *Faith and Reasons*, UC Berkeley, Oct 20, 2016.
30. "Why Science Needs Faith;" lecture for students and faculty of theology and philosophy departments at the University of Dallas, Feb 24, 2017.
31. "Persons, Pronouns and Perfections" – in response to Thomas Weinandy, OFM. Cap.: "The Hypostatic Union: Person, Consciousness and Knowledge"; at *Person, Soul and Consciousness – Dominican Colloquia in Berkeley*, July 12-15, 2017. Including presentations on artificial intelligence and consciousness at the OPTIC Panel on Artificial Intelligence.
32. "Does Conscience Trump Authority?"; lecture for a philosophy conference on the topic of conscience held at Holy Rosary parish, Portland, Oregon, Nov. 4, 2017.
33. "Angels, Demons and Miracles: Aquinas on the Influence of Finite Spirits;" lecture at NYU, Nov. 11, 2017.
34. "Is it Rational to Believe in Miracles?"; UC Berkeley, March 8, 2018; lecture for the Thomistic Institute.
35. "Artificial Intelligence: Mind or Matter?" and "Free Will" – two lectures for the Thomistic Institute's *Intellectual Retreat* on "The Brain, The Soul and Life Everlasting – The Nature of the Human Person." April 6-8, 2018, Oakland, CA.
36. "Ineffability: Origin and Problems;" presentation for *Religion and Language - A Symposium and Round Table*, UC Berkeley, April 24, 2018.
37. "Person, Soul, Consciousness ... and Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Problems of AI," presentation in DSPT MA Colloquium, Sept. 4, 2018.
38. "The Distinctiveness of Human Intelligence", talk at M.I.T., Oct 12, 2018.
39. "Artificial Intelligence and the Soul," talk at Stanford University, Oct 16, 2018.
40. "Is Belief in Miracles Rational?" talk at University of Oregon, Eugene; January 17, 2019.
41. "Can there be a Moral Proof for the Existence of God?", invited talk for a natural law workshop at the University of Stanford, Feb 19, 2019.
42. "Does Science Need Faith?" lecture at Yale University, October 21, 2019.
43. *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 2019 Annual Meeting, Plenary Lecture: "A Perennial Theology of Nature" November 23, 2019, Minneapolis.
44. *Teleology and Transcendence: The Thought of Robert Spaemann*, weekend seminar for the Zephyr Institute at Stanford; Saturday, January 11, 2020.
45. *Does Free Will Exist?* Lecture at UC Santa Barbara, Feb 18, 2020.

46. *Freedom, Aquinas and the Brain*, keynote lecture at the Thomistic Circles Conference *Neuroscience and the Soul*, in Washington, D.C., Dominican House of Studies, February 28-29, 2020.
47. *Communio Study Circle: on Theology and Transcendence, The Thought of Robert Spaemann*, part I, San Francisco, March 2, 2020.
48. „Philosophische Vorüberlegungen zur theologischen Bewandtnis des Erfahrungsbegriffs,“ invited lecture for a Memorial Conference for Leo Cardinal Scheffczyk: *Glaube und Erfahrung. Im Dialog mit Leo Scheffczyk*, Lugano, Sept. 14-18, 2020.
49. Online Symposium [Robert Spaemann: Philosophische Argumente und Kontroversen](#) with paper: „Personalismus und Metaphysik: Die Sinne von Sein in Robert Spaemann.“
50. “Not a Miracle,” talk and discussion for *Communio Circles*, May 21, 2021, online.
51. Lecture “Aquinas, Freedom, and the Brain,” at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, Oct 12, 2021.
52. Lecture “The Existence of God and Natural Philosophy,” at Idaho State University, Boise, Idaho, Oct 16, 2021.
53. Lecture “Free Will and the Brain” for the conference *Scientism and Human Nature – Can Modern Neuroscience Disprove the Existence of the Human Soul?* at Yale University, Oct 30, 2021.
54. “How Does Art Imitate Nature?” at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, March 29, 2022.
55. Lecture “Do We Have Free Will?” University of California in Berkeley, April 22, 2022.
56. Lecture “Conscience & Authority: Who should decide how we Act, Think, and Believe?” at Berkeley Institute, Sep 22, 2022.
57. “Technology and our Relationship with God” at *Ethics for AI* at Santa Clara University (*Pontifical Council for Culture* and *Markkula Center for Applied Ethics*), Sept 30-Oct 1, 2022, with presentation on “AI and our Relationship with God.”
58. Lecture “Does Science Need Faith? On the Nature of God,” University of California in Berkeley, Nov 4, 2022.
59. Lecture “Is Free Will an Illusion?” University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Nov 8, 2022.
60. ACPA Conference at New Orleans, Nov 17-20, with paper: “Art and Beauty as Being-For-Itself: Spaemann’s Aesthetics.”
61. Minerva Conference in Rome, Nov 30, with lecture on “Technology and our Relationship with God.”
62. Lecture: “AI and Our Relationship with God”, invited speaker for Bp. Robert Barron’s *Wonder Conference*, Jan 13-14, 2023, in Dallas, Texas.
63. Lecture: “Artificial Intelligence and the Soul: Can Computers Be People Too?” Texas A&M University, March 2, 2023.
64. “A.I. and Human Freedom: How New is the Challenge?” at *Changing the Global Game: Artificial Intelligence, Predictive Analytics and the Human Condition*, December 12, 2023, Angelicum, Rome.
65. “Machines and Animals: Can ‘A.I.’ be Alive?” Lecture for Angelicum Thomistic Institute – Science & Religion Online Series “Immateriality in the Age of Science;” May 7, 2024.
66. “AI, Ethics and Spirituality: What Can Computers Do for Us, and What Do They Do to Us?” Invited lecture at *Google Headquarters*, Mountainview, CA, May 17, 2024.

67. “Free Will and the Brain;” and “Can Machines be People, too?” For Thomistic Institute: *Are We Still Human? An Intellectual Retreat for DC Young Professionals*, September 13-15, 2024; Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception; Washington D.C.
68. “The Role of Technology and A.I. in Our Relationship with God.” Lecture at Stanford University for the *Young Catholic Professionals*, November 12, 2024.
69. “When is it Reasonable to Believe That a Miracle has Occurred?” and “The Types of Miracles and the Possibility of Demonic Miracles;” *Intellectual Retreat: Science and Miracles*, Thomistic Institute, April 4-6, 2025; St. Albert’s Priory, Oakland.
70. “Free Will, Aquinas, and the Brain;” National Conference of the *Society of Catholic Scientists*, June 6-8, 2025, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.
71. Four Lectures (“Mind, Matter, and Life: Can Machines be People, too?” “AI and Ethics” “Predictive AI, Manipulation, and Human: Freedom According to Aquinas” and “Technology In Our Relationship With God”) at the *Civitas Dei Summer Fellowship* of the Institute of Human Ecology at the Catholic University of America, *The Future of Personhood and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, June 8 - 13, 2025.
72. “What is Sacred Music?” at *Fons et Culmen – Sacred Liturgy Summit*, July 1-4, 2025, Menlo Park, California.
73. “What is Art?” Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley, Oct 8, 2025.
74. “Can Computers be Persons?” Stanford, 10/15/2025.
75. “Machines Are Not Alive” (*Can “A.I.” be Alive? Machines, Plants and Animals*), ACPA Conference, Notre Dame, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2025; with response to Armand Babakhanian (“Thomistic Meta-Biology”) and as member of the Program Committee.
76. “Can Computers Create Art?” San Francisco Art Forum, Dec. 11, 2025.
77. “Does Science Need Faith?” Stanford University, January 14, 2026.

#### **Academic Conferences without Papers**

1. “Kontinuität und Transformation der Antike im Mittelalter”, *Zweites interdisziplinäres Symposium des Mediävistenverbandes e.V.* 3/15-3/20, 1987, Freiburg im Breisgau.
2. “‘Die eigentlich katholische Verschärfung’ – Katholizismus, Theologie und Kirche im Werk Carl Schmitts;” Fachtagung, Katholische Akademie Rabanus Maurus (Fulda, Limburg, Mainz); Wiesbaden 5/24-5/26/1993.
3. Organized international and ecumenical lecture: Dr. Christian Braw (Sweden), May 8, 2007: “Mysticism - Reformation – Revivalism; The Retrieval of Augustinian and Dominican Spirituality in the German Pietism of Johann Arndt.”
4. Colloquium *Robert Spaemann zum 80. Geburtstag*, May 2007, Kloster Neresheim, Germany.
5. November 9-11, 2007: *Freedom, Will, and Nature*, ACPA conference in Milwaukee
6. Organized lecture by Jon Stewart (Copenhagen), Oct. 21, 2009: “Kierkegaard and Hegel on Faith and Knowledge.”
7. *Thomas Aquinas & Contemporary Philosophy: First Annual Catholic Philosophy Workshop*; at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, New York. June 23 - June 26, 2011.
8. Organized lecture: Walter Schweidler (Univ. of Eichstätt), DSPT, Feb. 19, 2013: “The Slave in Ourselves: On the Importance of the Aristotelian Concept of Slavery for Political Legitimation.”
9. “Atonement,” ACT Conference, Washington, D.C., May 2014.

10. “Dispositions, Habits, and Virtues,” annual ACPA Conference, Oct 9-12, 2014, with submitted paper, *Miracles and the Habits and Dispositions of Nature*.
11. “Challenges to Catholic Theology,” ACT Conference, Washington, D.C., May 19-21, 2015.
12. *First Things and Berkeley Institute Colloquium*, August 3, 2015.
13. *First Things and Berkeley Institute Colloquium*, August 1, 2016.
14. *First Things and Berkeley Institute Colloquium*, July 24, 2017.
15. Organized lecture, Imre de Gaal, “Personhood and the Medieval Imagination;” Nov 29, 2017.
16. “The End Before the End: The Contemporary Importance of Eschatology;” Conference of the *Academy of Catholic Theology*, Washington, D.C., May 22-24, 2018.
17. *First Things and Berkeley Institute Colloquium*, July 30, 2018.
18. ACPA Conference, San Diego, Nov 8-11, 2018.
19. *First Things and Berkeley Institute Colloquium*, July 22, 2019.
20. *Being as Gift: On the Metaphysics of Ferdinand Ulrich*, Rachel Coleman at Zephyr Institute, July 23, 2020.
21. *Communio Circles*: Carol Zaleski, “‘Further Up and Further In!’: C.S. Lewis on Heaven,” September 23, 2020.
22. “The Paschal Mystery as Interpretation of Reality,” *Academy of Catholic Theology* Conference, May 27-28, 2021, at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C.
23. ACPA Conference, *The Diakonia of Truth*, St. Louis University, Nov 18-21, 2021.
24. “The Soul; Competing Perspectives on Its Existence and Nature,” *Thomistic Circles Conference*, Feb 17-18, 2023, Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C.
25. “Trinity: Fundamental Ground of Reality and Mystery of Salvation,” Conference of the *Academy of Catholic Theology*, May 23–25, 2023, Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C.
26. “Aquinas After 750 Years: Still the Common Doctor?” *Thomistic Circles Conference*, Sept 14-16, 2023, Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C.
27. Seminar with Matthew Crawford and others on his article “The Workings of the Party State,” at St. Patrick’s Seminary, March 21, 2024.
28. ACPA Conference, *Male and Female He Created Them*, Chicago, Nov 14-17, 2024.
29. *Science and Philosophy: A Unified Pursuit?* UC Berkeley, September 26, 2025.

#### **Pastoral and Catechetical Talks:**

1. St. Dominic’s Parish, Young Adult Group, 2006: “Edith Stein: Philosopher, Teacher and Saint”.
2. Conference/Retreat Blessed Sacrament Parish, Seattle, 2006: “Music and Spirituality.”
3. St. Dominic’s Parish, Young Adult Group, Oct. 2007: “Faithful Commitments in a Postmodern World.”
4. Retreat for the Organizers of the Walk for Life, January, 2008: “What is Life?”
5. Panel Discussion on *Euthanasia*, sponsored by San Francisco and Oakland dioceses, and Ignatius Press, March 7, 2008
6. Presentation for Adult Formation Program at Holy Rosary Parish in Antioch, April 2008: “Reading Scripture in the Light of Reason.”
7. Retreat for CCD teachers, Sept. 2008: “Conversion.”
8. Retreat for Catechetical and Family/Life staff of Diocese of Oakland, Dec 2008.

9. Lenten retreat for Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, Lent 2009: “What Jesus Saw From the Cross”.
10. Profession retreat for Sisters Mary Mother of the Eucharist, Ann Arbor, Michigan, July/August 2009: “The Good, the True, and the Beautiful”.
11. Retreat for DSPT students: “Busy students, study and contemplation”, 2009.
12. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Oakland, California, April 20, 2010: “Authority and the Church”.
13. Catholic adult education, Holy Rosary Parish in Antioch, April 26, 2010: “Where is Purgatory in the Bible?”
14. Belmont Abbey College, Dec 3-5, 2010:
  - Talk “Can we believe on our own? Conscience, Faith and Authority”, and
  - “How to get out of the bubble” (Advent reflection with a proof for the existence of God)
15. Young Adult Group at St. Dominic’s, San Francisco, January 2011: “Understanding Seeking Faith”
16. Catholic adult education, Holy Rosary Parish in Antioch, January, 2011: “Does God Exist?”
17. Holy Week Reflection on Pope Benedict XVI's "Jesus of Nazareth"; Wednesday of Holy Week, April 20, 2011; a panel reflection at the DSPT
18. Dominican Forum at Holy Family Cathedral, Anchorage, Alaska, June 2011: “Does God Exist?”
19. Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, “The Role of Philosophy in the New Evangelization – A Response to the Lineamenta;” All School Discussion with College of Fellows, January 27/28, 2012.
20. Theology Department at Marin Catholic High School, March 9, 2012: “The Identity of Jesus as God and Man”.
21. Young Adult Group at St. Dominic’s, San Francisco, August 22, 2012: “Miracles”.
22. Marriage Preparation Organization of the Diocese of Oakland; September 8, 2012: “Family: The Heart of Society”.
23. Theology Study Group at St. Dominic’s, San Francisco, October 18, 2012: “Good News From the Cafeteria?”
24. Retreat Dominican Laity, Sacramento, January 11-13, 2013: “Prayer and Evangelization”.
25. Teenager Retreat at Immaculate Heart Parish, Brentwood, California, Jan 19, 2013: “Does God Exist?”
26. UC Berkeley, April 18, 2013: English 98/198 “Introduction to Catholic Culture and Doctrine;” lecture “The History of Religious Life”.
27. Bible Study, Antioch, June 5, 2013: “The God of the Old Testament”
28. Cana Retreat for Married Couples, Immaculate Heart Parish, Brentwood, CA; June 22, 2013: “The Unity of Marriage”.
29. Retreat for St. Albert’s Priory chapter of the Dominican Laity; Feb 21-23, 2014, Carmelite Monastery, Napa Valley: “Prayer and Evangelization”.
30. Retreat for St. Rose of Lima chapter of the Dominican Laity (Antioch); Dec 6-7, 2014, St. Albert’s Priory: “Prayer and Evangelization”.

31. Cana Retreat for Married Couples, Immaculate Heart Parish, Brentwood, CA; January 10, 2015: "The Unity of Marriage".
32. Talk for St. Albert's Priory chapter of the Dominican Laity, at St. Mary Magdalene's Berkeley, Jan. 11, 2015; "The Philosophy of Miracles."
33. "Can we believe on our own? Conscience, Faith and Authority;" Talk for Young Adult Group at St. Dominic's, San Francisco, Nov. 11, 2015.
34. "The Role of Philosophy in Dominican Life;" St. Dominic's, Benicia, January 20, 2016.
35. "The Dominican Rite;" Kolbe Academy and Trinity Prep; Napa, February 3, 2016.
36. "Prayer and Evangelization in three steps:" retreat for the Missionaries of Charity in Gallup, NM; August 12-18.
37. "Faith and Reason:" talk for the 800<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the Dominican Order, at Most Holy Rosary, Portland, OR, August 27, 2016.
38. "What Were You Thinking? How Our Minds Point Us to God." Talk for "Drinks with Dominicans" (Young Adult Group), Portland, OR, August 29, 2016.
39. "Newman and Ratzinger on Conscience;" Dominican lector event, St. Dominic's priory Oct 1, 2016
40. "Conversion, religious life and discernment;" talk at Discernment weekend at Corpus Christi Monastery, Menlo Park; Oct. 15, 2016.
41. "The Value of the Dominican Rite Mass in the Extraordinary Form;" Young Adult Group at St. Dominic's, San Francisco, May 24, 2017.
42. "Anger, Forgiveness and Prayer," retreat for Dominican Laity of the Corpus Christi Chapter at Menlo Park, June 2/3, 2017.
43. "Why I Became a Catholic," talk for St. Dominic's Parish in Benicia, CA, August 28, 2017.
44. "Religious Life: How I Found My Vocation;" March 10, 2018, California State University, Sacramento, Newman Center.
45. "Anger, Forgiveness and Prayer (and Acedia)," retreat for Dominican Laity of the Benicia Chapter, August 10-12, 2018.
46. "Anger and Forgiveness," retreat for Marriage Preparation Lead Couples for the Archdiocese of San Francisco and Diocese of Oakland, March 23, 2019.
47. "Can Robots Be People, Too?," *Mystagogia*, St Dominic's, April 22, 2019.
48. "Is it Rational to Believe in Miracles?" St Dominic's, August 21, 2019.
49. "Man and Machine: Can Robots Be People, Too?," St. Raymond's, Menlo Park, August 27, 2019.
50. "Technology in Our Life," for adult education at St. Dominic's Parish, San Francisco, Feb 6, 2022.
51. "Conscience and Authority" and "Is it Rational to Believe in Miracles," Dominican Laity, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Colusa, California; Feb 11-12, 2022.
52. "Is it Rational to Believe in Miracles;" lecture at St. Raymond's Parish in Menlo Park, April 16, 2024.
53. "Is it Rational to Believe in Miracles;" lecture at St. Dominic's Parish in San Francisco, Feb 5, 2025.
54. "What is Beauty?" *San Francisco Art Forum*, March 6, 2025.

55. “Does AI threaten human dignity?” St. William Church in Los Altos, May 9, 2025.
56. “What is Art?” *St. Raymond’s*, Menlo Park, Nov. 11, 2025.

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- [American Catholic Philosophical Association](#)
- [Academy of Catholic Theology](#)
- [Berkeley Institute](#)
- Advisory Board of [Philosophia Theologica](#)
- International Advisory Board *Phavisminda Journal*
- Thomistic Institute (as speaker)
- [Society of Catholic Scientists](#) (as speaker)

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

#### Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA

Regular member on doctoral faculty, with student advising and other regular obligations

In addition, service on various committees:

- Admissions Committee for GTU doctoral applications (2006/2009/2014/2018/2022)
- Appointments and Review Committee of CDF (2007 and 2010)
- Reader for General Comprehensive Exams Area 3 (2008, 2009, 2012 (default))
- GTU Grievance Committee (2012/13, 2017/18, 2022/23)
- Search Committee for chair of Swedenborgian Theology
- Subcommittee for the revision of the protocol of doctoral Area III
- Subcommittee for the review of GTU doctoral dissertations (Area III) (2010/11)
- GTU Faculty Council of the Core Doctoral Faculty (2018-2022)
- GTU Library Committee (2021-22)
- GTU Doctoral Council (2024-26)

#### Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley

**Department chair** for philosophy department (2008-2014; 2016-2022; 2024-)

Work included:

1. revising the M.A. program in Philosophy;
  - transforming our B.A. program into a Graduate program
  - creating an additional Exam option;
2. writing a WASC program review for this MA program in 2014 and again in 2017
3. general development of the Philosophy Program, organizing lectures and faculty colloquia, with a long-term goal of developing a doctoral program in philosophy
4. organizing a three-year Philosophy Project on *Person Soul and Consciousness*, with application for a Templeton grant
5. regular work on
  - Portfolio Review Committee
  - Admissions Committee

6. (ex officio)
  - o President's Administrative Council
  - o Executive Committee
  - o Faculty Grievance Committee
7. Curriculum Mapping Committee
8. Chair of various Search Committees for hiring new faculty
9. Chair, Search Committee for Presidential Search

### **Other Services**

#### **General:**

Extensive experience in student advising and in directing of these

#### **Other:**

- Professional Review Committee
- Faculty Liaison for College of Fellows
- Council of Professors of the Western Dominican Province
- Regular member of Philosophy Department
- Subcommittees preparing for assessment procedures in philosophy
- Subcommittee for developing Areas of Concentration
- Committee for the exploration of a doctoral program in philosophy
- Conference planning (*Dominican Colloquia in Berkeley*) and fundraising
- Subcommittee for “Philosophy Initiative”
- nomination committee for the ACPA (2017/18)
- liaison for Thomistic Institute on UC Berkeley campus

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Gott, Freiheit, Weltenwahl. Die Metaphysik der Willensfreiheit zwischen Antonio Perez, S. J. (1599-1649) und G.W. Leibniz (1646-1716).* Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997. (Brill's Studies in Intellectual History 72).

*Beyond Modernism? - George Lindbeck and the Linguistic Turn in Theology.* Neuried: Ars Una 2005 (Beiträge zur Fundamentaltheologie und Religionsphilosophie, Band 9).

*Thomas von Aquin: Über die Wahrheit - De veritate; Teilband 5 (Q. 21-24).* Translation and Commentary. Hamburg: Meiner, 2013.

*God: Reason and Reality (Basic Philosophical Concepts).* Munich: Philosophia Verlag, 2014, as editor and contributor.

### Coauthored Books

*Encountering Artificial Intelligence: Ethical and Anthropological Explorations.* Ed. Matthew J. Gaudet, Noreen Herzfeld, Paul Scherz, Jordan J. Wales. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2024. <https://jmt.scholasticahq.com/issue/8579> (AI Research Group for the Centre for Digital Culture of the Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Holy See)

*Reclaiming Human Agency in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.* Edited by Paul Scherz and Brian Patrick Green. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2025. (AI Research Group for the Centre for Digital Culture of the Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Holy See.)

### Articles

„Konträre oder kontradiktorische Freiheit: Gibt es reine Unterlassungen?“ *Leibniz und Europa. VI. Internationaler Leibniz-Kongreß* (Hannover 1994): 613-620.

„Unmöglichkeit.“ *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie*, vol. 11 (Basel: Schwabe, 2001): 242-252.

„Unmöglichkeit.“ *Archiv für Begriffsgeschichte* 43 (2001): 7-36.

„Wille II.“ *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie* vol. 12 (Basel: Schwabe, 2005): 769-783.

„Die Entwicklung des Konzeptes des Willens von Augustinus bis Kant.“ *Archiv für Begriffsgeschichte* 46 (2005): 29-67.

“Truth Makers: On Robert Miner's Genealogy of the Genealogists.” *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, 5 (2007): 647-706.

“Language without Reduction: Aquinas and the Linguistic Turn.” *Angelicum* 85 (2008): 497-517.

“The Best of All Possible Sciences: Leibniz' Alternative Beginning of Modern Science.” *Angelicum* 86 (2009): 175-189.

- “When Understanding Seeks Faith: Does Religion Offer Resources for the Renewal of Contemporary Rationality?” *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, 8 (2010): 647-664.
- “Are There Family Rights?” *Angelicum* 88 (2011): 201-229.
- “The Person in the Abrahamic Tradition: Is the Judeo-Christian Concept of Personhood Consistent?” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 87 (2013): 593-610.
- “Knowledge and Normality; Bl. John Henry Newman’s ‘Grammar of Assent’ and Contemporary Skepticism.” *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, 11 (2013): 1081–114.
- “The God of Miracles.” In *God: Reason and Reality*, edited by Anselm Ramelow, 303-364. Munich: Philosophia Verlag, 2014.
- “The Rights of the Family.” *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, 13 (2015): 1–17.
- “Aquinas and the History of Philosophy.” *Josephinum Journal of Theology* vol. 20 (2013): 307-336. [actual publication in 2015]
- “Miracles: Finite and Infinite Agents: How Aquinas Would Distinguish Divine Revelation from Deception.” *Angelicum* 92 (2015): 57-92.
- “Not a Miracle: Our Knowledge of God’s Signs and Wonders.” *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, 14 (2016): 659–673.
- “Miracles, Metaphysics and Salvation History.” In *Habitus fidei – Die Überwindung der eigenen Gottlosigkeit: Festschrift für Richard Schenk OP zum 65. Geburtstag*, edited by Jeremiah Alberg and Daniela Köder, 219–280. Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 2016.
- “Sacrifice in Hegel and Girard.” In *Mimetic Theory and World Religions*, edited by Wolfgang Palaver and Richard Schenk, 13-62. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2017.
- “Miracles and the Habits and Dispositions of Nature: On Two ‘Gods of the Gap’.” *Angelicum* 94 (2017): 211-229.
- “God’s Middle Knowledge of His Own Acts.” In: *Wort und Wahrheit, Fragen der Erkenntnistheorie; Festschrift für Harald Schöndorf SJ* (Münchener philosophische Studien), ed. Ulrich Lehner and Ronald Tacelli, 223-232. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer Verlag, 2019.
- “Persons, Pronouns and Perfections. A Response to Thomas Weinandy’s ‘The Hypostatic Union: Personhood, Consciousness, and Knowledge’.” *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, 17 (2019): 425–450.

- “Can Computers Create?” *Evangelization and Culture* 1 (2019): 39–46.
- “[Teleology and Transcendence: The Thought of Robert Spaemann](#).” *Communio* 45 (2019): 567–612.
- “Our Place in History.” Foreword to: Kevin Wall, *The Modern Mind*, v–x. Palo Alto: Solas Press, 2020.
- “The Perennial Theology of Nature.” *Proceedings of the ACPA* 93 (2019): 71-100.
- “Artificial Intelligence and Moral Theology: A Conversation,” together with Levi Checketts, Brian Cutter, Noreen Herzfeld, Cory Labrecque, Paul Scherz, Marga Vega, Andrea Vicini, SJ, Jordan Wales, and Brian Patrick Green (editor), Matthew J. Gaudet (editor), *Journal of Moral Theology*, Vol.11, Special Issue 1 (2022): 13–40.
- “Artificial Intelligence: Religion of Technology.” In: *The New Apologetics: Defending the Faith in a Post-Christian Era*, ed. Matthew Nelson, 148-153. Parkridge: Word on Fire, 2022.
- “Pallavicino’s God in Part and Whole.” Chapter 10 in: [Sforza Pallavicino - A Jesuit Life in Baroque Rome](#), ed. Maarten Delbeke, 225-252. Leiden: Brill, 2022. (open access).
- “Delimiting Freedom: Aquinas between Brain Science and Choice Gone Wild.” *Communio* 50 (2023): 132-163.
- “Ineffability: Its Origins and Problems.” In: *Beyond Babel: Religion and Linguistic Pluralism* (Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions and Cultures, Vol. 43). Ed. Andrea Vestrucci, 59-75. Cham: Palgrave, 2023. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-42127-3\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-42127-3_5)
- “Technology and our Relationship with God.” *Nova & Vetera* 22 (2024): 159-186.
- “Artificial Intelligence as a Challenge to Human Freedom.” *Evangelization and Culture* 19 (2024): 91-94.
- “Personalismus und Metaphysik: Die Sinne von Sein in Robert Spaemann.” In: Robert Spaemanns Philosophie, ed. by Thomas Buchheim, Rolf Schönberger and Walter Schweidler, 232-247, 570-581. Hamburg: Meiner, 2024.
- “[Is Self-Conscious AI Possible?](#)” *Church Life Journal A Journal of the McGrath Institute for Church Life*, June 28, 2024.
- “In A.I., Mind Does not Matter.” *Euntes Docete* 77 (2024): 27-59.
- “Art and Beauty as Being-for-Itself: Robert Spaemann’s Aesthetics.” *Review of Metaphysics* 78 (2024): 257-276.

“AI Algorithms and Human Free Will: How New Is the Challenge?” In *The Promise and Peril of AI and IA: New Technology Meets Religion, Theology, and Ethics*, edited by Ted Peters, 385-398. Adelaide: ATF Press, 2025.

“Philosophische Vorüberlegungen: zur theologischen Bewandnis des Erfahrungsbegriffs.” In *Glaube und Erfahrung. Im Dialog mit Leo Scheffczyk*, edited by Manfred Hauke and Richard Schenk, 77-113. Regensburg: Pustet, 2025.

“Das Gute und der Wille: Thomas’ umfassende Antwort auf die Moderne.” In *Studien zu den Quaestiones Disputatae des Thomas von Aquinas; Festschrift für Rolf Schönberger*, edited by Stephan Grotz, Christian Schäfer and Stefan Schick, 205-224. Hamburg: Felix Meiner, 2025.

“Thomas zu Willensfreiheit – Gehirn und Seelenvermögen.” In *Studien zu den Quaestiones Disputatae des Thomas von Aquinas; Festschrift für Rolf Schönberger*, edited by Stephan Grotz, Christian Schäfer and Stefan Schick, 225-236. Hamburg: Felix Meiner, 2025.

“Riflessione filosofice preliminari sull’ appagatività teologica del concetto di esperienza.” In *Esperienza e Fede – In Dialogo con Leo Scheffczyk*, edited by Manfred Hauke and Richard Schenk, 85-134. Lugano: Edizioni Cantagalli, 2025.

### **Forthcoming:**

Can “A.I.” be Alive? Machines, Plants and Animals

### **Book Reviews**

Review of *Persons: The Difference between ‘Someone’ and ‘Something,’* by Robert Spaemann (South Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), in: *The Thomist* 72 (2008): 317-321.

Review of *An Introduction to Medieval Philosophy: Basic Concepts*, by Joseph W. Koterski, S.J. (Chichester, U.K./Malden, MA/Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), in: *Theologie und Philosophie* 84 (2009): 585-587.

Review of *Death and Mortality in Contemporary Philosophy*, by Bernard N. Schumacher (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010), in: *The Thomist* 76 (2012): 158-164.

Review of *Ich Denke, Also Bin Ich Ich? Das Selbst Zwischen Neurobiologie, Philosophie und Religion*, by Tobias Müller and Thomas M. Schmidt (ed.), Göttingen, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2011, *Theology and Science* 16 (2018): 1-11.

### **Translations**

Thomas Aquinas, *De veritate Q. 21-24*, 3-309. Hamburg: Meiner, 2013.

Robert Spaemann, “Death – Suicide – Euthanasia,” in: *The Dignity of the Dying Person; Proceedings of Fifth Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Vatican City, February 24-27, 1999*; ed. Juan de Dios Vial Correa/Elio Sgreccia, 123-131. Vatican: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2000.

Robert Spaemann, “On the Anthropology of the Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*,” in: *Evangelium Vitae – Five Years of Confrontation with the Society; Proceedings of the Sixth Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life*, edited by Juan De Dios Vial Correa and Elio Sgreccia (Rome: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2001): 437-451.

Robert Spaemann, “The Paradoxes of Love,” in: R. Spaemann/David L. Schindler, *Love and the Dignity of Human Life: On Nature and Natural Law*, 1-26. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

Robert Spaemann, “Human Dignity and Human Nature,” in: R. Spaemann/David L. Schindler, *Love and the Dignity of Human Life: On Nature and Natural Law*, 27-45. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

Robert Spaemann, “What Do We Mean, When We Say “God”?” in: *God: Reason and Reality (Basic Philosophical Concepts)*, 17-36. Munich: Philosophia Verlag, 2014.

Robert Spaemann, “[A Keyhole for Unbelievers?](#) The Public Character of *Cultus* and the Broadcasting of the Mass on TV.” *Communio* 45 (2019): 629-636.

[trsl. from: “Ein Schlüsselloch für die Ungläubigen? Die Öffentlichkeit des Kultes und die Fernsehübertragung der Messe,” *Wort und Wahrheit* 9 (1954): 165-168]

### **Occasional publications**

“Ist Kirchenmusik eine Zumutung?” *Umkehr* 4 (1995): 15-18.

“La Bavaria porta la sua croce.” *La Nuova Europa, Rivista Internazionale Di Cultura* 5 (1996): 21-25.

„Wohin führt uns die Kirchenmusik?“ *Anzeiger für die Seelsorge* 7 (1995) 361-362.

“The Ineffable Word.” *Sacred Music: Journal of the Church Music Association of America* 138/1 (2011): 65-68.

“Pastors alarmed by ‘ubiquitous’ pornography’s impact on children and families.” Interview with *Catholic San Francisco*, August 26, 2015, page 1 and 12.

### [Reasoning about Being and Beauty](#)

Video of a response to David Schindler’s *The Catholicity of Reason*

### [Is it Rational to Believe in Miracles](#)

(lecture at UC Berkeley, podcast)

### [Artificial Intelligence and the Soul](#)

(lecture at Stanford, podcast)

[Does Science Need Faith?](#)

(lecture at Yale University, podcast)

[Symposium: God, Reason and Reality](#)

with: Ramelow: [Three Tensions Concerning Miracles: A Response to Edward Feser](#)

[On the Place of the \*Sensus Fidelium\*](#)

[Response to "The Evidence of Creation and Supernatural Design in Contemporary Big Bang Cosmology and Space Time Geometry Proofs"](#)

[The Role of Philosophy in the New Evangelization – A Response to the Lineamenta](#)

[How does Music Imitate Nature?](#)

(video recording of an invited lecture given at the Catholic University of America;  
the first few minutes are unfortunately missing)

**Current Academic Projects:**

- various projects and working groups on the philosophy (and theology) of technology
- working on a book on a philosophy of art
- publishing/editing various articles (see above)

**LANGUAGES**

German	<i>Native proficiency</i>
English	<i>Full professional proficiency</i>
Latin	<i>Full professional proficiency</i>
French	<i>Professional working proficiency</i>
Spanish	<i>Professional working proficiency</i>
Greek, Ancient	<i>Limited working proficiency</i>
Italian	<i>Limited working proficiency</i>
Hebrew	<i>Very limited</i>

**ACADEMIC REFERENCES**

Prof. Richard Schenk, O.P.  
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## RELIGIOUS LIFE

### Formation and Assignments

- 1996 entered the Dominican Order, Novitiate
- 1997 study of theology
- 2002, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> solemn vows
- 2002, June 20<sup>th</sup> ordination to the Diaconate
- 2002/2003 St. Dominic Priory and Parish, San Francisco, as a deacon, while teaching in the undergraduate program of the Univ. of San Francisco
- 2003, June 7<sup>th</sup> ordination to the priesthood
- 2003/2004 Holy Rosary Church, Antioch, California  
(Associate Pastor, Police Chaplain)
- 2004-present St. Dominic Priory and Parish, San Francisco, professor of philosophy at the *Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology* in Berkeley

### Pastoral experience:

- 1999/2000 as a student brother: residency at Dominican parish in Eagle Rock, Los Angeles (school teaching, Catechesis, Hispanic ministry, funerals, bereavement workshop, music ministry)
- 2000 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE): completed one unit at St. Joseph's Hospital (Burbank) and Holy Cross Hospital (San Fernando Valley, Trauma Center).
- 2001/2002 pastoral work for Hope Hospice (Dublin)
- continuing pastoral work in parish, spiritual direction and marriage preparation and retreat work
- 2003/2004 Holy Rosary Church, Antioch, California. Associate Pastor, Police Chaplain, teaching elementary school
- spiritual direction for religious, priests and lay people
- Religious Assistant to Dominican Laity Chapter in Antioch; teaching continued education classes (reading courses on bioethics, Thomas Aquinas, Benedict XVI, Augustine)
- marriage preparation weekends for the diocese of Oakland

- teaching the Dominican novices History of Religious Life and History of the Dominican Order
- occasional Jail ministry at San Francisco County Jail
- Summer Supply at St. Kajetan, Munich
- Chaplain to *Courage* and other groups
- regular masses (including in the extraordinary form) and preaching at St. Dominic's in San Francisco, Holy Rosary in Antioch, Thomas Aquinas in Palo Alto, Carmel Cristo Rey, St. Bruno in San Bruno, Carmel in Canyon, Holy Family Mission in Rutherford, Star of the Sea (San Francisco) etc. etc. (preaching about 4 times a week)
- lector at St. Dominic's Priory (continued education for Dominican Friars on many topics)

### **RELIGIOUS REFERENCE**

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### **PERSONAL/OTHER**

Date of Birth: 7/24/1964

City of Birth: Hamburg, Germany

High School: *Ludwig Meyn Gymnasium*, Uetersen, near Hamburg, Germany

Musical training at the Conservatory in Hamburg, Germany, and under [Victor Suslin](#) (piano)

Military service as tank driver in Germany (1983/4)