

Curriculum Vitae

John M. Macias, PhD

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Chair of Philosophy
St. Mary's Seminary & University
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University Address:

5400 Roland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21210

Education:

2025: STL in Moral Theology, St. Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore, MD
2016: PhD in Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas, TX
Dissertation Successfully Defended, 5/9/16, "Alasdair MacIntyre's Flourishing Human Being and Small-Scale Political Communities" (Steven Jensen, director; Thomas Osborne; Mirela Oliva; Christopher Martin; Christopher Steven Lutz).

Summary of Dissertation: My dissertation seeks to answer two questions: (1) what form of political community does Alasdair MacIntyre believe will best bring men and women to genuine human flourishing, and (2) is this a defensible view? The overall argument of the dissertation is that MacIntyre believes human beings most flourish in small-scale political communities of maximal participation in communal deliberations. The dissertation is divided into five chapters. The first two chapters consider contrasting views. The first uses John Rawls as a representative of political liberalism, and the second chapter presents Michael Walzer as a representative of communitarianism. In each of these chapters, I show why MacIntyre finds problems with the political proposals of each thinker. The third chapter is a consideration of MacIntyre's understanding of the flourishing human being, and the fourth chapter presents MacIntyre's ideal political community. The final chapter considers objections to MacIntyre's political proposal. I consider objections throughout the work, but the last chapter focuses on those who share many of MacIntyre's Thomistic and Aristotelian commitments.

2011: M.A. in Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX
2009: B.A. in Philosophy, Benedictine College, Atchison, KS
Major: Philosophy, Minor: Classics

Areas of Specialty: (1) Political Philosophy, (2) Natural Law, (3) Alasdair MacIntyre

Areas of Competency: (1) Medieval Philosophy, (2) Ethics, (3) History of Philosophy, (4) Ancient Philosophy, (5) Thomas Aquinas

Teaching Experience:

St. Mary's Seminary & University (Baltimore, MD)

Introduction to Philosophical Argumentation (PHIL100)
Metaphysics (PHIL204), Philosophical Ethics (PHIL205), Epistemology (PHIL305), Philosophy of Nature (PHIL307),
Natural Theology (PHIL308), Philosophy for Understanding Theology (TH603), Contemporary Thomistic Natural Law
(MS692-892), Natural & Moral Action (MS792)

St. Patrick's Seminary & University (Menlo Park, CA)

History of Philosophy I/II (PP102), Ancient Philosophy (PP112), Epistemology (PP207), Philosophical Ethics (PP208),
Special Topics Capstone [Political Philosophy] (PP210), Political Philosophy (PP214), Capstone Project (PP215)

University of Mary (Bismarck, ND), 2017-2019

Philosophical Ethics (PHI308), Catholic Studies Tutorial I (CTH150), Fall 2018: Philosophy of Beauty and Art (PHI 328)

St. Gregory's University (Shawnee, OK), 2016-2017

Introduction to Philosophy (PH1013), Logic (PH1311), Philosophy of the Human Person (PH3033), Moral Philosophy (PH3063), Social and Political Philosophy (PH3113), Business Ethics and Corporate Responsibility (PH4033), Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching (SS3233).

University of St. Thomas (Houston, TX), 2012-2016

Philosophy of the Human Person (PHIL 1311), Ancient Philosophy (PHIL 1315/3315), Ethics (PHIL 2314), Metaphysics (PHIL 3315).

Non-University Teaching:

Archdiocese of Baltimore Permanent Diaconate Formation

Theology of God

WholeLife Authentic Care

FertilityCare Practitioner Education Program (Ethical Framework and *Dignitas Personae*)

Houston Institute for Liberal Arts (Houston, TX)

Fall 2016, Instructor, *Philosophy of Friendship*

Publications:

“Political Community and the Nation-State: A MacIntyrean Consideration of a Thomistic Debate,” *Perspectives on Political Science* 52 (2023): 195-207. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10457097.2023.2255097>.

“Natural Law, the Common Good, and Economics: A Difficulty for Thomists” in *Practical Rationality & Human Difference: Perspectives on and beyond Alasdair MacIntyre*, eds. Sante Maletta, Dario Mazzola, and Damiano Simoncelli (Milan: Mimesis International, 2022), 211-220. ISBN: 9788869774119

“Deliberation and Society: Political Participation in Jacques Maritain and Alasdair MacIntyre” *Lex Naturalis* 6 (2021): 24-50.

“The Liberal Arts amid Contemporary Social Structures: The Case of Frodo Baggins,” in *Leisure and Labor: Essays on the Liberal Arts in Catholic Higher Education*, ed. Anthony P. Coleman (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020), 91-103.

“John Finnis and Alasdair MacIntyre on our Knowledge of the Precepts of Natural Law,” *Res Philosophica* 93 (2016): 103-123. <https://doi.org/10.11612/resphil.2016.93.1.4>.

“John Finnis and the Political Community,” in *News from the Raven: Essays from Sam Houston State University on Medieval and Renaissance Thought* (Boston: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014), 249-61.

“What’s a Goat-Stag?: Aristotle on Definitions and Non-Existent Kinds” *Purlieu: A Philosophical Journal* 1 (2012): 97-112.

Book Reviews:

Love and Politics: Persistent Human Desires as a Foundation for Liberation, by Jeffery L. Nicholas. *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 96 (2022): 511-514. <https://doi.org/10.5840/acpq2022963259>.

Ethics under Capital: MacIntyre, Communication, and the Culture Wars, by Jason Hannan. *International Philosophical Quarterly* 61 (2021): 242-244. <https://doi.org/10.5840/ipq2021612176>.

Marxism, Ethics and Politics: The Work of Alasdair MacIntyre, by John Gregson. *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 93 (2019): 757-759. <https://doi.org/10.5840/acpq2019934185>.

Conference Papers, Academic Presentations:

“Religious Freedom in *Dignitatis Humanae*: Can we have a Catholic State?” *Sacra Doctrina Project*, June 12-14, Washington, DC.

“St. Thomas, the Nation, and the Common Good,” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 98th Annual Meeting, November 15-17, 2024, Chicago, IL.

“Thomistic Natural Law and Practical Reasoning in the Nation,” *International Society of MacIntyrean Enquiry*, 17th Annual Conference, July 24-26, 2024, Reading, UK.

“The Common Good and Natural Law as the Basis for Political Arguments,” *Sacra Doctrina Project*, June 6-8, 2024, Saint Paul, MN.

“What makes the Integralist State Integralist?” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 97th Annual Meeting, November 16-19, 2023, Houston, TX.

“The Common Good and the Nation-State: The Natural as a Basis for Political Arguments,” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 97th Annual Meeting, November 16-19, 2023, Houston, TX.

“Secularism and God: A Comparison of Charles Taylor and Alasdair MacIntyre,” *Sacra Doctrina Project*, June 8-10, 2023, Baltimore, MD.

“Practical Agreement in Natural Law,” *American Maritain Association*, 46th Annual Conference, April 27-29, 2023, Dallas, TX.

“The Practical Foundations of Natural Law,” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 96th Annual Meeting, Nov. 17-20, 2022, New Orleans, LA.

“Timeless Natures and Changing Individuals: A Consideration of Blackledge and Nicholas,” *International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry*, June 15-17, 2022, Muğla, Turkey and Online.

“The Problem of Rights: A Thomistic Appraisal of Rights in the Nation-State,” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 95th Annual Meeting, Nov. 18-21 2021, St. Louis, MO.

“Natural Law, the Common Good, and Economics: A Difficulty for Thomists,” *International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry*, 14th Annual Conference, July 12-15, 2021, Virtual Conference hosted by University of Bergamo, Bergamo, Italy.

“The Common Good of Political Society: A Possible Way forward between Traditional and New Natural Law,” *American Maritain Association*, 43rd Annual Meeting, March 5-7, 2020, Pittsburgh, PA

“A Common Ground in Nature: A Point of Contact between St. Thomas Aquinas and Karl Marx,” *To What End? Narratives, Institutions, and Practices*. De Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, University of Notre Dame, July 25-27, 2019.

- “What Rights? Whose Rationality?” Comment on Joshua Schulz, “Is Purely Practical Agreement Possible?” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 2018 Annual Conference. San Diego, CA, November 8-11.
- “Essence and Species-Being: A Point of Contact between St. Thomas Aquinas and Karl Marx,” *The American Maritain Association*, 41st Annual International Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 1-3, 2018.
- “The Liberal Arts amidst Contemporary Social Structures,” *Leisure & Labor Conference*, St. Gregory’s University, Shawnee, OK, March 20-21, 2017.
- “John Rawls and Alasdair MacIntyre on the Right and the Good,” *American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 2016 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 3-6, 2016.
- “Alasdair MacIntyre and Jacques Maritain on Political Participation,” *39th Annual Meeting of American Maritain Association*, New York City, February 25-27, 2016.
- “Political Authority and the Nation-State,” *9th Annual Meeting of the International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry*, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO, July 25, 2015.
- “A Defense of the Thomistic Account of Divine Omniscience,” *4th Annual HBU Philosophy Conference: Religion, Science, and Intellectual Virtues*, Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX, April 4-5, 2014.
- “John Finnis and Alasdair MacIntyre on the Per Se Nota Principles of Natural Law,” *Colloquia Series*, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas (TX), March 7, 2014)
- “A MacIntyrean Critique of Rawls’ Political Liberalism,” *7th Annual Conference International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry*, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI, July 28, 2013.
- “John Finnis and Political Community,” *International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Thought*, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, April 5, 2013.
- “Tradition, Relativity, and MacIntyre,” *86th Annual Conference American Catholic Philosophical Association*, Los Angeles, CA, November 2, 2012.
- “Rationality, Relativism, and MacIntyre,” *Colloquia Series*, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas (TX), February 1, 2012.

Works in Progress:

Monograph. “Thomistic Politics Today: Alasdair MacIntyre’s Flourishing Human Beings and Small-Scale Political Communities”

Popular Publications:

- “What it’s like to have OCD during a pandemic,” *Aleteia*, 24 June 2020, <https://aleteia.org/2020/06/24/what-its-like-to-have-ocd-during-a-pandemic/>
- “3 Misconceptions about seeking therapy that Christians may have,” *Aleteia*, 5 June 2020, <https://aleteia.org/2020/06/05/3-misconceptions-about-seeking-therapy-that-christians-may-have/>
- “The State of the Seminary and Reasons for Hope,” *Catholic World Report*, 30 January 2020 <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2020/01/30/the-state-of-the-seminary-and-reasons-for-hope/?fbclid=IwAR1SpPdGTknHYOS55pgE9yiWhWAmVYbmVtgJ3B3XMV-xJjtkHzgVFo1wao0>

“Brebeuf and the Two Competing Views of Education,” *Catholic World Report*, 19 August 2019
<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2019/08/19/brebeuf-and-the-two-competing-views-of-education/>

“What is Patriotism?” *The Imaginative Conservative*, 28 May 2017
<http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/2017/05/patriotism-john-macias.html>

“*Logan*, Technocracy, and the Abolition of Man,” *Crisis Magazine*, 21 March 2017
(<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2017/logan-technocracy-abolition-man>).

“Why a Liberal Arts Degree is Totally Worth It” *Aleteia*. 10 October 2016 (<http://aleteia.org/2016/10/10/why-a-liberal-arts-degree-is-completely-worth-it/>)

“Must One Vote?” *Catholic World Report*. 5 October 2016
(http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Blog/5106/must_one_vote.aspx)

“The Dangers of Transparency,” *Ethika Politica*, 19 October 2014 (<http://ethikapolitika.org/2014/10/19/dangers-transparency/>)

“Why Do We Honor Self-Sacrifice?” *Crisis Magazine*, 27 May 2013 (<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/why-do-we-honor-self-sacrifice>)

Popular Presentations:

WholeLife Authentic Care, FertilityCare Practitioner Education Program, “Ethical Framework” and “*Dignitas Personae*,”
Spring 2022 (Fort Worth, TX) Virtual Presentation. February 20th.

WholeLife Authentic Care, FertilityCare Practitioner Education Program, “Ethical Framework” and “*Dignitas Personae*,”
Winter 2021 (Largo, FL) Virtual Presentation, January 8th.

WholeLife Authentic Care, FertilityCare Practitioner Education Program, “Ethical Framework” and “*Dignitas Personae*,”
Winter 2021 (Three Rivers, CA) December 13th.

“Natural Law,” Zephyr Institute, Junior Fellowship program, Stanford University, Winter 2020.

“What is Education?” Zephyr Institute, Junior Fellowship program, Stanford University, Fall 2019

“Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship Panel.” *Presenter*. 5 October 2016. St. Gregory’s University

“Mercy and the Liberal Arts Panel.” *Presenter*. 14 September 2016. St. Gregory’s University

Scholarly Referee:

Acta Philosophica
The Philosophical Forum
Thomist

University/Academic Service:

St. Mary’s Seminary & University
Peace and Justice Committee, Faculty Representative

St. Patrick's Seminary & University (Menlo Park, CA)

Faculty Theological Discussions

University of Mary (Bismarck, ND)

Catholic Studies Faculty/Fellow

Year-Round-Campus Committee participant

Residence Life Scholar

St. Gregory's University (Shawnee, OK)

Core Revision Committee, St. Gregory's University

Male Resident Hall Director, St. Gregory's University

Core Curriculum Reading Group, St. Gregory's University Participant

Professional Memberships:

American Catholic Philosophical Association

American Maritain Association

International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry

Summer Graduate Courses and Workshops:

- 2014: Intensive German Workshop, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX (Summer 2014).
- 2013: 8th Annual Thomistic Seminar: "Philosophy of Alasdair MacIntyre and Thomas Aquinas," August 4-10, 2013. Witherspoon Institute, Princeton. John Haldane, Sarah Broadie, David Solomon, Candace Vogler (Attendee).
- 2013: Intensive French Workshop at Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St Thomas, Houston, TX. (Summer 2013).

Awards:

- 2011-2013: Center Assistantship, Tuition and Stipend (Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas, TX)
- 2009-2011: Center Assistantship, Tuition and Stipend (Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas, TX)
- 2009: St. Thomas Aquinas Award for Excellence in Philosophy (Benedictine College)

Languages:

English

French—Passed PhD. Proficiency Exam, Center for Thomistic Studies (June 2013)

German—Passed PhD. Proficiency Exam, Center for Thomistic Studies (August 2014)

Latin (Medieval)—Passed PhD. Proficiency Exam, Center for Thomistic Studies (2011)

Graduate Courses:

- Fall 2014: *Analytical Thomism* (PHIL 5329) Dr. Christopher Martin (Audit)
- Spring 2013: **PhD Comprehensive Examinations** (PHIL 5605, 5606)
- Fall 2012: *Theory of Human Action* (PHIL 5341) Dr. Thomas Osborne (Audit)
- Spring 2012: *Natural Law* (PHIL 5312) Dr. Steven Jensen
- Wojtyla and Thomistic Personalism* (PHIL 6393) Dr. John Hittinger
- Fall 2011: *The Real Distinction in Aquinas' Commentators* (PHIL 6393) Dr. Thomas Osborne

Spring 2011: *God and Explanations* (PHIL 5393) Dr. Christopher Martin
Alasdair MacIntyre on the Virtues (PHIL 6392) Dr. Steven Jensen (Directed Study)
Political & Legal Theory of St. Thomas (PHIL 5319) Dr. John Hittinger
MA Comprehensive Exams (PHIL 5340)

Fall 2010: *Philosophy of Religion* (PHIL 5305) Dr. Christopher Martin
Thomistic Metaphysics (PHIL 5304) Dr. John F.X. Knasas
The Virtues (PHIL 5344) Dr. Thomas Osborne

Spring 2010: *Philosophy of Nature* (PHIL 5317) Dr. John Hittinger
Thomas Aquinas on Human Nature (PHIL 5314) Dr. John Deely
Contemporary Logic (PHIL 5334) Dr. Christopher Martin

Fall 2009: *Aristotle's Posterior Analytics* (PHIL 5320) Dr. R.E. Hosuer
Thomistic Ethics (PHIL 5338) Dr. Steven Jensen
Life and Works of Thomas Aquinas (PHIL 6393) Dr. Mary-Catherine Sommers