

David K. O'Connor
 Professor of Philosophy
 Concurrent Professor of Classics

Philosophy Department
 100 Malloy Hall
 University of Notre Dame
 Notre Dame, IN 46556-4619

(574) 631-6226 (office)/7534 (department)
 e-mail: doconnor@nd.edu
 fax: (574) 631-0588

EMPLOYMENT

2020-2021	Rev. Robert Randall Distinguished Professorship in Christian Culture, Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island
2018-present	Professor, Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
2018-present	Concurrent Professor, Classics, University of Notre Dame
1999-2018	Concurrent Associate Professor, Classics, University of Notre Dame
1991-2018	Associate Professor, Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
1985-1991	Assistant Professor, Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

EDUCATION

1980-85	Ph.D. Stanford University, Philosophy
1978-80	B.A. University of Notre Dame, Economics/Philosophy
1976-78	University of Chicago

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS: ancient philosophy, aesthetics, ethics and political philosophy.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Plato's Bedroom: Ancient Wisdom and Modern Love. St. Augustine's Press, 2015. 301 pages.
 Wide circulation reviews: *First Things*, *National Review*, *Public Discourse*, *The Cresset*,
Washington Free Beacon, *Weekly Standard*

爱是光着脚的哲学: 古代智慧与现代爱情 [Love is Barefoot Philosophy: Ancient Wisdom and Modern Love]. Guangxi Normal University Press, August 2014. 290 pages. (In Chinese.)

The Symposium of Plato: The Shelley Translation, edited and introduced by David K. O'Connor, St. Augustine's Press, 2002.

Essays on the Foundations of Aristotelian Political Science, edited by Carnes Lord and David K. O'Connor, University of California Press, 1991.

Articles and Essays

22. "What is first philosophy? Heidegger, Strauss, Zuckert." Review of Politics, Spring 2018.

21. "For what may we hope: an appreciation of Peter Simpson's Political Illiberalism." American Journal of Jurisprudence Summer 2017.
20. Xenophon, Hiero: Or, On Tyranny, translation and notes. In Xenophon: The Shorter Political Writings, edited by Gregory McBrayer, Cornell University Press, 2018.
19. "Socrates as Educator." A Companion to Ancient Education, edited by W. Martin Bloomer, Routledge, 2015.
18. "Aristotle's Aesthetics." Routledge Companion to Ancient Philosophy, edited by Frisbee Sheffield and James Warren, Routledge, 2014.
17. "Xenophon and the Envidable Life of Socrates." The Cambridge Companion to Socrates, edited by Donald Morrison, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
16. "Platonic Selves in Shelley and Stevens." Plato's Symposium: Issues in Interpretation and Reception, edited by James Lesher, Debra Nails, and Frisbee Sheffield, Harvard University Press, 2007.
15. "Rewriting the Poets in Plato's Characters." The Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic, edited by G.R.F. Ferrari, Cambridge University Press, 2007.
14. "Wilt Versus Russell: Heroic Virtue on the Hardwood." Basketball and Philosophy, edited by Gregory Bassham and Jerry Walls, University of Kentucky Press, 2007.
13. "Leo Strauss's Aristotle and Martin Heidegger's Politics." In Aristotle and Modern Politics, edited by Aristide Tessitore, University of Notre Dame Press, 2002, 162-207.
12. "The Seductions of Socrates." First Things 114 (June/July 2001), 29-33.
11. "Socrates and Political Ambition: The Dangerous Game." In Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy v.14, edited by John Cleary, Brill Publications, 1999, 31-51.
10. "The Ambitions of Aristotle's Audience and the Activist Ideal of Happiness." In Action and Contemplation: Studies in the Moral and Political Thought of Aristotle, edited by Robert C. Bartlett and Susan D. Collins, SUNY Press, 1999, 107-129.
9. "Socrates and the Socratics." In Columbia History of Western Philosophy, edited by Richard Popkin (ancient philosophy ed. David Sedley), Columbia University Press, 1999, 23-32.
8. "Xenophon." The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, edited by Edward Craig, 1998.
7. "The Erotic Self-Sufficiency of Socrates." In The Socratic Movement, edited by P.A. Vander Waerdt, Cornell University Press, 1994, 151-180.
6. "Vlastos' Paradoxes and Xenophon's Socrates." Distributed by the Society for Ancient Greek

Philosophy, April 1992.

5. "The Aetiology of Justice." In Essays on the Foundations of Aristotelian Political Science, edited by Carnes Lord and David K. O'Connor, University of California Press, 1991, 136-164.
3. and 4. "Aristotelian Justice as a Personal Virtue." In Midwest Studies in Philosophy XIII: Ethical Theory: Character and Virtue, edited by Peter French, University of Notre Dame Press, 1988, 417-427.
Reprinted in Ethical Theory and Moral Problems, edited by Howard Curzer, Wadsworth Press, 1999.
2. "The Invulnerable Pleasures of Epicurean Friendship." Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies 30:2 (1989), 165-186.
1. "Two Ideals of Friendship." History of Philosophy Quarterly 7:2 (1990), 109-122.

Short reviews and articles

"Percy Shelley's Aesthetics." In Oxford Encyclopedia of Aesthetics, edited by Michael Kelly, Oxford University Press, 2014.

Review of Richard Velkley, Strauss, Heidegger, and the Premises of Philosophy (University of Chicago Press, 2011), Journal of the History of Philosophy, April 2014.

Review of Cathy Gutierrez, Plato's Ghost: Spiritualism in the American Renaissance (Oxford University Press, 2009), Religion and Literature, 2012.

Review of Richard Deming, Listening On All Sides: Toward an Emersonian Ethics of Reading (Stanford University Press, 2008), Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews (June, 2009).

"Introduction" to The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism: "The Law of Nature," Volume XV (2003), 1-4.

Review of Jan Patočka, Plato and Europe (U. Chicago, 2002), Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews (April, 2003).

Review of Gerald Press, editor, Who Speaks For Plato? (Rowan, Littlefield, 2000), Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews (October, 2002).

"The Names of Love." First Things 116 (October 2001), 14-15.

Review of M. S. Lane, Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman (Cambridge, 1998), Ethics, July 2001.

Review of Stanley Rosen, The Question of Being: A Reversal of Heidegger (Yale, 1993), Ancient Philosophy 17 (1997), 178-182.

1-11-2019

Review of Stephen G. Salkever, Finding the Mean: Theory and Practice in Aristotelian Political Philosophy (Princeton, 1991), Ancient Philosophy 15 (1995), 251-256.

"Longing for the Present; or, Teaching without a Future." Philosophy of Education 1995: Current Issues (800 words).

"Aeschines of Sphettus" (300 words) and "Antisthenes" (600 words). Entries for Encyclopedia of Classical Philosophy, edited by Donald J. Zeyl, Greenwood Publishing Group, 1995.

"Aristotle" (500 words). Entry for Encyclopedia of Catholicism, edited by Richard McBrien, HarperCollins Publishers, 1995.

Review of William J. Prior, Virtue and Knowledge: An Introduction to Ancient Greek Ethics (Routledge, 1991), Teaching Philosophy, 15:4 (1992), 405-407.

Review of Phillip Mitsis, Epicurus' Ethical Theory: The Pleasures of Invulnerability (Cornell University Press, 1988), Ethics 101:3 (1991), 657-658.

ACADEMIC LECTURES

Keynote, endowed, and other featured lectures

Future

Thomistic Institute Lecturer, "Tolkien's Perilous Beauties." Baylor University, Waco, Texas, February 2019.

Completed

Teachers as Scholars, South Bend Community School Corporation: "Tolkien's Perilous Beauty," South Bend, IN, October 31 and November 13, 2018

Seminar co-director: "Plato and Knowledge", German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes) Summer Seminar, Neubeuern, Germany, July 30-August 10, 2018. [Roughly equivalent to directing an NEH Summer Seminar.]

Seminar director: "Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Modern Love." Witherspoon Institute Summer Seminar, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, June 15-17, 2018.

Featured lecturer, "Plato's Bedroom and Modern Love." Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, April 2018.

Featured lecturer and faculty workshop: "Plato and Hesiod" and "Aristophanes in Plato's Symposium". TUBA Classics Consortium, Switzerland (Universities of Zuerich, Basel, and Bern), April 2018.

Lumen Christi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, November 2017:

Featured lecture: "Plato's Bedroom: androgyny, union, procreation"
Master graduate seminar, "Plato's Leaky Myths."

McMahon Thomas Aquinas Lecturer:

General lecture: "Love More Than You Know: The Tao of Thomas Aquinas."

Faculty workshop: "The Pedagogy of Gratitude"

Undergraduate lecture: "What Is A Couple?"

St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, October 2017.

Thomistic Institute Lecturer, "Tolkien's Perilous Beauties." Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 2017.

Featured panel on Plato's Bedroom, Ancient Philosophy Society national meeting, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, April 2017.

Featured keynote lecturer, Houston Institute, "The Fear of Fecundity and the Roots of the Modern World." Rice University, Houston, March 2017.

Featured keynote lecturer, Humanities Forum, "The Fear of Fecundity and the Roots of the Modern World." Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island, March 2017.

Inaugural annual endowed Anne Quinn Walsh Visiting Scholar, Villanova University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2016.

Keynote lecture, "Cinema and the Humanities" conference, "Romancing Plato in Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings*," Providence College, April 2016.

Featured lecturer and visiting scholar, inauguration of Philosophy and Religion Workshop, "Enchantment and Temptation: Beauty in the Philosophy of Religion," Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, April 2016.

Drumwright Family Lecturer: "Plato's Bedroom: Ancient Wisdom and Modern Love," Honors College, Baylor University, October 2015.

UNIV Conference: two keynote lectures (Men's and Women's sections, approximately 2000 participants each): "Friendship: Model for a New Citizenship." Rome, Italy, April 2015.

Keynote address for inaugural Northern Illinois University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference: "Analytic Philosophy and Iconoclasm." March 2012.

Keynote address for the Society for Mormon Philosophy and Theology: "Plato, Iconoclasm, and Romanticism: A Catholic Imaginarium." Utah Valley University, Orem, UT, March 2010.

The 2007-2008 Catholic Imagination Lecture: "The Philosophy of Magic: Tolkien's Sacramental Vision." "Wallace Stevens Reads Plato's *Phaedrus*." Villanova University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2007.

Diocese of Syracuse, NY, 2004 Clergy Convocation: Featured speaker, five sessions on marriage, family, and sexuality. September 2004.

The 2004 Staley Lectures: "Romanticism and Religion: Shakespeare to Tolkien" and "The True Socrates." Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, March 2004.

Featured speaker, Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Studies, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT, March 10, 1998: "Should Executives Be Friends?: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Business."

Featured speaker, Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Merrimack College, Andover, MA, October 15-17, 1997: "Socrates and the Gift" and "Socrates and Oedipus."

Other lectures:

Future

"Socrates in Gethsemane," Graduate Philosophy Workshop, Baylor University, February 2019.

"Echoes of Narcissus in Plato's *Phaedrus*," St. John's College, Annapolis, MD, November, 2020.

Completed

"Socrates in Gethsemane," School of Philosophy colloquium, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. October 2017.

"Echoes of Narcissus in Plato's *Phaedrus*," workshop in Philosophy and Classics, Rice University, Houston March 2017.

"Narcissus and Helen in Plato's *Phaedrus*," Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of California, Berkeley, CA, November 2015.

"Images in late Plato: *Laws X*," West Coast Plato Workshop, Tucson, Arizona, May 2015.

"Narcissus in Plato's *Phaedrus*," Department of Ancient Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany November 2014.

"Narcissus in Plato's *Phaedrus*," Philosophy Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, November 2014.

"Socrates and the Ladder of Androgyny," Ancient Philosophy Workshop, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, April 2014.

"Enchanting Narcissus in Plato's *Phaedrus*," Greek Workshop, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, April 2014.

"Ancient Wisdom and Modern Love," Wabash College, Wabash, Indiana, March 2013.

- “Philosophy as Iconoclasm” and “Tolkien’s Epic Nostalgia.” Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan, March 2013.
- “Emerson as Plato and Shakespeare.” Central Division American Philosophical Association, New Orleans, February 2013.
- “Socrates in Gethsemane.” Chicago Area Consortium in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, Chicago, October 2012.
- “Plato and Envy: Response to Luc Brisson.” International Plato Society, Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 2012.
- “Euthyphro’s Imitation of Socrates.” Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Tucson, February 2012.
- “Magnanimity and Tragedy in Aristotle,” McDevitt Center at Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, October 2011.
- “Secrecy and Envy in Plato’s *Protagoras*.” Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Tucson, February 2011.
- “Boreas and Narcissus in Plato’s *Phaedrus*.” King’s College, London, May 2010.
- “Reading Plato Reading Hesiod: In the Golden Age.” Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Tucson, February 2009.
- “Thoreau’s Golden Age.” St. John’s College, Santa Fe, NM, July 2008.
- “Reading Plato Reading Hesiod: In the Golden Age.” Conference on Plato and Myth, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, May 2008.
- “Saints and Heroes: Tolkien in Book and Movie.” “Wallace Stevens Reads Plato’s *Phaedrus*.” St. Michael’s College, Vermont, September 2007.
- “Plato Without Platonism in Yeats and Stevens.” Poetics Workshop, University of Chicago, October 2006.
- “Why Does Politics Begin With Slavery?” Auburn University, March 2006.
- “Despotic Freedom and Practical Wisdom: Lessons from Aristotle.” Conference on *Law and Liberty: Ethics and Culture in the 21st Century*, Barcelona, Spain, September 2005.
- “Individuality and Impersonality in Erotic Love: Romanticism’s Plato.” Conference on Plato’s *Symposium*, Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington, D.C., August 2005.
- “Homer and Hesiod in Plato’s *Republic*.” “Androgyny and Intimacy in Plato’s *Symposium*.” Università degli Studi di Palermo, Palermo, Italy, April 2005.

- “Saints and Heroes: Tolkien in Book and Movie.” Centro Ricerche Tommaso d’Aquino, Collegio Universitario ARCES, Palermo, Italy Residenza Universitaria Alcantara, Collegio Universitario ARCES, Catania, Italy, April 2005.
- “Plato in Romanticism.” King’s College, University of London, January 2005.
- “Rewriting the Poets in Plato’s Characters.” University of Maine at Farmington, November 2004.
- “Rewriting the Poets in Plato’s Characters.” Colby College, Maine, November 2004.
- “Emerson and the Representation of Genius.” Aesthetics Society of America, Houston, Texas, October 2004.
- “Tolkien’s Unworldly Leaders.” University of California at Berkeley, September 2004.
- “Rewriting the Poets in Plato’s Characters.” University of California at Berkeley, September 2004.
- “Romanticism and Plato’s Erotic Dialogues: Shelley and Emerson.” University of Kentucky Philosophy Colloquium, Lexington, Kentucky, February 2004.
- “Emerson and Catholic Romanticism.” Baylor University, Waco, Texas, November 2002.
- “Ancient Wisdom, Modern Love,” and “Professionalism and Money-Making.” Keynote sessions, Annual Academic Symposium, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, March 2002.
- " 'Dionysus Will Judge': Myth and Dialectic in Plato's *Symposium*." Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Tucson, February 2002.
- "Socrates and the Gift." Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Tucson, February 2001.
- “Why the *Politics* Begins with Slavery: Aristotle's Audience and the Attractions of Mastery.” Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Binghamton University, New York, October 1999.
- "Overrating the Polis: Leo Strauss's Aristotle." American Political Science Association, Boston, September 1998.
- "Where Aristotle's Action Is: Common Ground for Philosophy and Politics?" Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Binghamton University, New York, October 1997.
- "Socrates and the Gift." Johns Hopkins University, October 1993.
- "Socrates and the Gift." Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Binghamton University, New York, October 1993.

"Vlastos' Paradoxes and Xenophon's Socrates." Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Louisville, Kentucky, May 1992.

"Prodigies of Virtue: Plato's Socrates and Rousseau's Emile." American Political Science Association, Providence, RI, April 1992.

"From Erotic Ascent to Collegial Partnership: Aristotle's Transformation of Plato's Erotic Doctrine." Australian Seminar in Ancient Philosophy, Melbourne University, July 1991.

"The Kingly Art of Xenophon's Socrates." Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, New York, October 1990.

"The Erotic Self-Sufficiency of Socrates." Conference on "The Socratic Tradition," sponsored by the Departments of Classical Studies and Philosophy, Duke University, April 1990.

"The Invulnerable Pleasures of Epicurean Friendship." Conference on "Tradition and Innovation in Epicureanism," sponsored by Departments of Classical Studies and Philosophy, Duke University, April 1989.

"Aristotelian Justice as a Personal Virtue." Duke University Philosophy Department Colloquium, October 1988.

"Two Ideals of Friendship." Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, December 1987.

"Why the elderly don't need just care." Indiana Committee for the Humanities Ethics and Economics lecture series, Elkhart, Indiana, October 1986.

TEACHING AWARDS

Course "Ancient Wisdom and Modern Love" nominated for OCW Consortium ACE AWARD (Award for OCW Excellence), in the Video and Multimedia category, 2012.

Kaneb Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Notre Dame, 2009

Student Government "Teaching Hall of Fame", University of Notre Dame, 1997

MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Philosophy Department:

Two terms as Director of Undergraduate Studies.

One term as Director of Graduate Studies.

Three terms on Committee on Appointments and Promotions.

Classics Department: Faculty search committee 1999.

Co-director of Minor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), 1992-2002.

Founding committee, Minor in Philosophy and Literature, 1995-2006.

Director of Minor in Philosophy and Literature, 2007-2012.

Founding faculty search committee, Minor in Religion and Literature 2000.

Five dissertations directed:

Allison Murphy, Carleton College, Minnesota
Alexander Jech, University of Notre Dame, Indiana
Benjamin Huff, Randolph-Macon College, Virginia
Fr. Daniel Moloney, chaplain MIT and UMass-Boston
Andrew Payne, St. Joseph's College, Pennsylvania

Editorial Board, *American Journal of Jurisprudence*, 2005-present.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018 German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen
 Volkes) Summer Seminar faculty member: Neubeuern, Germany
2005 NEH Summer Seminar participant: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Albuquerque, NM
1988-89 National Endowment for the Humanities University Teachers
1984-85 Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford University
1976-78 Amos Alonzo Stagg Scholarship, University of Chicago

WEBCAST AND VIDEO

“Tolkien’s Catholic Beauties in *The Lord of the Rings*” series for Thomas International Center,
2016.

“Ancient Wisdom and Modern Love.” Open Courseware, University of Notre Dame, 2007.
Available iTunesU.
Featured in *O: The Oprah Magazine*, September 2008; *Self Magazine*, September 2009;
S-7 Magazine [the onboard magazine of Aeroflot], May 2017. Nominated for OCW
Consortium ACE AWARD (Award for OCW Excellence), in the Video and Multimedia
category, 2012. Chinese publication 2012, with 100K+ viewers.

“Ancient and Medieval Philosophy.” Open Courseware, University of Notre Dame, 2007.
Available iTunesU.

"Ancient Wisdom and Modern Love." Great Teachers Series, Brenzel Publications/InterLearn,
August 1993. (Six thirty minute lectures for videotaped course.)