

Steven J. Jensen

Professor of Philosophy
Director, Center for Thomistic Studies
University of St. Thomas
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Education:

Ph.D., 1988–1993, University of Notre Dame, Philosophy
Dissertation: *Intrinsically Evil Actions according to St. Thomas Aquinas*
Advisor: Ralph McInerney

B.A., 1983–1987, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, Philosophy with honors,
summa cum laude

Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Medieval Philosophy, Thomas Aquinas,
Action Theory, Biomedical Ethics, Natural Law

Areas of Competence: Ancient Philosophy, Natural Philosophy

Professional Positions:

Director, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas (fall 2017–present)

Interim Director, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas (fall 2016)

Professor of Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas
(2013-present)

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas (2007–2013)

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Wheeling Jesuit University (2006–2007)

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Mary (1998–2006)

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Mary (1993–1998)

Endowed Chair:

Bishop Wendelin J. Nold Chair in Graduate Philosophy, University of St. Thomas
(fall 2018–present)

Publications:

BOOKS

The Human Person: A Beginner's Thomistic Psychology. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2018.

Sin: A Thomistic Psychology. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2018.

Knowing the Natural Law: From Precepts and Inclinations to Deriving Oughts. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2015.

Living the Good Life: A Beginner's Thomistic Ethics. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2013.

The Ethics of Organ Transplantation (edited). Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2011.

Good and Evil Actions: A Journey through Saint Thomas Aquinas. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2010.

ARTICLES

"Sophisticated Alienation," forthcoming in *Journal of Value Inquiry*.

Foreword to *From Human Dignity to Natural Law*, by Richard Berquist. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, forthcoming.

"Natural Law and Natural Inclinations," forthcoming in *The Cambridge Companion to Natural Law Ethics*, edited by Thomas Angier. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

"Proto-Sin: A Case Study," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 93 (2019): 161–171.

"Unnatural Enhancements," *Irish Theological Quarterly* 83 (2018): 347–64, co-authored with José Luis Widow

"Non Nisi Te, Domine: Knowledge and the Human Good," in *Cognoscens in Actu Est Ipsum Cognitum in Actu: Sobre Los Tipos y Grados de Conocimiento*, edited by Carlos A. Casanova Guerra and Ignacio Serrano del Pozo. Santiago, Chile: RIL editores, 2018.

"Aquinas's Original Discovery: A Reply to Barnwell," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 92 (2018): 1–23.

"Libertarian Free Decision: A Thomistic Account," *The Thomist* 81 (2017): 315–43.

"Venial Sin and the Ultimate End," in *Aquinas's Disputed Questions on Evil: A Critical Guide*, edited by M. V. Dougherty. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2016.

"The Roots of Transhumanism," in *Thomas Aquinas: Teacher of Humanity*, edited by John Hittinger. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholar Publishing, 2015.

"¿Las circunstancias constituyen la especie del acto moral?" in *La fascinación de ser metafísico: tributo al magisterio de Lawrence Dewan, O.P. (The Fascination of Being a Metaphysician: A Tribute to the Teaching of Lawrence Dewan O.P)*, edited by Liiana B. Irizar and Tamara Saeteros. Bogota, D.C.: Universidad Sergio Arboleda, 2015.

"Transhumanismo, Mejoras y Naturaleza Humana (Transhumanism, Enhancements, and Human Nature)," *Angelicum* 91 (2014): 325–56, co-authored with José Luis Widow.

"Causal Constraints on Intention: A Critique of Tollefsen on the Phoenix Case," *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 14 (2014): 273–93.

"The Roots of Transhumanism," *Nova et Vetera* 12 (2014): 515–41.

"Virtuous Deliberation and the Passions," *The Thomist* 77 (2013): 193–227.

"Why the Senses Cannot Have Truth: the Need for Abstraction," in *Distinctions of Being: Philosophical Approaches to Reality*, edited by Nikolaj Zunic. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2013.

"Omissions and Their Causes," *Acta Philosophica* 22 (2013): 117–133.

"Thomistic Perspectives?: Martin Rhonheimer's Version of Virtue Ethics," *The American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 86 (2012): 135–59.

"Introduction to the Ethics of Organ Transplantation," in *The Ethics of Organ Transplantation*, edited by Steven J. Jensen. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2011.

"Killing and Letting Die," in *The Ethics of Organ Transplantation*, edited by Steven J. Jensen. Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2011.

“Getting Inside the Acting Person,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 50 (2010): 461–71

“The Error of the Passions,” *The Thomist* 73 (2009): 349–79.

“Exterior Actions as Signs of Intention,” in *Semiotics 2008*, edited by John Deely and Leonard Sbrocchi, 721–25. Ottawa: Legas Publishing, 2009.

“The Role of Teleology in the Moral Species,” *The Review of Metaphysics* 63 (2009): 3–27.

“Boethius and Three Kinds of Good,” *Carmina Philosophiae*, Journal for the International Boethius Society, 16 (2008): 51–70.

“Of *Gnome* and Gnomes: The Virtue of Higher Discernment and the Production of Monsters,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 82 (2008): 411–28.

“When Evil Actions Become Good,” *Nova et Vetera English Edition* 5 (2007): 747-64.

“Do Circumstances Give Species?” *The Thomist* 70 (2006): 1–26.

“The Trouble with *Secunda Secundae*, 64, 7: Self-Defense,” *The Modern Schoolman* 83 (2006): 143–62.

“Is Contenance Enough?” *Christian Bioethics* 10 (2004): 161–75.

“A Long Discussion Regarding Steven A. Long’s Interpretation of the Moral Species,” *The Thomist* 67 (2003): 623–43.

“Goods of Consequence and Goods of Virtue,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 71, *Annual ACPA Proceedings* (1997): 179–187.

“A Defense of Physicalism,” *The Thomist* 61 (1997): 377–404.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Riccardo Saccenti, *Debating Medieval Natural Law: A Survey*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2016) in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2017. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/debating-medieval-natural-law-a-survey/> (accessed April 2, 2017)

Review of Gary Atkinson, *Our Search with Socrates for Moral Truth*. (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2015), in *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 90 (2016):751–753

Review of Christopher Kaczor, *A Defense of Dignity: Creating Life, Destroying Life, and Protecting the Rights of Conscience*. (Notre Dame, Ind: University of Notre Dame Press, 2013), in *Nova et Vetera* 13 (2015): 306–11.

Review of Peter Koritansky, *Thomas Aquinas on the Philosophy of Punishment*. (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2012), in *The Thomist* 78 (2014): 138–41.

Review of Klaus Demmer, *Living the Truth: A Theory of Action*. (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2010), in *The Thomist* 76 (2012): 332–34.

Review of Michael Barnwell, *The Problem of Negligent Omissions: Medieval Action Theories to the Rescue*. (Leiden, the Netherlands: Brill, 2010), in *The Modern Schoolman* 89 (2012): 259–62.

Review of Samuel Scheffler, *Equality and Tradition: Questions of Value in Moral and Political Theory*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), in *The Review of Metaphysics* 64 (2011): 656–8.

Review of Fulvio Di Blasi, *God and the Natural Law: a Rereading of Thomas Aquinas*. (South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2006), in *Nova et Vetera* 5 (2007): 694–68.

Review of Claes G. Ryn, *America the Virtuous: The Crisis of Democracy and the Quest for Empire*. (New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 2003), in *The Review of Metaphysics* 58 (2005): 682–64.

Presentations:

“The One Thing Necessary: The Last End and Beatitude,” invited lecture for the Thomistic Institute intellectual retreat at St. Albert’s Priory, Oakland, CA, March 23, 2019.

“Our Good and God: Our Place Within the Greater Good,” invited lecture for the Thomistic Institute intellectual retreat at St. Albert’s Priory, Oakland, CA, March 23, 2019.

“The Limits of Consequentialist Friendship,” at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, UST faculty colloquium, November 27, 2018

Commentary on Jonathan Fuqua, “Metaethical Mooreanism and Evolutionary Debunking,” American Catholic Philosophical Association meeting, November 9–11, 2018

“The Slippery Slope of Organ Transplantation,” for the University of Texas Medical School Right to Life Group, Houston, Texas, November 5, 2018

“Brain Death and Organ Transplantation,” for the Baylor School of Medicine, Houston, Texas, February 13, 2018

“Sophisticated Alienation,” at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, Center for Thomistic Studies colloquium, February 9, 2018

“Sophisticated Alienation: Consequentialism and the Loss of Friendship,” invited lecture at the University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota, January 16, 2018

“Sins from an Evil Will,” at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, Center for Thomistic Studies colloquium, November 17, 2017

“Moral Issues Surrounding Organ Transplantation,” invited lecture at the University of Southern Bohemia, České Budejovice, Czech Republic, May 29, 2017

“The Dead Donor Rule as a Moral Standard for Organ Transplantation,” invited lecture at the Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic, May 31, 2017

“Sins from an Evil Will,” at the American Maritain Association meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 2–4, 2017

“Brain Death and Organ Transplantation,” for the Texas A&M Medical School and Nursing School Pro-Life Group, February 15, 2017

“Non nisi te, Domine,” invited lecture at the Third International Conference on Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas, Santiago, Chile, July 19–21, 2016

“Inherent Goods and the Ultimate End,” at the American Maritain Association meeting, New York, NY, February 25–27, 2016

“Venial Sin and the Ultimate End,” at the American Maritain Association meeting, San Francisco, California, February 27, 2015

Commentary on Justin Matchulat, “Defending Virtue against the Situationist Challenge,” American Catholic Philosophical Association meeting, October 10–12, 2014

“Venial Sin and the Ultimate End,” at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, Center for Thomistic Studies colloquium, October 3, 2014

“Unnatural Enhancements,” invited lecture at the University of Adolfo Ibanez, Santiago, Chile, July 15, 2014

“Intention and Its Constraints,” invited lecture at the University of Adolfo Ibanez, Santiago, Chile, March 7, 2014

“The Roots of Transhumanism,” invited lecture at the University of Adolfo Ibanez, Santiago, Chile, March 6, 2014

“The Roots of Transhumanism,” at the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference, Notre Dame, Indiana, November 7–9, 2013

“The Roots of Transhumanism,” invited lecture at the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas conference in Houston, Texas, October 17–19, 2013

“How Are the First Precepts Per Se Nota?” at the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 9–12, 2013

“The Role of the Exterior Action in the Moral Species,” invited lecture at the University of St. Thomas, Santiago, Chile, January 10, 2013

“The Problem of Tautological Norms,” invited lecture at the University of Adolfo Ibanez, Santiago, Chile, January 9, 2013

“The Relation of the Moral Object and Moral Norms,” invited lecture at the University of Adolfo Ibanez, Santiago, Chile, January 8, 2013

“Faith and Reason,” for the Rice University Catholic Student Association, September 18, 2012

“Moving from Is to Ought,” at the 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 10–13, 2012

“Double Effect, Proportionality, and Allowing Harm,” at the Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium, Houston, Texas, October 20, 2011

“Double Effect, Proportionality, and Allowing Harm,” at the 35th American Maritain Association Conference, South Bend, Indiana, October 13–15, 2011

“Love for Animals: Singer and Aquinas,” at the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 12–15, 2011

“Conscience in Healthcare: a Reply to Tristram Engelhardt,” invited presentation at a conference on Health Care in a Secular Culture: The Conscience of Physicians & Nurses at Risk, Houston Baptist University, Houston, Texas, April 29–30, 2011

“Good and Evil Actions: a Journey through St. Thomas Aquinas,” at the President’s Faculty Research and Scholarship Colloquium, the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, April 28, 2011

“The Will, Reason, and the Eternal Law: Prima secundae 19, 3–4,” at Libertas et Conscientia, Rome, Italy, April 24, 2011

“The Grand Illusion: The Collective Good of Consequentialism vs. the Common Good,” at the 34th American Maritain Association Conference, Canton, Ohio, October 14–16, 2010

“Organ Transplantation and Death,” at the Catholic Bio-medical Ethics Seminar on End-of-Life issues, Vietnamese Dominican Sisters, Houston, Texas, June 12, 2010

“Omissions and Their Causes,” at the 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 13–16, 2010

“Omissions and Their Causes,” at the Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium, Houston, Texas, May 6, 2010

“Weakness, Malice, and Buridan’s Ass,” at the 33rd American Maritain Association Conference, Houston, Texas, October 23–25, 2009

“Speciesism and the Basis for Equality under Justice,” at the Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium, Houston, Texas, September 24, 2009

“The Error of the Passions,” at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 7–10, 2009

“Killing and Letting Die,” at a conference on the Ethics of Organ Transplantation, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, March 27–29, 2009

“Boethius and Three Kinds of Good,” at the Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium, Houston, Texas, November 13, 2008

“The Making of Man and the Making of Marriage,” at the Notre Dame Center for Culture and Ethics annual conference, University of Notre Dame, November 6–8, 2008

“External Actions as Signs of Intention,” at the annual meeting of the Semiotic Society of America, Houston, Texas, October 16–19, 2008

“The Disappearing Act: the Teleology that Went Away,” at the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 8–11, 2008

“The Emperor’s New Teleology,” at the Center for Thomistic Studies Colloquium, Houston, Texas, April 10, 2008

“Why the Senses Cannot Have Truth: the Need for Abstraction,” at 2007 annual American Maritain Association conference, University of Notre Dame, October 25–28, 2007

“A Good Corpse: Why Dead Faith Is Not Evil,” at the 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 10–13, 2007

“Boethius and Three Kinds of Good,” at the Annual Conference on Christian Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville, April 13–14, 2007

“Of *Gnome* and Gnomes: The Virtue of Higher Discernment and the Production of Monsters,” at the 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 4–7, 2006

“Do Circumstances Give Species?” invited lecture at the Thomistic Institute, University of Notre Dame, July 6, 2005

“Speciesism and the Basis for Equality under Justice,” at the 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 5–8, 2005

“When Evil Actions Become Good,” invited lecture at the Thomistic Institute, University of Notre Dame, August 8, 2004

“Moral and Premoral Evil: A Dialogue,” invited lecture at Thomas Aquinas College, November 15, 2002

“Why Evil Doesn’t Exist: Aquinas’s Treatment of Evil,” University of Mary Faculty Excellence Series, March 12, 1998

“Goods of Consequence and Goods of Virtue,” at the 1997 meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, Buffalo, New York, March 21–23

“A Defense of Physicalism,” invited lecture at Summer Institute of Thomistic Studies, University of Notre Dame, July 20 - August 3, 1996

Teaching Experience:

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

Modern Moral Philosophy (graduate)	Ethics
Ethics in Translational Medicine (graduate)	Biomedical Ethics (graduate)
Ethics in Translational Medicine, online	Biomedical Ethics (undergraduate)
Honors Seminar: Contemporary Issues	Modern Philosophy
Philosophy of the Human Person	Logic
Theory of Human Action (graduate)	Evil (graduate)
Introduction to Thomistic Ethics (graduate)	Faith and Reason
Natural Law (graduate)	

WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY

Logic and Knowledge	Medieval Political Thought
Philosophy of the Human Person	

UNIVERSITY OF MARY

Moral Issues and Social Ethics	Philosophy for Educators
Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	Ethics for Educators
Philosophy of the Human Person	Ethics for Professionals
Introduction to Christian Ethics	Introduction to Philosophy
Biomedical Ethics	Ethics of Aquinas
Business Ethics	Logic

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Introduction to Philosophy

Service:

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Director, Center for Thomistic Studies, fall 2017–present
Interim Director, Center for Thomistic Studies, fall 2016
National Treasurer for the American Catholic Philosophical Association,
2008–present

DISSERTATION DIRECTOR:

Evan Williams: 2018-present (University of St. Thomas)
Humberto Cuen: 2018-present (University of St. Thomas)
John Skalko: “Why Is it Intrinsically Evil to Violate the Purpose of a Power or Use
Assertions Unnaturally?” 2018 (University of St. Thomas)
Charles Robertson: “A Thomistic Analysis of Embryo Adoption/Rescue,” 2017
(University of St. Thomas)
John Macias: “The Political Philosophy of Alasdair MacIntyre,” 2016 (University of
St. Thomas)
Jordan Olver: “Bonum Nostrum: Eudaimonism and Love of Others for Their Own
Sake According to Thomas Aquinas,” 2013 (University of St. Thomas)

SERVED ON DISSERTATION COMMITTEE:

Matthew Lomanno, 2018–present (University of St. Thomas)
Patrick McCloskey, 2018–present (University of St. Thomas)
Maureen Bielinski, 2017–present (University of St. Thomas)
Isaac Block, 2016–present (University of St. Thomas)
Alexander Lynch, 2010–2017 (University of St. Thomas)
Aaron Somerville, 2009–2014 (University of St. Thomas)
Nelson Ramirez, 2016 “From the Natural Understanding of Truth, to Aquinas's
Adaequatio Rei et Intellectus Definition of Truth, and Beyond,” (University of St.
Thomas)
Brian Kemple: “Ens Primum Cognitum in Thomas Aquinas and the
Tradition,” 2016 (University of St. Thomas)
Sr. Anne Francis: “*Nudus Sequens?*: Saint Thomas Aquinas on Evangelical Poverty
and Christian Perfection,” 2010–13 (University of St. Thomas)
Samuel B. Condic: “Hominization and Human Life: Toward a More Integrated
Understanding of Human Development,” 2009 (University of St. Thomas)
Anthony Crifasi: “The Philosophical Significance of Cartesian Sensory Physiology,”
2008 (University of St. Thomas)

SERVICE ON COMMITTEES:

Search committee for philosophy faculty positions, 2018–19 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Board of Directors Development Committee, 2017–present (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Call Toward Tomorrow Planning Committee on Enrollment, spring 2018 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Graduate Council, 2017–present (Univ. Of St. Thomas)
 Search committee, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, 2015–16 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Search committee for chair in ethical leadership, 2014–15 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Scholarship committee for the philosophy department, 2011–2012 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Search Committee for chair in business ethics, 2011 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Human Subjects Committee, University of St Thomas, 2009–present (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Awards committee, 2009–2015 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Faculty Senate Representative, 2009–2015 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Subcommittee for Philosophy Transfer Credits, 2009–2011 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Search committee for Theology faculty position, 2010 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Subcommittee for Core Curriculum Reform: Synthesis of Philosophy and Theology with major, 2008 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Search committee for Director of Nursing Program, 2008–2009 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Morale committee, 2006–2007 (Wheeling Jesuit University)
 Assessment committee, 1997–2006 (University of Mary)
 Ad Hoc committee on Values, 2001–2002 (University of Mary)
 Graduate Council, 1996–2006 (University of Mary)

REFEREE FOR JOURNALS:

The Thomist, 2006–present
Res Philosophica, 2012–present
American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly, 2011–present

OTHER:

Organizer for the Thomistic sessions at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo Michigan, 2015–present.
 Director and Organizer for The Ethics of Organ Transplantation, an interdisciplinary bioethics conference, 2007–2009 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Developed online course in ethics of translational medicine, 2017 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Organizer for colloquium series, fall 2016 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Faculty/Administration Task Force on University policies, 2010 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Commission for the design of Catholic nursing education, 2010 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Phi Sigma Tau advisor, 2007–2010 (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Grading of graduate comprehensive exams, 2007–present (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Grading of graduate Latin exams, 2007–present (Univ. of St. Thomas)
 Developed accelerated course in business ethics for the College of Professional Studies, 1997 (University of Mary)