

CURRICULUM VITAE MIRELA OLIVA

Dr. Mirela Oliva
Associate Professor, Rudman Endowed Chair of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies
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EDUCATION

2007-2008 Postdoctoral Fellow in Philosophy, Boston College, USA
2007 Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Freiburg, Germany (*summa cum laude*)
2000-2002 Postgraduate research in Philosophy, University of Tübingen
2000 M.A. in Philosophy, University of Bucharest
2000 B.A. in Philosophy, University of Bucharest
1999 M.A. in Political Sciences, “La Sapienza” University, Rome/University of Bucharest
1998 B.A. in Political Sciences, University of Bucharest

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2019-Present Frank A. Rudman Endowed Chair of Philosophy, University of St. Thomas
2017 Visiting Researcher, St. Benet's Hall, University of Oxford (June)
2016- Present Associate Professor (tenured), Philosophy Department,
University of St Thomas, Houston
2016 Visiting Researcher, Center for Theology and Modern European Thought,
University of Oxford (June)
2014- Present Member of the Institute for Medieval Studies at University of Navarra, Spain
2010-2016 Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Center for Thomistic Studies, Philosophy
Department, University of St Thomas, Houston
2013 DAAD Visiting researcher, Thomas-Institut, University of Cologne
2009-2010 Adjunct Professor, Theology Department, Boston College
2009-2010 Adjunct Professor, Philosophy Department, Suffolk University, Boston
1999-2000 Teaching Assistant, Political Sciences Department, Christian University Dimitrie
Cantemir – Bucharest

RESEARCH

A. PUBLICATIONS

I. BOOKS

Das innere Verbum in Gadamer's Hermeneutik, Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen, 2009.

In progress: *The Meaning of Life*

II. EDITED BOOKS

Philosophy, Faith, and Modernity. Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, ed. Mirela Oliva, vol. 91, 2017. (forthcoming)

Justice: Then and Now, Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, ed. Mirela Oliva & Mary Catherine Sommers, vol. 90, 2016.

Analyzing Catholic Philosophy, Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, vol. 89, 2015.

Dispositions, Habits and Virtues, Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, ed. R.E. Houser & Mirela Oliva, vol. 88, 2014.

Paul Ricoeur, *Tradurre l'intraducibile. Sulla traduzione*, transl. and ed. by M.Oliva, Pontificia Urbaniana University Press, Rome, 2008.

III. EDITED SPECIAL ISSUES OF JOURNALS

Catholicism and Phenomenology, ed. Michael Bowler and Mirela Oliva, Special Issue of the *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, Summer 2021, Volume 95, Number 3.

IV. BOOK CHAPTERS

1) "Gadamer and Theology", in *The Gadamerian Mind*, ed. Theodore George and Gert-Jan van der Heiden, Routledge, forthcoming 2020.

2) „Meaning: Theism“ in *Theism and Atheism. Opposing Arguments in Philosophy*, ed. Joseph W. Koterski and Graham Oppy, Macmillan Reference, 2019.

3) „Beauty and Meaning: From Aquinas to Gadamer and Nancy“, in Maria Jesus Soto-Bruna (ed.), *Causality and Similarity. Medieval Ways of Explaining Nature*, Olms, Bern, 2018.

4) "The Challenge of the Thomistic 'sensus communis': A Hermeneutic View", in *Thomas Aquinas: Teacher of Humanity*, ed. J. Hittinger, Cambridge Scholars, 2015.

5) "Hermeneutics and the Illusion of Translation", in L.Cercel (ed.), *Hermeneutik der Übersetzung*, Gunter Narr, Tübingen, 2012.

6) "The Enchantment of Hermeneutics", in *Ermeneutica veritativa. Festschrift per Gaspare Mura*, Pontificia Urbaniana University Press, Rome, 2010.

7) "La traduzione e la questione del senso", in Paul Ricoeur, *Tradurre l'intraducibile. Sulla traduzione*, transl. and ed. by M.Oliva, Urbaniana University Press, Rome, 2008.

8) "La differenza linguistica tra etica e ontologia", in Paul Ricoeur, *Tradurre l'intraducibile. Sulla traduzione*, transl. and ed. by M.Oliva, Urbaniana University Press, Rome, 2008.

V. ARTICLES

1) "On Immortality in Heidegger", in *Catholicism and Phenomenology*, ed. Michael Bowler and Mirela Oliva, Special Issue of the *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* (forthcoming, 2021).

2) "The Depth of Life in Hildebrand", in *Magazzino di Filosofia* (forthcoming, 2020)

3) „The Relational Nature of the Meaning of Life in Nozick“, in *Disputatio*, vol. 8, no. 11, 2019.

4) „Hermeneutics and the Meaning of Life“, in *Epoche*, Vol. 22/2, Spring 2018.

5) "The Metaphysics of Language in Cusanus and Gadamer", in *Anuario Filosofico*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (2016).

- 6) "Trinity and Difference: Gadamer and Heidegger on Aquinas", in *Philosophy of Religion Annual/ Internationales Jahrbuch für Religionsphilosophie*, Alber, Freiburg, Vol.13, 2014.
- 7) "Gadamer and Cusanus on Creation", in *Philosophy Today*, Chicago, May 2011.
- 8) "Hermeneutics and Thomism", in *Internationales Jahrbuch für Hermeneutik*, Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen, 2011.
- 9) "Phenomenology and Hermeneutics", in *Research in Phenomenology*, Brill/Leyden, 41/2011.
- 10) "Paul Ricoeur's Hermeneutics of Creation", in *Revue Roumaine de Philosophie*, Bucharest, 2/2010.
- 11) *Die Lesbarkeit des Ungesagten in Gadamers Hermeneutik*, in P. Stoellger (ed.), *Genese und Grenzen der Lesbarkeit*, Königshausen-Neumann, 2007.
- 12) *La possibilità della metafisica nell'ermeneutica di Gadamer*, in *Euntes Docete*, Urbaniana University Press, Rome, 2-3/2005
- 13) *Il concetto di trascendenza in Gadamer*, in *Magazzino di Filosofia*, Franco Angeli, Milan, A/2004.
- 14) *Démocratie et christianisme*, in *Revue roumaine de théorie sociale*, Romanian Academy, Bucharest, nr.2/1999.

Articles in progress:

- "Does God Intervene in Our Life? Special Divine Action in Aquinas"
- "No Meaning for Christians? A Response to Joshua Hochschild"
- „Waiting for the End of the World: Aquinas and Heidegger on the *Thessalonians*“
- „Meaning: From Medieval *sensus* to Phenomenological *Sinn*“
- „Causality and the Narrative Meaning of Life“

VI. BOOK REVIEWS

- 1) Lawrence J. Hatab, *Porto-Phenomenology, Language Acquisition, Orality, and Literacy*, Volume II: *Dwelling in Speech II*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2020, 312 pp, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2020.
- 2) Csaba Olay, *Hans-Georg Gadamer: Phänomenologie der ungegenständlichen Zusammenhänge*, Königshausen&Neumann, 2007, in *Revue Roumaine de Philosophie*, Bucharest, vol. 55, 2011.
- 3) Angela Zabulica, *Temporalitatea in discursul fenomenologic al lui Martin Heidegger*, Axis, Iasi, 2002, in *The Scientific Annals of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University*, Iasi, 2009.
- 4) Donatella Di Cesare, *Utopia del comprendere (il melangolo*, Genua, 2003) in *Magazzino di Filosofia*, Franco Angeli, Milan, 12/2003.
- 5) Hans-Helmuth Gander, *Selbstverständnis und Lebenswelt. Grundzüge einer phänomenologischen Hermeneutik im Ausgang von Husserl und Heidegger* (Klostermann, Frankfurt/M, 2001) in *Magazzino di Filosofia*, Franco Angeli, Milan, 12/2003.
- 6) Gaspare Mura, *Pensare la parola. Per una filosofia dell'incontro* (Urbaniana University Press, Rom, 2001) in *Magazzino di Filosofia*, Franco Angeli, Milan, 12/2003.
- 7) Günter Figal, *Lebensverstricktheit und Abstandnahme. Verhältnis zu sich im Anschluss an Heidegger, Kierkegaard und Hegel* (Attempo, Tübingen, 2002) in *Magazzino di Filosofia*, Franco Angeli, Milan, 9 /2002.
- 8) Ștefan Delureanu, *Geneza Europei Comunitare. Mesajul democratiei de inspiratie crestina*, (Paideia, 1999), in "Revista de teorie sociala", Romanian Academy, Bucharest, 4/1999

B. KEYNOTE TALKS

2019 “Causality in the Human Life”, Aquinas Lecture at the Dominican School for Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley, February 20th.

2016 “Hermeneutics and the Meaning of Life”, keynote address at the annual meeting of the North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, Texas A&M, September 29-October 1

C. CONFERENCE TALKS

2020 “Causality and the Narrative Meaning of Life”, at the Third International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life, University of Birmingham, UK, June 16-19.

2020 “Technology and the Meaning of Life”, together with Elham Mousavidin, University of St. Thomas, Houston, February 27.

2019 “The Depth of Life in Hildebrand”, Hildebrand Conference, *First Things* Headquarters, New York City, November 14-16.

2019 “Special Divine Action in Aquinas”, Symposium Thomisticum, Rome, July 4-6.

2019 “The Relational Nature of the Meaning of Life. A Defense of Nozick”, University of Haifa, Israel, June 11-12.

2018 “God's Word and the Meaning of Life”, at the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, San Diego, November 8-11.

2018 “Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Communication”, at the DAAD and A. v. Humboldt alumni meeting, Atlanta, October 5-7.

2017 “Waiting for the End of the World: Aquinas and Heidegger on the *Thessalonians*”, at the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, Dallas, November 16-19

2017 “On Immortality in Heidegger”, at the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, Dallas, November 16-19

2016 “Providence, Causality and Narrativity”, at the annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, San Francisco, November 3-6

2016 “Hermeneutics and the Meaning of Life”, key note address at the annual meeting of the North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics, Texas A&M, September 29-October 1

2015 “The Meaning of Life in Heidegger”, at the North Texas Heidegger Symposium, Dallas, May 1-2

2014 “The Metaphysics of Language in Gadamer and Cusanus”, at Reuniones Filosoficas, University of Navarra (Spain), November 23-25

2014 “Meaning and Multiculturalism” at the Academy of Human and Social Sciences, Rome, June 13

2014 “Meaning in Taoism and Hermeneutics”, at the Annual Meeting of the North Texas Philosophical Association, Denton, April

2013 “Sense and reference in Ricoeur and Frege” at the Cologne University of Applied Sciences, June 11

2013 “The Challenge of the Thomistic *sensus communis*: a Hermeneutic View”, at the Pontifical Academy of St Thomas Aquinas conference, Houston, October 19-21

2013 “Trinity and Difference: Heidegger and Gadamer on Aquinas” at the International Conference in Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May

2012 “The meaning of history in Maritain”, American Maritain Association, Philadelphia

2012 “Events and divine action”, Houston Baptist University, April

2012 “Hermeneutics and the illusion of translation”, North Texas Philosophical Association, Denton, April

- 2011 “Gadamer and Aquinas on creation”, University of St Thomas, March
 2011 “The All-inclusiveness of meaning in Ricoeur”, Society for Ricoeur Studies, Philadelphia, November
 2011 “Beauty in Gadamer and Aquinas”, ACPA, St. Louis, October
 2010 “The inner word in Aquinas and contemporary hermeneutics”, University of St. Thomas, Houston, April
 2009 “Paul Ricoeur’s Hermeneutics of Creation”, SPEP, Arlington, November
 2009 “Why do we speak? Divine and human word”, Suffolk University, Boston, October
 2009 “Meaning and Religion in Gadamer and Pannenberg”, NASPH, Wichita, September
 2007 “Philosophy and Modernity in Gadamer and Lonergan”, Lonergan Conference, April, Loyola Marymount University
 2005 “The Ethical Turn of Hermeneutics”, Conference “Moralization and Demoralization”, September, Catholic Academy, Freiburg
 2004 “Truth and Language in Gadamer”, Conference “Philosophy and Christianity”, Foundation Ambrosianum, May, Milan
 2004 “Being and Language in Gadamer”, National Conference of German PhD Students, July, University of Freiburg
 2004 “Gadamer’s Concept of Horizon”, Annual Meeting of the Scandinavian Society for Phenomenology, April, Stockholm
 2003 “Gadamer’s Idea of Transcendence”, International Congress “Subjectivity and Transcendence”, November, University of Copenhagen
 2003 “The Possibility of the Dialogue between Religions in Gadamer”, October, University of Milan

COURSES TAUGHT

- Spring 2020 Law and Grace in Aquinas (graduate), UST
 Fall 2019 Philosophy of the Human Person, UST
 Spring 2019 Providence and Causality in the Human Life (graduate), Contemporary Philosophy (undergraduate)
 Fall 2018 Philosophy of the Human Person, UST
 Spring 2018 Aquinas and the Problem of Evil (graduate); Ethics and the Public Life (graduate) Contemporary Philosophy, UST
 Fall 2017 Philosophy of the Human Person, UST
 Spring 2017 The End of Life: Suffering and Hope (graduate), Contemporary Philosophy, UST
 Spring 2016 Phenomenology (graduate), Contemporary Philosophy, UST
 Fall 2015 Ethics, UST
 Spring 2015 Ethics; Senior Seminar, UST
 Fall 2014 Hermeneutics and Medieval Philosophy (graduate); Metaphysics, UST
 Spring 2014 Contemporary Philosophy, Comprehensive Reading Preparation (graduate), UST
 Fall 2013 Philosophy of the Human Person, UST
 Spring 2013 Contemporary Philosophy; Philosophy of the Human Person, University of St. Thomas, Houston
 Fall 2012 Philosophy of the Human Person; Freshman Symposium (co-teaching with Yolanda Norman), University of St. Thomas, Houston
 Spring 2012 Ethics; Contemporary Philosophy, University of St. Thomas, Houston
 Fall 2011 Philosophy of the Human Person, University of St. Thomas, Houston
 Spring 2011 Ethics; Contemporary Philosophy, University of St. Thomas, Houston

Summer 2011 Philosophy of the Human Person, University of St. Thomas, Houston
 Fall 2010 Ethics; Philosophy of the Human Person, University of St. Thomas, Houston
 Spring 2010 Perspectives on Western Culture, Boston College
 Ethics, Suffolk University, Boston
 Fall 2010 Perspectives on Western Culture, Boston College
 Ethics, Suffolk University, Boston
 Contemporary Moral Issues, Suffolk University, Boston
 Spring 1999 Political Doctrines, Christian University Dimitrie Cantemir, Bucharest
 Fall 1999 Introduction to Political Sciences, Christian University Dimitrie Cantemir, Bucharest

PHD DISSERTATION BOARDS

Annie Smalley, „Being and Mysticism in Aquinas and Heidegger“ (Director since May 2018)
 Matthew Moore, „Did Aquinas Teach a State of Pure Nature?“ (defended March 31, 2020)
 John Skalko, "Why is it Intrinsically Evil to Violate the Purpose of a Power or Use Assertions Unnaturally?" (defended May 18, 2018)
 James Capehart, “Etienne Gilson and the First Two Stages of His Christian Philosophy” (defended April 6, 2018)
 Francisco Plaza, After Modernity: Maritain’s Answer to the Crisis of our Time (proposal defended September 27, 2017)
 Steven Pena, „Onus Probandi: An Attempt to Locate the Burden of Proof in the Existential Theistic Debate” (defended May 22, 2015).
 John Schaff, „Empathy and Person in Stein and Scheler“ (proposal defended May 8, 2015)
 Brian Kemple, „*Ens ut primum cognitum* in St. Thomas Aquinas and the Tradition“ (proposal defended November 18, 2014)
 John Macias, „MacIntyre's Political Philosophy“ (proposal defended April 9, 2014)
 Anne Frances Ai Le, “Nudus Sequens?: St. Thomas Aquinas on Poverty and Christian Perfection” (defended May 9, 2014)
 Domenic D'Ettore, “Early Thomists on Demonstration with Analogous Terms” (defended April 23, 2012)

GRANTS

2019 UST Travel Grant for conference travel to Israel
 2017 UST Research Grant for a research stay at the University of Oxford
 2016 UST Research Grant for a research stay at the University of Oxford
 2013 DAAD Research Grant at the University of Cologne, Germany, May-August
 2010-2015 6 Faculty Development Grants for conference travel
 2011 Teaching Enhancement Grant, University of St. Thomas, Houston
 2007-2008 Postdoc Fellowship, Boston College
 2004-2006 Research Grant, University of Milan
 2002-2004 *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* PhD fellowship
 2000-2001 DAAD Research Fellowship, University of Tübingen
 2000 Scholarship of University of Helsinki for the Summer school “Ethics in New Millennium”
 2000 Scholarship of University of Vienna for German courses
 1999 Scholarship of University Halle-Wittenberg for German courses
 1998-1999 Erasmus Scholarship (European Union), La Sapienza University Rome

1998 DAAD Scholarship for German courses, University of Heidelberg
1994.1998 Undergraduate Scholarship – Romanian Education Ministry

LANGUAGES

Italian, French, English, German – very good
Spanish – good
Latin – good
Romanian – mother tongue

MEMBERSHIPS

American Catholic Philosophical Association
American Philosophical Association
Society for Ricoeur Studies
American Cusanus Society
American Academy of Religion

SERVICE

A. SERVICE TO STUDENTS

2018 – Present Faculty Coordinator for the participation of UST students to workshops of the Texas Network for the Study of Public Issues (TNSPI)
2011-2015 Founder and Advisor of the „Philosophy and Movies Club“, University of St Thomas, Houston
2010-2015 Advisor of the Philosophy Honors Society, Phi Sigma Tau, University of St Thomas, Houston

B. COMMITTEE SERVICE

1. Library Committee 2018-2021
2. Task Force „Academics and Organizational Structure“, Strategic Planning Committee, Spring 2018
3. Faculty Senate, Fall 2012, 2015-2018
4. President's Research Symposium, 2012-2015
5. Faculty Awards Committee, 2012-2015
6. Task Force on Student Evaluations, starting Spring 2013

C. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

1. National Secretary of the American Catholic Philosophical Association (2014-2018)
2. Member of the advisory board of the journal “Ricoeur Studies”
3. Peer-reviewer for Cambridge University Press, Catholic University of America Press, Continuum Publishing House
4. Peer-reviewer for the journals *Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Ricoeur Studies*, *Symposium*
5. Program Review Committee, American Catholic Philosophical Association, 2014