

# Michael Szlachta

St. Francis Xavier University  
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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

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AOS: Medieval Philosophy

AOC: Early Modern Philosophy, Ethics, Free Will & Action Theory

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## EMPLOYMENT

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St. Francis Xavier University, Department of Philosophy

Assistant Professor, Tenure-Track 2021–present

Visiting Assistant Professor 2019–21

University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy

Lecturer 2018–19

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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Toronto 2012–19

*Dissertation: A Defense of Intellectualism: Will, Intellect, and Control in Late Thirteenth-Century Philosophy*

*Committee:* Martin Pickavé (supervisor), Deborah Black, Peter King, Phil Clark, Antoine Côté (external)

B.A., Philosophy (specialist) and Mathematics (minor), University of Toronto 2007–11

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed

- “Godfrey of Fontaines on the Moral Imputability of Exterior Acts.” Forthcoming in *History of Philosophy Quarterly*.
- “Why Did You Choose That? Choice and Reasons in Peter John Olivi’s *Summa*.” Forthcoming in *Pierre de Jean Olivi (1248-1298). La construction de la personne humaine : Anthropologie, éthique, société, 4–6 Octobre 2018*, Collectio Oliviana, Grottaferrata: Collegio San Bonaventura.
- “Thomas of Sutton’s Intellectualist Doctrine of the Will’s Self-Motion.” *Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy* 8, (2020): 187–220.
- “Peter John Olivi, Free Will, and the Threefold *aspectus*.” *Recherches de Théologie et Philosophie médiévales* 85, no. 2 (2018): 285–307.

## Submitted

- “How Do Intellect and Will Interact? Thomas Aquinas, Godfrey of Fontaines, and the Determination-Exercise Distinction”

## In Preparation

- “*Huic fictioni non est respondendum*: Thomas Aquinas and the Necessitation of the Will”
- “Willing *per electionem* in Henry of Ghent’s Voluntarism”
- “Freedom from the Ground Up: The Intellectualism of Godfrey of Fontaines” (to appear in a volume on Godfrey of Fontaines in Brill’s *Companions to the Christian Tradition* series)

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## PRESENTATIONS

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### Refereed

- “How do Intellect and Will Interact? Thomas Aquinas, Godfrey of Fontaines, and the Determination-Exercise Distinction”
- *The Will and its Acts in Late Medieval Ethics and Theology* June 2021  
Medical University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland
- “What’s Really Doing the Willing? Godfrey of Fontaines and the Challenges of Extreme Intellectualism”
- *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress* June 2021  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada
- “Immateriality as the Root of Freedom”
- *International Medieval Congress 2019* July 2019  
University of Leeds, Leeds, UK
- “Conditioned Freedom in Thomas Aquinas’s *Disputed Questions on Truth*”
- *Contingency and Necessity in Medieval and Post-medieval Scholasticism* June 2019  
Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic
  - *Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers Annual Meeting* June 2018  
Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Canada
  - *Reuniones Filosóficas: Inteligencia y Voluntad en Tomás de Aquino* April 2018  
Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain
- “A Challenge for Later Medieval Voluntarism”
- *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting* January 2019  
New York, NY, USA
  - *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress* June 2018  
Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Canada
- “‘Why Did You Choose That?’ Some Thoughts on Preference and Motivation in Peter John Olivi’s *Summa*”
- *Pierre de Jean Olivi (1248-1298). La construction de la personne humaine : Anthropologie, éthique, société* October 2018  
Rome, Italy
- “An Intellectualist Conception of Human Freedom”
- *The XXIV World Congress of Philosophy* August 2018  
University of Peking, Beijing, China

- *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting* March 2018  
San Diego, CA, USA
  - *Western Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting* October 2017  
University of Regina, Regina, Canada
- “The First Movements of the Will and the Intellect: A Puzzle in Thomas Aquinas’s Moral Psychology”
- *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress* May 2017  
Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
  - *American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting* March 2017  
Kansas City, MO, USA
- “The Role of Meta-Volition in Peter John Olivi’s Account of Free Will”
- *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting* January 2017  
Baltimore, MD, USA
- “Godfrey of Fontaines on ‘Perfect Knowledge’ of the End”
- *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress* May 2016  
University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada
- “Body on Body Causation in Descartes”
- *American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting* March 2016  
Chicago, IL, USA
- “Thomas Aquinas and the Power to Do Otherwise”
- *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting* April 2015  
Vancouver, Canada

### Invited

- “Willing *per electionem* in Henry of Ghent’s Voluntarism” July 2021  
*Varieties of Voluntarism in Medieval and Early Modern Ethics*  
Würzburg, Germany
- “Thomas Aquinas’s Pluralism about Freedom”
- *Humanities Colloquium (HC) Capstone Lecture* November 2019  
St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Canada
- “Human Agency in Thomas Aquinas and Godfrey of Fontaines”
- *uOttawa Summer Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy* July 2016  
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
  - *Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (CPAMP)* February 2016  
*Work in Progress Series*  
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- “Peter John Olivi, Freedom, and the Will’s *Dominativus Aspectus*”
- *The University of Toronto Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy* September 2015  
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

“Finding Unity in Godfrey of Fontaines’s Thoughts on Freedom”

- *Mind, Matter, and Metaphysics: Berlin-Toronto-Groningen Workshop on Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy* May 2015  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

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## TEACHING

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### Instructor

St. Francis Xavier University

- PHIL100: Introductory Philosophy 2019-20, 2020-21
- PHIL366: The Empiricists Winter 2021
- PHIL333: Environmental Ethics Winter 2021
- PHIL231: Love and the Emotions Fall 2020
- PHIL251: Critical Thinking Fall 2019, Fall 2020
- PHIL342: Logic Winter 2020
- PHIL362: Philosophy in the High Middle Ages Winter 2020
- PHIL232: Freedom and Responsibility Fall 2019

University of Toronto

- PHL307: Augustine Winter 2019
- PHL210: 17th-and 18th-Century Philosophy 2018-19
- PHL341: Freedom, Responsibility and Human Action Fall 2018
- PHL100: Introduction to Philosophy Summer 2016

### Teaching Assistant

University of Toronto

- PHL206: Later Medieval Philosophy Winter 2015, Winter 2018
- PHL275: Introduction to Ethics Fall 2017
- PHL210: 17th-and 18th-Century Philosophy 2015-2016
- PHL205: Early Medieval Philosophy Fall 2014
- PHL245: Modern Symbolic Logic Winter 2013
- PHL100: Introduction to Philosophy 2010-11, 2013-14

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## AWARDS

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- American Philosophical Association Graduate Student Travel Stipend (\$300-\$400 ×6) 2015-19
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000 ×3) 2014-17
- Dr. Yee Scholarship in Medieval Philosophy (\$2000-\$8000 ×5) 2012-17

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## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

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### Referee

- *Canadian Philosophical Association*
- *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy*

## Second Reader

- Tane Caubo: *Thomas Aquinas on the Incorruptibility of the Human Soul* (undergraduate thesis, St. Francis Xavier University) 2020

## Research Assistant

- to Prof. Peter King (reading and summarizing primary and secondary sources on the history of the will) 2016-19

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## LANGUAGES

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Latin; German; French

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## REFERENCES

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Prof. Martin Pickavé (supervisor)  
University of Toronto  
Department of Philosophy  
170 St. George Street, Room 515  
Toronto, ON, Canada, M5R 2M8  
[martin.pickave@utoronto.ca](mailto:martin.pickave@utoronto.ca)

Prof. Antoine Côté  
University of Ottawa  
Department of Philosophy  
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55 Laurier Ave. East  
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Prof. Franz Huber (teaching advisor)  
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