

Program of Liberal Studies
Senior Thesis Faculty Profiles
2021-22

Francesca Bordogna

Ph.D. History and Philosophy of Science

- *General interests:* History of science and technology, esp. the sciences of the mind, mathematics, and the biomedical sciences. History of philosophy. Nineteenth and twentieth-century intellectual history.
- *Special interests:* William James and the history of pragmatism in Europe and America; scientific and philosophical modernism; history and philosophy of mathematics, esp. after 1850; history and sociology of the biomedical sciences and of the sciences of the mind (e.g. psychiatry, psychopharmacology, and the neurosciences); Italian history.
- *Courses taught:* Science 2 & 3; Sem. I & V
- *Suggested topics:* I would welcome theses on any of the topics listed above. This year I would especially like to direct theses on philosophical and scientific modernism and on the intellectual and cultural history of fascism and anti-fascism in Italy. I also look forward to working on projects that explore the links between science and literature, the visual arts, music, and/or philosophy. I am open to essays on most texts from Sem. I, Sem. II, and Sem. V. Please contact me at fbordog1@nd.edu.

Eric Bugyis

Ph.D. Religious Studies

- *General interests:* Philosophy of Religion, Political Theology, Social and Political Theory, Christian Spirituality
- *Specific interests:* Habermas and the Frankfurt School; Existentialism; Marxism; Anarchism; Catholic Social Movements; Modern Theories of Religion; Postcolonial Theory (particularly from India); Liberal Arts Education.
- *Courses taught:* The Bible and Its Interpretation, Christian Theological Traditions, Intellectual and Cultural History, Liberal Arts as Liberation, Seminars IV & VI, as well as separate reading courses on James Baldwin and Friedrich Nietzsche.
- *Suggested topics:* I welcome theses on any of the topics listed above. I am currently working on a project involving Dorothy Day, the Catholic Worker, and contemporary questions of debt, work, and violence. I would be happy to work with students who would like to focus their research on any of the authors in Seminars IV-VI or on topics arising from the theology, philosophy, or politics tutorials.

Katie Bugyis

Ph.D. Medieval Studies

- *General interests:* History of Christian thought and practice, religion and material culture, religion and literature, book history, feminist theory and theology, Catholic social teaching.
- *Special interests:* The development of Christian thought, practices, and institutions during the Middle Ages, especially the contributions made by lay and vowed religious women to this history; medieval liturgical practices; religious movements in the Middle Ages, particularly Benedictine monasticism; medieval biblical exegesis; medieval saints' cults

(e.g., the invention, translation, preservation, and theft of relics; the composition and transmission of saints' lives, miracles collections, and liturgical texts for feast days; the canonization process; pilgrimages; etc.); literature, visual art, and material culture expressive of religious devotion during the Middle Ages; contemporary theologies seeking liberation for traditionally minoritized voices (e.g., women, people of color, the homeless, the poor, the disabled, the incarcerated, the oppressed, etc.).

- *Courses taught:* The Bible and Its Interpretations, Christian Theological Traditions, Seminars I and III
- *Suggested topics:* I am open to advising students with any of the interests listed above. Regarding texts read in the seminars, I am especially conversant with those listed in Seminars II and III.

Christopher Chowrimootoo

Ph.D. Historical Musicology

- *General interests:* music history and aesthetics, especially in the modern era.
- *Special interests:* musical and literary modernism; middlebrow culture and aesthetics; reception history; history of opera; critical theory; Britten, Copland, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Schoenberg, Messiaen.
- *Suggested topics:* I am open to essays related to the interests above. Please contact me at cchowrim@nd.edu before submitting my name as a potential advisor.

Stephen Fallon

Ph.D. English literature

- *General interests:* Early modern English literature
- *Special interests:* The works of John Milton; the philosophical and theological contexts of early modern literature; Shakespeare; 19th- and 20th-century English and American poetry (e.g., Wordsworth, Keats, Hopkins, Eliot, Stevens); the rhetoric of philosophical texts; Homer; Sophocles; Euripides; Virgil; Lucretius; Machiavelli; Descartes; Hobbes; Austen; Kierkegaard; Melville; Thoreau; George Eliot; Thomas Hardy.
- *Courses taught:* All 6 Great Books Seminars, Lit I and II
- *Suggested topics:* See above. I would be the most help with theses on Milton, including essays on his relation to the epic tradition and to theology and philosophy (including natural philosophy or science). Theses on Shakespeare, particularly his tragedies or romances, are also especially welcome. I am also particularly interested in the rhetoric of seventeenth-century philosophical texts.

Robert Goulding

Ph.D. History

- *General interests:* History of science. Latin literature. Ancient, medieval and Renaissance philosophy (especially natural philosophy).
- *Special interests:* Medieval and Renaissance Science. History of Mathematics and Mathematical Sciences. History of Magic.
- *Courses taught:* Seminars I-IV. Science 1 & 2. ICH.
- *Suggested topics:* I welcome theses on any of the topics listed above. Seminar authors you may want to explore further, and which I find particularly interesting: Aristotle,

Lucretius, Cicero, Apuleius, Plotinus, Aquinas, Petrarch, Montaigne, Bacon, Descartes. I am also very interested in talking about topics in the history of mathematics or the sciences, from antiquity to the seventeenth century.

Jennifer Newsome Martin

Ph.D., Systematic Theology

- *General interests:* Roman Catholic systematic theology, religion and literature, religion and philosophy, the nature of religious tradition, Eastern Orthodox theology, Christianity and metaphysics.
- *Special interests:* Trinitarian thought, especially pneumatology. Religious art, philosophical and theological aesthetics. The thought of Hans Urs von Balthasar and Karl Rahner. Theologies of culture. Religious poetry, especially Hopkins, Rilke, Eliot, and Péguy. The intersection of Christianity with German Idealism and Romanticism (Hegel, Schelling). Ressourcement theology (Henri de Lubac, Yves Congar, Joseph Ratzinger, Jean Daniélou). Eschatology & apocalyptic. The limits and peculiarities of religious language, apophatic/negative theology. Modern Russian religious philosophy and theology, Dostoevsky. Catholic social teaching, especially environmental and humanitarian issues.
- *Courses taught:* The Bible and its Interpretation, Christian Theological Traditions, Seminars I, III, IV, VI.
- *Suggested topics:* I would welcome theses on any of these or related interests, including topics on the history of biblical interpretation as well as biblical interpretations in art, literature, and film. From the seminars I've taught, I'd be most open to advising theses on Dante, the Christian mystics, Pascal, Goethe, Heidegger, and Dostoevsky.

Julia Marvin

Ph.D. English literature

- *General interests:* English and French literature and historical writing, especially medieval.
- *Special interests:* medieval vernacular historical writing and poetry, manuscript studies, history of the book, Chaucer, the Gawain-poet, Dante; the representation of reading and literary interpretation; literary aspects of works not usually classified as literature, including but not limited to historical writing.
- *Courses taught:* All 6 Seminars, Lit I and II, Fine Arts
- *Suggested topics:* I am open to essays related to the interests above and am willing to consider other topics in English, French, and American literature. I will particularly welcome essays on Chaucer, the Gawain-poet, Dante, or historical writing, and ones involving manuscript research. And ones on Herman Melville!

G. Felicitas Munzel

Ph.D. Philosophy

- *General interests:* History of philosophy, moral philosophy, philosophy as paideia, eighteenth-century studies (including literary texts of the period).
- *Special interests:* Immanuel Kant, including issues within his philosophy and their relation to (1) ancient conceptions of wisdom, (2) pedagogical issues (education for freedom), (3) the writings of his contemporaries, in particular Rousseau, and (4) contemporary thinkers explicitly influenced by Kant (e.g. Hannah Arendt).

- *Courses Taught:* Philosophical Inquiry, Ethics, Metaphysics & Epistemology; all the Great Books Seminars (I, III, IV, V most frequently).
- *Suggested topics:* Although I am open to a variety of philosophical topics, I am particularly interested in essays dealing with moral, ethical, or pedagogical issues.

Emma Planinc

Ph.D., Political Science (Political Theory)

- *General Interests:* The history of political thought/ political philosophy, history and philosophy of science, literature. The history of political thought and contemporary politics/contemporary political theory; human rights. Myth and political philosophy/ myth and natural science.
- *Special interests:* Early modern and Enlightenment political thought, with a particular expertise and interest in the French Enlightenment/Rousseau. More broadly construed, I investigate what 'nature' means in political philosophy, and am thus interested in the same question spanning the history of political thought, from the ancients to the moderns (and in thinking through the relationship of political science to natural science and theology). I am also invested in bringing the history of political thought into contemporary political concerns and debates, and contemporary political theory; here I have a current interest in the bearing the history of political thought has on the contemporary human rights regime. My next project will be centered around the relationship between myth, natural science, theology, and political philosophy in the early modern and enlightenment periods (with a first focus on Giambattista Vico, and a general guiding focus on the idea of the 'satyr'). I am also always interested in science fiction.
- *Courses Taught:* Seminars IV & V, Political and Social Theory
- *Suggested Topics:* Generally speaking, I am open to two sorts of theses: 1) close readings of works of political philosophy (spanning the history of political thought); and 2) theses that seek to combine the history of political thought with contemporary political topics and debates and/or contemporary political theory (think here of topics like the idea of rights, citizenship, regimes, toleration, inclusion/exclusion, liberalism, republicanism, technology, identity politics, etc.). For both I would be most interested in topics that align with my special interests listed above, but am also very open to your interests and political theoretical concerns/inquiries. If you are interested in working with me next year, you can contact me at eplaninc@nd.edu.

F. Clark Power

Ed.D Developmental Psychology and Education

- *General interests:* Education, psychology, sociology, ethics, poverty studies, moral theology, Catholic Social Teaching.
- *Special interests:* Social psychology; moral, religious, ego development; civic engagement; psychology and sociology of sports; child poverty
- *Courses taught:* Ethics, Science 3. All seminars.
- *Suggested topics:* Child poverty, democratic education, educating for justice and community, inequality in education and youth sports.

Andrew Radde-Gallwitz

Ph.D. Religion

- General interests: History of Christian theology (especially early Christianity), ancient philosophy.
- Special interests: Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine, Pseudo-Dionysius; the historical development of Christian doctrine (esp. Trinity and Christology); the relationship between philosophy and theology; the soul; negative theology; the doctrine of creation; ancient Indian philosophy.
- Courses taught: Bible and its Interpretation, Christian Theological Traditions, Philosophical Inquiry, Seminars I–III and V
- Suggested topics: Questions having to do with ethics and human flourishing in ancient philosophy and early Christianity: what is the good for a human being? What are the virtues? How can one be happy and can we make sense of suffering?

Gretchen Reydams-Schils

Ph.D. Classics

- *General interests*: Classics and ancient philosophy, metaphysics, ethics/political theory, and gender studies.
- *Special interests*: Plato and Aristotle, Hellenistic philosophy and the later tradition; 20th. c. phenomenology and Levinas; the relation between ethical standards and human rights; the conditions for women's participation in the life of the mind.
- *Courses taught*: all six seminars, Philosophical Inquiry, Ethics, and Metaphysics & Epistemology
- *Suggested Topics*: I would be happy to supervise any topic pertaining to the special interests listed above; to Classics and Ancient Philosophy (including Plato, Aristotle and the Stoics); or to seminar texts from Seminar I up and including Seminar IV. If you are interested in working under my supervision, please contact me at reydams-schils.1@nd.edu.

Denis Robichaud

MA German and Romance Lang. and Lit., Ph.D. History

- *General interests*: history of philosophy (especially ancient, late ancient, medieval, Renaissance, early modern); intellectual history; medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature; classical literature; textual cultures (manuscripts and history of the book, scholarship); philology (Greek, Latin, Italian, French); rhetoric; the liberal arts; historical method and theory (ancient and modern); the fortune of ancient texts; hermeneutics; pre-modern history.
- *Special interests*: Plato, other ancient philosophy (e.g. Aristotle, late ancient philosophy); Renaissance philosophy, humanism and intellectual history (e.g. Petrarch, Ficino, Erasmus, Poliziano, Machiavelli, Rabelais, More, Cusanus, Montaigne); Neoplatonism and Platonic traditions (e.g. Plotinus and Proclus); the reception of ancient texts (especially Plato, but also Aristotle, scepticism); medieval and Renaissance Italian literature (especially Dante, Petrarch, and Poliziano); late medieval philosophy and theology (especially how scholastic thinkers worked with Platonism and Aristotelianism); the relationship between philosophy, theology, and religion in antiquity, the middle ages, and the Renaissance; intellectual history c. 1200- 1600.
- *Courses taught in the PLS*: Seminars 1, 2, 3; Philosophical Inquiry; Metaphysics and Epistemology; Intellectual and Cultural History. Other courses of interest that I have

taught: Dante's Journey through the Afterlife (Dante for Italian majors); Western Intellectual History 1200-1500.

- *Suggested topics:* I will be happy to supervise a thesis on any of the topics I have listed above. I would supervise a thesis pertaining either to the three tutorials or the three seminars I have listed. Related to the philosophy tutorials, for example, I could work with students on topics related to authors studied in these courses not listed above (e.g. on Boethius, Anselm, Bonaventure, Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Gadamer). Similarly, I could work with students on authors studied in the above seminars that I do not list in my interests (e.g. Homer, tragedians and ancient Greek lit., ancient historians, Roman lit., Augustine). I encourage any student who would like to work with me to contact me to discuss possible topics.

Joseph Elkanah Rosenberg

Ph.D. English & American Literature

- *General Interests:* Modern and Contemporary Literature, The Novel, Poetry, Literary Theory, Visual Culture, Media Theory, Material Culture, Cultural Studies, Critical Theory
- *Special Interests:* Modernism and the Avant-Garde, the History of the Novel, Print and Media Studies, Cinema, Postmodernism, Contemporary Poetry, Psychoanalytic Theory, Marxism, Poststructuralism. Writers of particular interest include Samuel Beckett, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Henry James, Henry Green, Elizabeth Bowen, Denise Riley, W.S. Graham, Tom McCarthy, J.H. Prynne, Sigmund Freud, and Walter Benjamin; filmmakers of interest include Alfred Hitchcock, Charlie Chaplin, Jean Cocteau, Peter Greenaway, and the Marx Brothers.
- *Courses Taught:* Seminars 3, 4, 5, & 6; Lit I; Lit II; ICH.
- *Suggested Topics:* I am happy to work with students on a range of topics related to modern and contemporary literature, particularly theses that deal with aspects of modernism, the avant-garde, or contemporary poetry. I have also recently supervised topics in cultural analysis more broadly, including theses on cinema, pop music, and comic books, and would welcome topics that seriously engage with critical theory. Please note that I run my thesis tutorial as a workshop: students will be required to share their writing with each other on a weekly basis.

Thomas Stapleford

M.Sc., Artificial Intelligence

Ph.D. History of Science

- *General interests:* History of science and technology, esp. social sciences. Twentieth-century U.S. history, and twentieth-century intellectual history more broadly. History of epistemology. Historiography (the philosophy of writing and interpreting history). Statistics and big data.
- *Special interests:* Economic theory, economic policy, and political economy. American political and intellectual history, especially from the late 19th century onward. Science & religion, especially in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Tensions over the role of experts and expertise within democratic politics. Twentieth-century debates about liberal education. Virtue ethics, including work of Alasdair MacIntyre. Continental philosophy

of science (esp. Michel Foucault). Aristotelian ethics, political philosophy, epistemology, and natural philosophy. Catholic social teaching.

- *Courses taught:* Science 1, 2, & 3. All the seminars.
- *Suggested topics:* I would be glad to work with students on any of the above topics, as well as anything related to the natural sciences, social sciences, social theory, or the three Science courses. From the seminars, I am open to most texts from Seminars I, and IV – VI, and could help co-advise a thesis involving Aquinas's views on faith, natural law, or virtue ethics (there are a number of Aquinas experts outside the department who should be part of such a project).