

Michael Szlachta

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

AOS: Medieval Philosophy

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

EMPLOYMENT

St. Francis Xavier University, Department of Philosophy

2024–present	Associate Professor, Tenured
2021–24	Assistant Professor, Tenure Track
2019–21	Assistant Professor, Limited Term Appointment

University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy

2018–19	Lecturer
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EDUCATION

University of Toronto

2012–19: Ph.D., Philosophy

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)

2007–11: B.A., Philosophy (specialist) and Mathematics (minor)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Papers

- (2026) Freedom from the Ground Up: The Intellectualism of Godfrey of Fontaines. In A. Côté, M. Pickavé, and M. Szlachta (eds.), *A Companion to Godfrey of Fontaines*. Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition. Leiden: Brill, 253–279.
- (2026) Quantity and Divine Equality in the Franciscan Tradition. *Recherches de Théologie et Philosophie médiévales* 93 (1), 225–253.
- (2026) The Effort of the Will in Richard Middleton's (Menneville's) *Sentences* Commentary. In M. Michałowska and M. W. Dunne (eds.), *The Will Discourse in Late Medieval Philosophy and Theology*, New York: Routledge, 63–87.
- (2024) The Blind Will is No King: Henry of Ghent's Voluntarism and the Act of Choice. In S. Schierbaum and J. Müller (eds.), *Varieties of Voluntarism in Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy*. London: Routledge, 125–142.

5. (2023) *Huic fictioni non est respondendum*: Thomas Aquinas and the Necessitation of the Will. *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* **97** (3), 311–337.
6. (2023) How Do Intellect and Will Interact? Thomas Aquinas, Godfrey of Fontaines, and the Determination-Exercise Distinction. In M. Michałowska and R. Fedriga (eds.), *Willing and Understanding: Late Medieval Debates on the Will, the Intellect, and Practical Knowledge*. Leiden: Brill, 62–83.
7. (2021) Why Did You Choose That? Choice and Reasons in Peter of John Olivi's *Summa*. In S. Bobillier & R. Thornton (eds.), *Peter of John Olivi: Construction of the Human Person – Anthropology, Ethics, and Society. Acts of the Colloquium of Rome (4–6 October 2018)*. Rome: Editiones Collegii S. Bonaventurae ad Claras Aquas, 155–177.
8. (2020) Godfrey of Fontaines on the Moral Imputability of Exterior Acts. *History of Philosophy Quarterly* **37** (4), 331–349.
9. (2020) Thomas of Sutton's Intellectualist Doctrine of the Will's Self-Motion. *Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy* **8**, 187–220.
10. (2018) Peter John Olivi, Free Will, and the Threefold *aspectus*. *Recherches de Théologie et Philosophie médiévales* **85** (2), 285–307.
11. (in prep., to appear in a Festschrift for Peter King) Searching for the Will: A Brief Chapter in the History of *voluntas*.
12. (in prep.) *Dominium* and Negative Opposites in Thomas Aquinas and His Early Commentators.

Editions

1. (2026) ed. with A. Côté and M. Pickavé, *A Companion to Godfrey of Fontaines*. Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition. Leiden: Brill. With contributions by Andrea Aiello, Elsa Marmursztejn, Silvia Donati, Giorgio Pini, David Piché, Marialucrezia Leone, Peter King, and Alban Grandjean.
2. (2023) ed., *Later Medieval Psychology: Deliberation, Love, and Mental Causation*. Special Issue of *History of Philosophy Quarterly* **40** (2), 105–190. With contributions by Sonja Schierbaum, Tobias Hoffmann, and Can Laurens Löwe.

Reviews

1. (submitted) Robert Pasnau. *Construire la volonté. Débats sur le libre arbitre à la fin du Moyen Âge*. Paris: Vrin, 2025. *Journal of the History of Philosophy*.
2. (2026) ed. Monika Michałowska and Michael W. Dunne, *Richard FitzRalph on the Will and Instantaneous Volition: A Critical Edition of Book I, Question 10 from Richard FitzRalph's Lectura in Sententias* (Studien und Texte zur Geistesgeschichte des Mittelalters 137). Leiden: Brill, 2025. *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* **34** (4), 886–891.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

- 09/2026 This or That: Freedom and Negative Opposites in the Late Thirteenth Century, *Willing Evil and Willing Non-Existence: Negative Aspects of Free Will in the Middle Ages and Beyond*, Medical University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland
- 07/2026 A Brief History of the Will: Augustine, Anselm, and Abelard. *Classics for Classics*. St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Canada

- 03/2026 A Plausible Voluntarist Model of Choice, *Online Seminar Series: Late Medieval Ethics and the Will*, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Ireland & Medical University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland
- 12/2025 A Plausible Voluntarist Model of Choice, Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea
- 09/2024 Comment on J. Toivanen, *University of Toronto Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy*, Toronto, Canada
- 06/2024 Franciscan Voluntarists and the *Conatus Voluntatis*, *The Will – Discourse in the Late Middle Ages*, Medical University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland
- 09/2023 Speaking from the Heart: St. Augustine Against Lying, *Theology on Tap*, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Canada
- 05/2022 Freedom from the Ground Up: The Intellectualism of Godfrey of Fontaines, *The Philosophical Thought of Godfrey of Fontaines*, Ottawa, Canada
- 03/2022 Wickedness Itself: Augustine and the Logic of Sin, *Theology on Tap*, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Canada
- 02/2022 Comment on A. Martin, *American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting*, Chicago IL, USA
- 07/2021 Willing *per electionem* in Henry of Ghent's Voluntarism, *Varieties of Voluntarism in Medieval and Early Modern Ethics*, Würzburg, Germany
- 11/2019 Thomas Aquinas's Pluralism about Freedom, *Humanities Colloquium Capstone Lecture*, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Canada
- 07/2016 Human Agency in Thomas Aquinas and Godfrey of Fontaines, *uOttawa Summer Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy*, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
- 02/2016 Human Agency in Thomas Aquinas and Godfrey of Fontaines, *Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy Work in Progress Series*, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- 09/2015 Peter John Olivi, Freedom, and the Will's *Dominativus Aspectus*, *The UofT Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy*, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- 05/2015 Finding Unity in Godfrey of Fontaines's Thoughts on Freedom, *Mind, Matter, and Metaphysics: Berlin-Toronto-Groningen Workshop on Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Refereed

- 06/2026 A Plausible Voluntarist Model of Choice, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress* (Symposium: Medieval Ethics and Philosophy of Action), Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada
- 09/2024 Only Beasts Fear Nothing: Philosophical Reflections on Fear and Space Marines in the Horus Heresy, *Warhammer Conference*, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- 06/2021 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*, Medical University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland
- 06/2021 What's Really Doing the Willing? Godfrey of Fontaines and the Challenges of Extreme Intellectualism, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress*, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada
- 07/2019 Immateriality as the Root of Freedom, *International Medieval Congress*, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

- 06/2019 Conditioned Freedom in Thomas Aquinas's *Disputed Questions on Truth, Contingency and Necessity in Medieval and Post-medieval Scholasticism*, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic
- 01/2019 A Challenge for Later Medieval Voluntarism, *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting*, New York NY, USA
- 10/2018 '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*, Rome, Italy
- 08/2018 An Intellectualist Conception of Human Freedom, *The XXIV World Congress of Philosophy*, University of Peking, Beijing, China
- 06/2018 A Challenge for Later Medieval Voluntarism, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress*, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Canada
- 06/2018 Conditioned Freedom in Thomas Aquinas's *Disputed Questions on Truth*, *Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers Annual Meeting*, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal, Canada
- 04/2018 Conditioned Freedom in Thomas Aquinas's *Disputed Questions on Truth*, *Reuniones Filosóficas: Inteligencia y Voluntad en Tomás de Aquino*, Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain
- 03/2018 An Intellectualist Conception of Human Freedom, *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting*, San Diego CA, USA
- 10/2017 An Intellectualist Conception of Human Freedom, *Western Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting*, University of Regina, Regina, Canada
- 05/2017 The First Movements of the Will and the Intellect: A Puzzle in Thomas Aquinas's Moral Psychology, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress*, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
- 03/2017 The First Movements of the Will and the Intellect: A Puzzle in Thomas Aquinas's Moral Psychology, *American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting*, Kansas City MO, USA
- 01/2017 The Role of Meta-Volition in Peter John Olivi's Account of Free Will, *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting*, Baltimore MD, USA
- 05/2016 Godfrey of Fontaines on 'Perfect Knowledge' of the End, *Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress*, University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada
- 03/2016 Body on Body Causation in Descartes, *American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting*, Chicago IL, USA
- 05/2015 Thomas Aquinas and the Power to Do Otherwise, *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting*, Vancouver, Canada

TEACHING

Advanced Major and Thesis Supervisor/Second Reader

- Victoria Cook (Honours BA Thesis, supervisor, StFX, 2025): Moral Malfunction and the Causal Web: Rethinking Responsibility and Punishment
- Matthew Doyle (Honours BA Thesis, supervisor, StFX, 2024): *What Studying AI "Alignment" Can Teach Us About Normative Ethics*
- Olivia Leroux (Advanced Major Research Paper, supervisor, StFX, 2023): *Losing Yourself: The Negative Effects of the Internet on Free Will*

- Kira Tosi (Honours BA Thesis, second reader, StFX, 2023): *The Active Nous and Artificial Intelligence: An Aristotelian Synthesis*
- Marshall Gillis (Honours BA Thesis, second reader, StFX, 2022): *Plato's Eleatic Stranger and the Problem of Being and Becoming*
- Kathryn Gaten (Honours BA Thesis, supervisor, StFX, 2022): *Is the Wanton Destruction of the Non-Living Parts of the Environment Morally Wrong?*²
- Tane Caubo (Honours BA Thesis, second reader, StFX, 2020): *Thomas Aquinas on the Incorruptibility of the Human Soul*

Course Instructor

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|---------------------------|---|
| ▪ Winter 2027 | PHIL366: The Empiricists (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2027 | PHIL231: Love and the Emotions (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2027 | PHIL102: Introductory Philosophy II (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2026 | PHIL365: The Rationalists (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2026 | PHIL101: Introductory Philosophy I (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2025 | PHIL366: The Empiricists (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2025 | PHIL332: Contemporary Moral and Social Issues (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2025 | PHIL102: Introductory Philosophy II (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2024 | PHIL251: Critical Thinking (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2024 | PHIL101: Introductory Philosophy I (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2024 | PHIL342: Logic (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2024 | PHIL362: Philosophy in the High Middle Ages (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2023 – Winter 2024 | PHIL100: Introductory Philosophy (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2023 | PHIL361: Early Medieval Philosophy (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2023 | PHIL399: Directed Reading – Augustine on Truth and Lying (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2023 | PHIL366: The Empiricists (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2022 – Winter 2023 | PHIL100: Introductory Philosophy (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2022 | PHIL231: Love and the Emotions (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2022 | PHIL342: Logic (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2021 – Winter 2022 | PHIL100: Introductory Philosophy (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2021 | PHIL361: Early Medieval Philosophy (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2021 | PHIL366: The Empiricists (StFX) |
| ▪ Winter 2021 | PHIL333: Environmental Ethics (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2020 – Winter 2021 | PHIL100: Introductory Philosophy (StFX) |
| ▪ Fall 2020 | PHIL231: Love and the Emotions (StFX) |

- Fall 2020 PHIL251: Critical Thinking (StFX)
- Winter 2020 PHIL342: Logic (StFX)
- Winter 2020 PHIL362: Philosophy in the High Middle Ages (StFX)
- Fall 2019 - Winter 2020 PHIL100: Introductory Philosophy (StFX)
- Fall 2019 PHIL232: Freedom and Responsibility (StFX)
- Fall 2019 PHIL251: Critical Thinking (StFX)
- Winter 2019 PHIL307: Augustine (Toronto)
- Fall 2018 - Winter 2019 PHIL210: 17th-and 18th-Century Philosophy (Toronto)
- Fall 2018 PHIL341: Freedom, Responsibility and Human Action (Toronto)
- Summer 2016 PHIL100: Introduction to Philosophy (Toronto)

Teaching Assistant

- Winter 2018 PHIL206: Later Medieval Philosophy (Toronto)
- Fall 2017 PHIL275: Introduction to Ethics (Toronto)
- Fall 2015 - Winter 2016 PHIL210: 17th-and 18th-Century Philosophy (Toronto)
- Winter 2015 PHIL206: Later Medieval Philosophy (Toronto)
- Fall 2014 PHIL205: Early Medieval Philosophy (Toronto)
- Fall 2013 - Winter 2014 PHIL100: Introduction to Philosophy (Toronto)
- Winter 2013 PHIL245: Modern Symbolic Logic (Toronto)
- Fall 2010 - Winter 2011 PHIL100: Introduction to Philosophy (Toronto)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- StFX University Research and Publication Award, 2026, \$1,544.30
- Father Ed Gatto Chair of Christian Studies Bursary, 2026, \$1,818
- Father Ed Gatto Chair of Christian Studies Bursary, 2023, \$8,000
- Father Ed Gatto Chair of Christian Studies Bursary, 2023, \$8,000
- SSHRC Connection Grant, co-investigator, 2022, \$20,625
- Dr. Yee Scholarship in Medieval Philosophy, 2017–2018, \$8,480
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2016–2017, \$15,000
- Dr. Yee Scholarship in Medieval Philosophy, 2016–2017, \$8,000
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2015–2016, \$15,000
- Dr. Yee Scholarship in Medieval Philosophy, 2015–2016, \$6,000
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2014–2015, \$15,000
- Dr. Yee Scholarship in Medieval Philosophy, 2014–2015, \$1,994

- Dr. Yee Scholarship in Medieval Philosophy, 2013–2014, \$500
- Dr. Yee Scholarship in Medieval Philosophy, 2012–2013, \$5,000

SERVICE

To the Profession

- Co-organizer (with M. Pickavé), Symposium, *Medieval Ethics and Philosophy of Action*, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting 2026
- Advisor to the Chair of the Program Committee, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting 2024
- Chair, Program Committee, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting 2023
- Co-organizer (with A. Côté and M. Pickavé), Workshop, *The Philosophical Thought of Godfrey of Fontaines*, Ottawa, 2022
- Co-organizer (with A. Martin), Symposium, *Medieval Philosophy: Emerging Research in Canada*, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting 2022
- Member, Faculty Essay Prize Subcommittee, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting 2022
- Member, Program Committee, Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting 2022 (Ancient & Medieval Philosophy)
- Referee, *Canadian Philosophical Association; Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy; History of Philosophy & Logical Analysis; Res Philosophica*

To StFX University

- Member, Department of Philosophy Hiring Committee, 2025
- Member, Committee on Studies, Faculty of Arts, 2025
- Member, Jules Léger Committee, 2024–2025
- Member, Review Committee, StFX Undergraduate Student Research Awards, 2022, 2024, 2025
- Secretary, University Faculty, 2022–2023
- Secretary, Department of Philosophy, 2020–2025

To StFX AUT

- Member, Social Affairs Committee, 2026–2029

To StFX Chaplaincy

- Speaker, Men's Weekend, 2024, 2026

REFERENCES

Prof. Martin Pickavé
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Prof. Antoine Côté
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Prof. Peter Eardley
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Prof. William Sweet
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