

PATRICK FISHER

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Education

Ph.D., Philosophy (in progress) Sep 2025 -
Minor in Gender Studies
University of Notre Dame

M.A., Philosophy May 2023
Minor in Women's and Gender Studies
St. Louis University

B.A., Philosophy, Mathematics, and Catholic Studies, *Summa Cum Laude* May 2017
University of St. Thomas (MN)

Areas of Research

Metaphysics, Medieval Philosophy, Philosophy of Mathematics, Feminist Philosophy

Publications

"The Metaphysics of Mathematical Explanation in Science: Platonist and Nominalist Problems and Aristotelian Solutions," *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*, January 2021. Winner of the Karen Chan Young Scholar's Award.

Presentations

"A Better Concupiscence for Gender Studies: Foucault and Augustine on the Divided Soul," Gender Studies Symposium, University of Notre Dame, March 2026.

"The Epistemology of Suffering in Mechthild of Magdeburg: A Medieval Mystic in Dialogue with Audre Lorde," Women's and Gender Studies Brown Bag, St. Louis University, April 2023.

"The Epistemology of Suffering in Mechthild of Magdeburg: A Medieval Mystic in Dialogue with Audre Lorde," Winter Forum of The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Chicago, January 2023. Awardee of the St. John Berchmans prize.

"The Metaphysics of Mathematical Explanation in Science: Platonist and Nominalist Problems and Aristotelian Solutions," American Catholic Philosophical Association Meeting, St. Louis, MO, Nov. 2021. Winner of the Karen Chan Young Scholar's Award.

"The Nature of Mathematical Objects: A Thomistic-Aristotelian Perspective," The Metaphysical Dimensions of Nature, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross & Notre Dame, Rome, Feb. 2017.

“A Thomistic Foundation for Environmental Ethics: Theocentrism and the Cosmic Good,”
American Catholic Philosophical Association, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 2016.

Grants

Collaborative Inquiry Grant (\$1000) Spring 2017
“A Powers Based Account of the Truthmakers for Mathematical Truths”
Mentored by Dr. Timothy Pawl, Professor of Philosophy, UST

Conference Travel Grant (\$1321) November 2016
“A Thomistic Foundation for Environmental Ethics”
American Catholic Philosophical Association Meeting

Partnership in Learning Grant (\$1000) Fall 2016
“Leibniz and Mathematical Explanation in Science”
Supervised by Dr. Thomas Feeney, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, UST

Collaborative Inquiry Grant (\$1000) Fall 2016
“Must Science Lie? Investigating the Necessity of Misrepresentation and the Role of
Idealization in Scientific Modeling”
Mentored by Dr. Peter Distelzweig, Associate Professor of Philosophy, UST

Young Scholars Grant (\$4000) Summer 2016
“The Metaphysical Implications of Mathematical Explanation in Science”
Mentored by Dr. Thomas Feeney, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, UST

Partnership in Learning Grant (\$1000) Spring 2016
“Catholic Engagement in Philosophy of Science”
Supervised by Dr. Peter Distelzweig, Associate Professor of Philosophy, UST

Collaborative Inquiry Grant (\$1000) Spring 2015
“Green Thomism: An Environmental Ethic of Thomas Aquinas”
Mentored by Dr. Gloria Frost, Professor of Philosophy, UST

Academic Service

Referee for *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*

Organizer, Graduate Student Colloquium, Notre Dame Fall 2026 –
Mentor, Undergrad Mentorship Program, Notre Dame Fall 2025 –

Teaching Experience

TA, Intro to Philosophy, with Douglas Portmore, Notre Dame Fall 2025
Philosophy Tutor, Philosophy Department, UST Sep, 2014 – Dec, 2016
Learning Community Leader, Mathematics Department, UST Sep, 2015 – Dec, 2015
Mathematics Tutor, Mathematics Resource Center, UST Sep, 2014 – May, 2015
Statistics Tutor, Disability Resources, UST Sep, 2013 – May, 2014

Honors, Awards, & Scholarships

St. John Berchmans Prize	April 2023
In top three papers at Winter Forum of the Hank Center for Intellectual Heritage. For “The Epistemology of Suffering in Mechthild of Magdeburg: A Medieval Mystic in Dialogue with Audre Lorde”	
Karen Chan Young Scholar’s Award	Nov. 2021
Best paper submitted by scholar under the age of 35. For “The Metaphysics of Mathematical Explanation in Science: Platonist and Nominalist Problems and Aristotelian Solutions”	
Thomas D. Sullivan Medal	Spring 2017
For excellence in an undergraduate philosophy paper. For “The Metaphysics of Mathematical Explanation in Science”	
Delta Epsilon Sigma, National Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient	Fall 2016
Departmental Scholarship, Mathematics	Sep 2016 – May 2017
Departmental Scholarship, Catholic Studies	May 2015 – May 2017
University Honors Student (Aquinas Scholars)	Jan 2014 - 2017
Dean’s List	Sep 2013 – May 2017
National Merit Semifinalist and Scholarship Recipient	Sep 2013 – May 2017

Languages

Latin (intermediate reading), Ancient Greek (intermediate reading)

References

Dr. Gregory Beabout, Philosophy Department, St. Louis University
Gregory.beabout@slu.edu

Dr. Penny Weiss, Women’s and Gender Studies Department, St. Louis University
Penny.weiss@slu.edu

Dr. Gloria Frost, Philosophy Department, University of St. Thomas
fros0034@stthomas.edu