

# JOHN G. BRUNGARDT

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*Last updated December 6, 2018*

## Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of nature  
Philosophy of science (cosmology, physics)

## Areas of Competence

History of philosophy  
Ethics and natural law  
Metaphysics, natural theology  
Logic, humanities, mathematics

## Education

Doctorate in Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, 2016

*Dissertation:* “The *Primum Mobile* in the Thomistic Aristotelianism of Charles De Koninck: On Natural Philosophy as Architectonic”

*Director:* Dr. Richard F. Hassing

Licentiate in Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, 2011

*Thesis:* “Mobiles, Bodies, and the Science of Quantified Motion: *Corpus* in Aquinas’s Exposition of *Physics* VI.4 and in Early Modern Mathematical Physics”

*Director:* Dr. Richard F. Hassing

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts, Thomas Aquinas College, 2008

## Academic Employment

### CURRENTLY

Postdoctoral Researcher, 2017 to present

- *Institution:* Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Santiago, Chile)
- *Title:* Aristotelian Causes in Modern Cosmology? Charles de Koninck’s Philosophy of Science (*summary and narrative on p. 7*)
- *Supervisor:* José Tomás Alvarado (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile); +56 (2) 2354-1466; [website](http://www.johngbrungardt.com); [jalvaram@uc.cl](mailto:jalvaram@uc.cl)
- *Research stays to date associated with the Project:*
  - Hillsdale College (Hillsdale, MI); December 2017
  - The University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN); The Jacques Maritain Center and The Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values, April–May 2018

The Charles De Koninck Project, 2015 to present

- General Editor; <http://www.cdkproject.com>

### PREVIOUSLY

Anthem Preparatory Academy (Anthem, AZ), 2016–17

- Teacher (Algebra 1, Precalculus, Latin)
- *Contact:* Grant Goodrich (Headmaster), +1 (623) 465-4776 – [ggoodrich@anthemprep.org](mailto:ggoodrich@anthemprep.org)

The Catholic University of America (Washington, DC), 2011–14, 2015–16

- Teaching Fellow (The School of Philosophy), full course responsibility  
*Supervisor:* Dr. Herbert Hartmann, +1 (202) 319-6651 – [hartmann@cua.edu](mailto:hartmann@cua.edu)  
*Courses:* PHIL 201, The Classical Mind: The Origin and Growth of Western Philosophy; PHIL 202, The Modern Mind: Philosophy from Descartes to the Present
- Instructor (The School of Philosophy) Summer 2014, 2015, 2016  
*Supervisor:* Dr. John C. McCarthy, +1 (202) 319-5259 – [mccartjc@cua.edu](mailto:mccartjc@cua.edu)  
*Courses:* PHIL 201, The Classical Mind; PHIL 202, The Modern Mind; PHIL 308, The Philosophy of God
- Instructor (School of Arts & Sciences), Spring 2016: HUM 101, Classics in Conversation
- Instructor (Metropolitan School of Professional Studies), 2013–15, Summer 2016; contact +1 (202) 319-5256 – [metropolitan@cua.edu](mailto:metropolitan@cua.edu)  
*Courses:* MPH 201, Modern Philosophy; MPH 311, Contemporary Moral Issues; MPH 330, Philosophy of Human Nature; MPH 490, Topics In Philosophy, The Natural Law: From Classical Theory to Contemporary Issues

Benedictine College (Atchison, KS), 2014–2015

- Instructor in the Department of Philosophy
- *Supervisor:* Dr. Jean Rioux, +1 (913) 360-7567 – [jrioux@benedictine.edu](mailto:jrioux@benedictine.edu)  
*Courses:* PH 175, Principles of Nature; PH 201, Logic; PH 325, Ethics; PH 455, Advanced Logic

## Languages

Spoken: English (*native*), Spanish (*intermediate proficiency*)  
Reading: Latin, French, Spanish, German (*reading proficiency*)

## Fellowships, Grants, Awards

Concurso FONDECYT de Postdoctorado 2017–2020; 3-year postdoctoral research grant  
Catholic University of America First-Year Experience Teaching Fellowship: 2011–2014, 2015–16  
Richard M. Weaver Fellowship, Intercollegiate Studies Institute: 2011–2012  
Quasten Doctoral Fellowship, CUA: 2008–2011  
The Tom and Judy Moore Fellowship Fund, CUA: 2008–2011  
Knights of Columbus *Pro Deo et Pro Patria* Scholarship: 2004–2008

## Current Research & Projects

1. FONDECYT POSTDOCTORADO, Proy. No. 3170446 (*see p. 7*)
2. Review: Javier Novo, Rubén Pereda, and Javier Sánchez Cañizares. *Naturaleza creativa*. Madrid: Rialp, 2018. (In preparation, to be co-authored with Geoffrey Woollard)
3. English translation: Juan Eduardo Carreño. *La filosofía tomista ante el hecho de la evolución del viviente corpóreo: Consideraciones metodológicas y conceptuales para una integración*. Colección del Centro de Estudios Tomistas. Providencia, Chile: RIL Editores, 2017. (In preparation, seeking contract)
4. English edition of the works of Charles De Koninck. (Seeking funding and contracts)
5. Book project, on the Thomistic-Aristotelian philosophy of cosmology. (Under preliminary contract with The Catholic University of America Press)

## Publications

### ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS (MOST RECENT FIRST)

1. “World Enough and Form: Why Cosmology Needs Hylomorphism” (under review)
2. “*Operari sequitur esse* y el principio de acción mínima” (under review)
3. “Hylomorphism in an Unfinished Universe.” (under review)
4. “A Thomistic Reply to Grünbaum’s Critique of Maritain on the Reality of Space.” (forthcoming in the 2018 *Proceedings of the American Maritain Association*)
5. “Is Personal Dignity Possible Only If We Live in a Cosmos?” (forthcoming in the 2018 *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*)
6. “St. Thomas and Modern Natural Science: Reconsidering Abstraction from Matter.” *Cognoscens in Actu est Ipsum Cognitum in Actu: Sobre los Tipos y Grados de Conocimiento*, ed. by Carlos A. Casanova Guerra and Ignacio Serrano del Pozo, 433–471 (Santiago/Valparaíso: RIL Editores, 2018).
7. “Charles De Koninck and the Sapiential Character of Natural Philosophy.” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 90, no. 1 (2016): 1–24. [doi:10.5840/acpq20161570](https://doi.org/10.5840/acpq20161570).

### ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

Contributor to *The New Catholic Encyclopedia Supplement* 2012–13: Ethics and Philosophy. Eds. Robert L. Fastiggi, Joseph W. Koterski, Trevor Lipscombe, Victor Salas, Brendan Sweetman. 4 vols. Detroit: Gale, 2013.

*Two short articles:* “Atomism, Psychological” (I:136–38) and “Explanation” (II:544–46) *Twenty-three 100–200 word entries in vol. III under “Philosophy, Technical Terms in”:* “Apperception” (1160), “Categorical Judgment” (1163), “Category Mistake” (1163–64), “Concrete Universal” (1165), “Criterion” (1167–68), “Evidence” (1172–73), “External World” (1174), “Family Resemblance” (1174–75), “Hypothetico-Deductive Method” (1177–78), “Indexical” (1179), “Inference” (1179–80), “Material Contradiction” (1182–83), “Mental Causation” (1184), “Non-Natural Properties” (1188), “Predicate Calculus” (1191–92), “Prediction” (1191), “Propositional Calculus” (1195), “Representation” (1199), “Statements and Sentences” (1201), “Syntactics” (1204), “Term” (1205), “Type and Token” (1207), “Vicious Circle” (1208)

## Academic Papers and Other Work

### PAPERS GIVEN & CONFERENCE INVOLVEMENT (MOST RECENT FIRST)

1. “The Action and Power of the Universe (Part 2),” First Chilean Conference on the Philosophy of Physics, Santiago & Valparaíso, 30 November 2018.
2. “Is Personal Dignity Possible Only If We Live in a Cosmos?” Plenary Session of The 92nd ACPA Conference, San Diego, 10 November 2018.
3. “The Action and Power of the Universe (Part 1),” Session of The Society for Medieval Logic and Metaphysics, at The 92nd ACPA Conference, San Diego, 9 November 2018.
4. “*Operari sequitur esse* y el principio de acción mínima en la física y cosmología contemporánea.” IV Congreso Internacional de Filosofía Tomista, Universidad Santo Tomas, Santiago, Chile, 17–19 July 2016.
5. “A Matter for Mind: Hierarchy in Charles De Koninck’s Cosmos.” The 2nd International Meeting of the Society of Catholic Scientists, “The Human Mind and Physicalism,” Washington, DC, 8–10 June 2018. (*poster presentation*)
6. “Is There a Straight Line in Space-Time Between Two Thomists? On the Other ‘Debate’ between Maritain and De Koninck.” The 41st International Meeting of the American Maritain Association, “Thomism and Science,” Philadelphia, 1–3 March 2018.
7. “The Relevance of Neo-Aristotelian Formal Causality to the Meta-Law Dilemma in Cosmology.” Satellite Session #39, The Society for the Study of Nature and the Philosophy of Science, The 91st ACPA Conference, Dallas, 19 November 2017.

8. "The Perennial Human Capacity for Natural Science." Invited Comments on Christopher Blum, "Nature & Modernity: Can One Philosophize about Nature Today?," in Session I, "Philosophy of Nature – 1," The 91st ACPA Conference, Dallas, 17 November 2017.
9. Organizer of "Substance, Form, and Theory in Natural Science." Satellite Session #39, The Society for the Study of Nature and the Philosophy of Science, The 91st ACPA Conference, Dallas, 19 November 2017.
10. "La relevancia de la causalidad neo-Aristotélica formal con respecto al dilema meta-ley en cosmología." II Congreso Latinoamericano de Filosofía Científica, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile, 19 October 2017.
11. "¿Una filosofía Aristotélica y moderna de la cosmología? Esquema de investigación y algunos problemas fundamentales." Segundas Jornadas Postdoctorales e Iniciación de Filosofía, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile, 22 June 2017.
12. "St. Thomas and Modern Natural Science: Reconsidering Abstraction from Matter." III Congreso Internacional de Filosofía Tomista, Universidad Santo Tomas, Santiago, Chile, 19–21 July 2016.
13. Participant with scholarship, 6th Annual Philosophy Workshop, "Aquinas on Politics." Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY, 2–5 June 2016.
14. "The Three Universes of St. Thomas Aquinas." In "Philosophy of Saint Thomas Aquinas" Session 392, 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, 14 May 2016.
15. "The Chaste Medieval Friar and the Passionate English Bard on the Sexual Revolution." The 5th Annual Symposium on the New Evangelization, Benedictine College, Atchison, KS, 9 April 2016.
16. "Whether Personal Freedom and Dignity Exist only Because of a Common Good." Presented at "For Freedom Set Free," the 16th Annual Fall Conference of the University of Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, Notre Dame, IN, 20 November 2015.
17. "Contemporary Revivals of the Natural Philosophy of Cosmology." Satellite Session #38, Society for the Study of Nature and the Philosophy of Science, The 89th ACPA Conference, Boston, 11 October 2015.
18. Invited Comments on Peter Koritansky, "A Thomistic Analysis of the Hart-Fuller Debate," in Session VII, "Ethics and Politics," The 89th ACPA Conference, Boston, 10 October 2015.
19. Organizer and Moderator (respectively) of "Cosmology and Natural Philosophy," and "Organisms and Natural Philosophy." Satellite Sessions #28 and #38, Society for the Study of Nature and the Philosophy of Science, The 89th ACPA Conference, Boston, 8–11 October 2015.
20. "Charles De Koninck's Philosophy of Science: Natural Philosophy as Sapiential." The 88th ACPA Conference, Washington, DC. Satellite Session #2, Society for Thomistic Natural Philosophy. 10 October 2014.
21. Organizer of "Aristotle on Wholes, Parts, and Principles" and "Descartes on Wholes, Parts, and Principles." The 88th ACPA Conference, Washington, DC, Satellite Sessions #12 & #26; 9–10 October 2014.
22. Invited Participant, 2014 Liberty Fund and Intercollegiate Studies Institute Colloquium "Liberty and Liberal Education." 24–27 April 2014, Russel Kirk Center, Mecosta, MI.
23. "Why Explain Things with Words?" The Catholic University of America Graduate Philosophy Conference, "Causality and Explanation," 21–22 Feb 2014.
24. Organizer of "Themes in Aristotle's Philosophy of Mathematics." The 87th ACPA Conference, Indianapolis, IN. Satellite Session #25, The Society for the Study of Nature and the Philosophy of Science. 3 November 2013.
25. "Cosmic Place and Time in Aristotle's *Physics* as Clues About the First Moved Mover." The 87th ACPA Conference, Indianapolis, IN. Satellite Session #12, The Society for the Study of Nature and the Philosophy of Science, "Themes in Aristotle's Philosophy of Nature," 1 November 2013.

26. Invited Participant, 2013 Liberty Fund and Intercollegiate Studies Institute Colloquium “Liberty and Liberal Education.” 18–21 April 2013, Russel Kirk Center, Mecosta, MI.
27. “The Existence of the *Primum Mobile* in Medieval and Modern Science.” The 86th ACPA Conference, Los Angeles, CA. Satellite Session #23, Thomas Aquinas College, “Aristotelian Natural Philosophy,” 3 November 2012.
28. “The End of Life and Biology as We Know It.” 2012 West Coast Meeting of the Society for Aristotelian Studies, 14 June 2012.
29. “St. Thomas’ Teleology of the Passions Belonging to the Human Person as One Substance and *Imago Dei*.” 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, 10 May 2012.
30. “St. Thomas’ Teleology of the Emotions of the Human Person.” The Catholic University of America Graduate Philosophy Conference, “Emotion,” 31 March 2012.

## LECTURES &amp; TALKS (MOST RECENT FIRST)

1. “St. Thomas Paving the Way for Cosmology.” Lecture for The Hillsdale Catholic Society, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI, 11 April 2018.
2. “Making Images of the Cosmos.” Lecture at Anthem Preparatory Academy, Anthem, AZ, 9 Jan 2018.
3. “Making Worlds: A Symposium at Anthem Preparatory Academy.” Organizer and presenter with Dr. Andrew Seeley and Anthem Preparatory Academy, Anthem, AZ, 8–9 Jan 2018.
4. “Brother Thomas and the Universe.” Lecture for the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, Ann Arbor, MI, 6 Dec 2017.
5. “Common Sense, Science, and the Pursuit of Wisdom.” Lecture for The Hillsdale Catholic Society, Hillsdale College, MI, 5 Dec 2017.
6. “The Social Contract Theories of Hobbes and Locke.” Undergraduate lecture at the Faculty of Law, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Santiago, Chile), 28 August 2017.
7. “God’s Existence and Science.” Talk for St. Dominic’s Young Adult Group, Washington, DC, 9 June 2016.
8. “Dr. Descartes and the Infinite, Transhuman, American Dream.” Catholic University of America, FYE Speaker Series, 3 Feb 2016.
9. “Dusty Doctrines.” Catholic University of America, FYE Speaker Series, 5 Feb 2014.
10. “What is Leisure?” Tenley Study Center, Washington DC, 17 April 2013.
11. “The Soul & Immateriality.” Tenley Study Center, Washington DC, 13 March 2013.
12. “Dusty Doctrines.” Catholic University of America, FYE Speaker Series, 7 Nov 2012.

## SELECTED ESSAYS IN NON-ACADEMIC JOURNALS

1. “Ah, to Live in a Cosmos Again!” *Church Life Journal*, 19 September 2018; [link](#).
2. “The Difference Between Ivory-Tower and Street-Level Scientism.” *Ethika Politica*, 14 November 2014; [link](#).

TRANSLATIONS (*available by request unless otherwise noted*)

1. De Koninck, Charles. “Every Contingent Opposed to the Necessary Implies a Relationship to the Good.” Translation of French original from *Laval théologique et philosophique* 24.2 (1968): 201–214.
2. De Koninck, Charles. “On Tolerance: The Benignity of the Christian.” Translation of French original from *Itinéraires* 66 (1962): 189–196.

**Journals Refereed:** *Studia Neoaristotelica*

### **Academic Memberships**

American Catholic Philosophical Association  
American Maritain Association  
Society for Aristotelian and Thomistic Studies  
Scholar Associate of the Society of Catholic Scientists ([link](#))  
Affiliate Member of The Sacra Doctrina Project ([link](#))

### **Academic Committees**

The Catholic University of America, Graduate Student Association Senator (2015–16)

### **Professional References**

Dr. Richard F. Hassing (CUA), dissertation director; [hassing@cua.edu](mailto:hassing@cua.edu) — (202) 319-6657  
Dr. Jean C. De Groot (CUA), dissertation reader; [degroot@cua.edu](mailto:degroot@cua.edu) — (202) 319-6647  
Dr. Kevin White (CUA), dissertation reader; [whitek@cua.edu](mailto:whitek@cua.edu) — (202) 319-6658  
Dr. Herbert Hartmann (CUA), teaching supervisor; [hartmann@cua.edu](mailto:hartmann@cua.edu) — (202) 319-6651  
Dr. Jean Rioux (Benedictine), philosophy chair; [jrioux@benedictine.edu](mailto:jrioux@benedictine.edu) — (913) 360-7567  
Dr. José Tomás Alvarado (PUC, Chile), postdoctoral research supervisor; [jalvaram@uc.cl](mailto:jalvaram@uc.cl)

FONDECYT POSTDOCTORADO No. 3170446

**Aristotelian Causes in Modern Cosmology? Charles de Koninck's Philosophy of Science**

The project generally is concerned with the philosophy of modern cosmology. As such, it involves current issues in ontology, epistemology, and the philosophy of science. In particular, the project aims to address whether an updated Thomistic-Aristotelian philosophy of cosmology is a promising and necessary resolution to current problems in the field. As the title of the project suggests, my methodology is to look for what insight Aristotle's four causes, broadly interpreted, can yield. The project also takes its starting points from my previous dissertation work on the philosophy of science of Charles De Koninck. However, as the project has developed, I now include contemporary analytic philosophy, power ontology, and the "new Aristotelianism" in the philosophy of nature and science. The nature of this project is full-time research, although I plan to teach part-time in early 2019.

The first year of the postdoc was focused on familiarizing myself with this new realm of literature. I attended a workshop in the philosophy of relativity in Tübingen, Germany, and lectured at various conferences and colleges. The principal papers produced were a comparison of Adolf Grünbaum and Charles De Koninck's critiques of Jacques Maritain's views on the reality of physical space (forthcoming in the *2018 Proceedings of the American Maritain Association*), and a paper relating human dignity to man's place in the cosmos: "Is Personal Dignity Possible Only If We Live in a Cosmos?" (forthcoming in the *2018 Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*). Apart from these academic meetings, I was also able to present my work to undergraduate and non-specialist audiences, as well as co-lead a seminar and lecture at a public charter school in the US.

The second year, currently in progress, began with a research stay at the Jacques Maritain Center and John Reilly Center at the University of Notre Dame. There, I researched for two papers currently under review; the first, "Hylomorphism in an Unfinished Universe," considers De Koninck's arguments for hylomorphism in his unpublished monograph *The Cosmos* and their relevance for the contemporary philosophy of science. The second, "World Enough and Form: Why Cosmology Needs Hylomorphism," proposes a systematic blueprint for the hylomorphic grounds of modern cosmology. I have also participated in conferences at the Catholic University of America, including a poster presentation at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Society of Catholic Scientists. I was recently named a "Scholar Associate" by the board of that organization.

The remainder of the postdoc will be occupied with seeing the remainder of the project through. Currently in drafts is a paper on the principle of least action (shorter versions were previously presented at conferences). I also have in research and partial drafts papers on a Thomistic approach to a definition of the universe, the ontology of spacetime, and the philosophy of cosmology in general. Further research plans include articles on contingency and efficient causality in modern cosmology, the Thomistic philosophy of evolution, and the cosmological anthropic principle and fine-tuning in the cosmos.

The project has provided me with the opportunity to lay the groundwork for other pursuits that will occupy me after the project is over. I am translating a book, from Spanish into English, *La filosofía tomista ante el hecho de la evolución del viviente corpóreo* (RIL Editores, 2017), a book on the Thomistic philosophy of evolution written by a Chilean professor, Juan Eduardo Carreño. In addition, I will continue to prepare the translation and edition of the works of Charles De Koninck in English (a version in Spanish is also a possibility). Finally, I have a preliminary agreement with CUA Press for a book on the philosophy of cosmology, a future fruit of my postdoctoral project.