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## NATHANIEL EDWIN (NATE) BULTHUIS

### APPOINTMENTS

**COLGATE UNIVERSITY** (Hamilton, New York)

2016-present. Visiting Assistant Professor. Department of Philosophy.

**UNIVERSITY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS** (Beijing, China)

Summer 2016. Visiting Professor. UIBE Summer School.

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY** (Ithaca, New York)

2015-2016. Visiting Assistant Professor. Sage School of Philosophy.

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY** (Ithaca, New York)

2014-2015. *The Philosophical Review* Lecturer. Sage School of Philosophy.

### EDUCATION

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

Ph.D., Philosophy 2014

M.A., Philosophy 2012

**YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL**

M.A.R., summa cum laude, Philosophical Theology 2008

**CALVIN COLLEGE**

B.A., Religion/Theology (Honors) & Political Science (Honors) 2005

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Medieval Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

### AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Language, Ancient Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind

### PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming. 'Propositions.' In Richard Cross and JT Paasch (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Medieval Philosophy*. New York: Routledge.

2017. 'John Buridan on Universals.' In Fabrizio Amerini, Laurent Cesalli and Alessandro Conti (eds.), *Universals in the Fourteenth Century*. Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore.

2016. 'The Motivations for Walter Burley's Theory of the Proposition.' *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 24, 1057–1074.

2016. 'Properties in Walter Burley's Later Metaphysics.' In Christian Rode (ed.), *Responses to Ockham*. Leiden: Brill.

2012. 'A Puzzle about Divine Personhood in *De Trinitate*, VII and VIII.' *Medioevo* 37, 57–82.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

2017. 'Review of Margaret Cameron and Robert J. Stainton (eds.), *Linguistic Content: New Essays on the History of Philosophy of Language*.' *Philosophical Review* 172, no. 4: 536-541.
2013. 'Review of Hugh McCann, *Creation and the Sovereignty of God*.' *The Review of Metaphysics* 67, no. 1, 180-82.

## **IN PROGRESS**

- 'Walter Burley on Scientific Knowledge: Content, Concepts and the Individuation of Thought.'
- 'Concepts and Mental Acts in Walter Burley's Philosophy of Mind'
- 'Referring to Fictions: Direct Reference and Objective Being in Early 14<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy.'
- Walter Burley on the Metaphysics of the Proposition and Its Relation to Language and Thought* [Book Project]

## **PRESENTATIONS**

2017. 'Tools from the Philosopher's Lab.' Arts and Humanities Colloquium, with Karin Nisenbaum and Reid Blackman. Colgate University, September.
2017. 'Objective Propositions in Walter Burley's *Super artem veterem*.' Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. Brooklyn, June.
2015. 'Walter Burley on the Nature of Logic: Some Initial Observations.' Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. Ithaca, May-June.
2015. 'Supposition and the Semantics of Mental Sentences in Walter Burley.' Wyclif and the Realist Tradition in 14<sup>th</sup> c. Logic. Arché, St. Andrews, May.
2014. 'Walter Burley on Mental Language.' Central APA, Chicago, March.
2013. 'Walter Burley on the Real Proposition.' Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy. Ithaca, June.
2013. 'Rescuing Rule-following: How Dispositionalism Can Help with Rule-following Primitivism.' Pacific APA, San Francisco, March.
2013. 'A Problem of Material Supposition in the Semantics of Walter Burley.' Central APA, New Orleans, February
2012. 'Opacity, Belief and Demonstrative Science: Walter Burley on Propositional Attitudes and Attitude Reports.' Cornell Philosophy Workshop. Ithaca, November.
2012. 'Cognitive-Realist Accounts of Propositional Content in the Fourteenth Century.' NYU/CUNY/Columbia Philosophy of Language Workshop. Manhattan, October.
2012. 'Walter Burley on the Language of Thought.' The University of Toronto Colloquium in Mediaeval Philosophy. Toronto, September.

## **FORMAL WORKSHOPS**

Bonn/Cornell Workshop Series on Augustine's *De trinitate*

2011. *De trinitate* 14.8.11-10.13, King's College London, February.

2009. *De trinitate* 12.1.1-4, Cornell University, October.

Cornell/UMass/Vermont Augustine Lectio

2010. *De magistro*, Cornell University, May.

2009. *De quantitate animae*, University of Massachusetts, May.

## **TEACHING**

Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

2018. Philosophy of Language.

2018. Ancient Philosophy.

2017. Seminar: Divine Simplicity.

2017. Logic.

2017. Philosophy of Language.

2017. Medieval Philosophy.

2016. Introduction to Philosophical Problems.

2016. Philosophy of Religion.

University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China

2016. Modern Philosophy.

2016. Ancient Philosophy.

2016. Introduction to Philosophy.

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

2016. Reason and Religion.

2016. Modern Philosophy.

2015. Seminar: Aquinas's Philosophical Theology.

2015. Medieval Philosophy.

2015. Introduction to Philosophy.

2015. Persons: Human, Divine and Other.

2014. Introduction to Philosophy.

2014. Persons: Human, Divine and Other.

2013. The (Ir)Rationality of Religious Belief.

2012. The (Ir)Rationality of Religious Belief.

Training:

2013–2014. Certified in *Creating an Engaging Classroom*, Center for Teaching Excellence, Cornell University. Fall 2013–Fall 2014

2012. Writing 7100: Teaching Writing, Cornell University. Summer.

## **OTHER PROJECTS**

*Translation of Richard Brinkley's Summa Logicae, British Academy, Fall 2015-present*

Part of the British Academy's project to produce a complete critical edition of Richard Brinkley's (died c. 1379) *Summa Logicae*. Currently, two scholars (Laurent Cesalli and Joël Lonfat) are editing a critical edition of the *Summa*. My work involves producing an English translation of the critical edition. Brinkley's work is largely nominalist in approach, but he appears to introduce a novel account of sentential meaning.

*Developing a Medieval Philosophy of Language Postgraduate Curriculum, University Grants Commission, Government of India, Summer 2014-Spring 2016*

A project to develop two teaching modules (~8000 words each) on medieval philosophy of language: one on the concept of signification, and the other on the concept of supposition. This project is part of the Indian government's University Grants Commission e-PG Pathshala program, which is intended to standardize graduate school materials across India's public universities, and to provide electronic access to those materials for graduate students in rural and otherwise underdeveloped communities.

*Transcription of Burley's Expositio super artem veterem, June 2013*

A project to transcribe chapters of Burley's late commentaries on Aristotle's *Categories* and *On Interpretation* – in particular, those chapters in which Burley articulates his theory of the proposition and related matters. The work involved consulting eight manuscripts, spread across Oxford's Magdalen College library and the Bodleian Library, the library at Lambeth Palace in London, and Gonville & Caius's library, Cambridge. Currently, the only readily available edition of these works is a facsimile of a late 15<sup>th</sup>-century printed edition of Burley's late commentary on the "old logic," an edition that (through this project) was found to contain a number of significant errors. Transcribing and assessing these earlier manuscripts are therefore essential to establishing a more accurate text of these commentaries. An accurate text is itself needed in order to correctly understand and assess Burley's later views on various issues in metaphysics, the philosophy of language and the philosophy of mind.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Scholar Pro Bono: Scholastic Philosophy Paper Exchange Network  
The American Philosophical Association  
The Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy  
The Society of Christian Philosophers

#### **DISSERTATION**

*Walter Burley on the Metaphysics of the Proposition and Its Relation to Language and Thought*

I examine Walter Burley's (died c. 1344) account of the proposition. For Burley, propositions—the primary bearers of truth value—are complex entities composed of things (such as Socrates and the property of wisdom) and are structured by the mind's predicating one thing of another. The mind's predicating one thing of another is, for Burley, the exercise of a capacity of the mind to conceive of things' being related to each other in a certain way: for example, to conceive of Socrates' having wisdom. Consequently, for Burley, the truth-aptness of a proposition is not primitive; rather it is explained in terms of the exercise of that mental capacity to represent. My interpretation of the account is starkly at odds with the dominant view in the scholarship. On that view, Burley's account entails that propositions are constituted not by things but merely by one's conceptual states; things rather constitute facts, to which true propositions correspond. But that view struggles to explain Burley's repeated claim that the mind can predicate one thing (*res*) of another, and so produce propositions composed of them. My own interpretation, in contrast, provides a motivated explanation of this and other, similar claims. Interpreting Burley's project in the way that I suggest also gives us a clearer understanding of Burley's unique place in the sophisticated debates about language, mind, and reality distinctive of the first half of the 14th century.

## LANGUAGES

Latin (advanced reading, paleographic skills)  
Greek (intermediate reading)  
French (basic reading)  
German (basic reading)

## SERVICE

Spring 2017. Senior Thesis Committee Member, Alex Pustelnyk, 'Dismantling Philosophical Doctrine: A Flexible Reading of the Tractatus,' Colgate University  
2012–2013. Graduate Student Representative to Faculty, Cornell University.  
2010–2011. Chair, Metaphysics, Epistemology and Language Committee, Cornell Graduate Student Visiting Philosopher Speaker Series

## AWARDS & HONORS

2013–2014. Sage Fellowship, Cornell University  
2009–2013. Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education  
2008–2009. Sage Fellowship, Cornell University  
2007–2008. Paul L. Holmer Scholarship, Yale Divinity School  
2001–2005. Calvin College Presidential Scholarship, Calvin College  
2004–2005. Gordon P. Spykman Memorial Scholarship in Theology, Calvin College  
2004–2005. De Kryger-Monsma Memorial Prize for Political Science, Calvin College  
2002–2003. McGregor Student Scholar, Calvin College  
2001–2002. Theodore J. Peters Scholarship, Calvin College

## REFERENCES

Scott MacDonald (Cornell University): [macdonald@cornell.edu](mailto:macdonald@cornell.edu)  
Laurent Cesalli (Université de Genève): [laurent.cesalli@unige.ch](mailto:laurent.cesalli@unige.ch)  
Derk Pereboom (Cornell University): [dp346@cornell.edu](mailto:dp346@cornell.edu)  
Matti Eklund (Uppsala Universitet): [matti.eklund@filosofi.uu.se](mailto:matti.eklund@filosofi.uu.se)  
Ed Witherspoon (Colgate University; Teaching Reference): [ewitherspoon@colgate.edu](mailto:ewitherspoon@colgate.edu)