

# SYDNEY PENNER

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

203 Hutchins Dr., Wilmore, KY 40390  
sfp@sydneypenner.ca  
<http://www.sydneypenner.ca>

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**Asbury University**, Wilmore, KY  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Fall 2023–Spring 2024  
**Asbury University**, Wilmore, KY  
Instructor, Fall 2013, Spring 2015–Spring 2023  
**University of Kentucky**, Lexington, KY  
Instructor, Spring 2016  
**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Fall 2014  
**The Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Spring 2014  
**Merton College**, Oxford, UK  
Junior Research Fellow, 2010–2013

## EDUCATION

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY, USA  
Ph.D., Philosophy, May 2011  
Dissertation Title: ‘Francisco Suárez on Practical Reason and Action’  
Dissertation Committee: Scott MacDonald (chair), Andrew Chignell,  
Terence Irwin, and Sukjae Lee  
M.A., Philosophy, January 2009  
**University of Oxford**, Oxford, UK  
Visiting student, Hilary Term 2008  
**Yale University**, New Haven, CT, USA  
B.A., History and Philosophy (*magna cum laude*), June 2005  
History thesis: ‘Sixteenth-Century Anabaptists and the Miraculous’  
Advisor: Carlos M. N. Eire  
Philosophy thesis: ‘Kant on the Emotions’  
Advisor: Michael Weber  
**Acadia University**, Wolfville, NS, Canada  
History and Philosophy, 2001–03  
**Rosedale Bible College**, Irwin, OH, USA  
A.A. in Biblical Studies, May 2001

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Medieval, Early Modern

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AREAS OF COMPETENCE	Ancient, Ethics, Metaphysics, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Religion
BOOKS	<i>Suárez's Metaphysical Disputations: A Critical Guide</i> , edited with Shane Duarte (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025)
ACADEMIC PAPERS	<p>'Hurtado on Concurrentism and the Individuation of Effects', in <i>Hurtado and the Matrix of Baroque Scholasticism</i>, edited by Daniel D. Novotný and Lukáš Novák, forthcoming</p> <p>'Suárez on the Origin of Falsity', in <i>Suárez's Metaphysical Disputations: A Critical Guide</i>, edited by Shane Duarte and Sydney Penner (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025), 87–104</p> <p>'Making Use of the Testimonies: Suárez and Grotius on Natural Law', <i>Grotiana</i> 41 (2020): 108–36</p> <p>'Debates about the Will and Its Freedom', in <i>Philosophy of Mind in the Late Middle Ages and Renaissance</i>, edited by Stephan Schmid (London: Routledge, 2019), 144–64</p> <p>'Early Modern Scotists and Eudaimonism: The Affection for Advantage and the Affection for Justice', <i>American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly</i>, 93.2 (2019): 227–50</p> <p>'Suárez on Substantial Forms: A Heroic Last Stand?', in <i>Francisco Suárez (1548-1617): Jesuits and the Complexities of Modernity</i>, edited by Robert Aleksander Maryks and Juan Antonio Senent de Frutos (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 46-71</p> <p>'Four Kinds of Intention: Actual, Habitual, Virtual, and Interpretative', <i>Pensamiento</i> 74 (2018): 91–121</p> <p>'Free Will', in <i>The Routledge Companion to Sixteenth Century Philosophy</i>, edited by Benjamin Hill and Henrik Lagerlund (New York: Routledge, 2017), 493–515</p> <p>'Why Do Medieval Philosophers Reject Polyadic Accidents?', in <i>The Metaphysics of Relations</i>, edited by Anna Marmodoro and David Yates (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 55–79</p> <p>'Final Causality: Suárez on the Priority of Final Causation', in <i>Suárez on Aristotelian Causality</i>, edited by Jakob Leth Fink (Leiden: Brill, 2015), 121–48</p> <p>'Free and Rational: Suárez on the Will', <i>Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie</i> 95, no. 1 (2013): 1–35</p> <p>'Suárez on the Reduction of Categorical Relations', <i>Philosophers' Imprint</i>, 13, no. 2 (2013): 1–24</p> <p>'Rodrigo de Arriaga on Relations', <i>The Modern Schoolman</i> 89, no. 1–2 (2012): 25–46</p> <p>'Swiss Anabaptists and the Miraculous', <i>Mennonite Quarterly Review</i> 80 (2006): 207–28</p>

TRANSLATIONS	<p>'Francisco Suárez (1548-1617): <i>On Free-Will</i>, in <i>Philosophy in the Renaissance: An Anthology</i>, edited by Paul Richard Blum and James G. Snyder (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2023), 333–349</p>
ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES	<p>'Suárez, Francisco', <i>The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion</i>, edited by Stewart Goetz and Charles Taliaferro (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley &amp; Sons, 2021.)</p> <p>'Scholasticism and Aristotelianism: Fourteenth to Seventeenth Centuries', in <i>Oxford Bibliographies in Renaissance and Reformation</i>, edited by Margaret King. 2019. DOI: 10.1093/obo/9780195399301-0419.</p> <p>'Francisco Suárez (1548-1617)', <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, edited by James Fieser and Bradley Dowden (2015)</p> <p>'Relation', <i>New Catholic Encyclopedia</i>, Supplement 2012–13 (Detroit: Gale, 2013), vol. 4, 1319–22</p>
BOOK REVIEWS	<p>Review of <i>Ens rationis from Suárez to Caramuel: A Study in Scholasticism of the Baroque Era</i>, by Daniel D. Novotný, forthcoming in the <i>British Journal for the History of Philosophy</i></p> <p>Review of <i>The Political Morality of the Late Scholastics: Civic Life, War and Conscience</i>, by Daniel Schwartz, <i>Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews</i> 2020</p> <p>Review of <i>After Certainty: A History of Our Epistemic Ideals and Illusions</i>, by Robert Pasnau, <i>Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews</i> 2018</p> <p>Review of <i>Universals in Second Scholasticism</i>, by Daniel Heider, <i>Journal of Jesuit Studies</i> 2.2 (2015): 314–16</p> <p>Review of "Auctoritas omnium legum": Francisco Suárez's <i>De legibus zwischen Theologie, Philosophie und Jurisprudenz</i>, edited by O. Bach, N. Brieskorn, and G. Stiening, <i>Renaissance Quarterly</i> 67 (2014): 649–51</p> <p>Review of <i>Metaphysical Themes, 1274–1671</i>, by Robert Pasnau, <i>The Philosophical Review</i> 123 (2014): 107–12</p> <p>'"The Pope and Prince of All the Metaphysicians": Some Recent Works on Suárez', <i>British Journal for the History of Philosophy</i>, 21, no. 2 (2013): 393–403 (essay reviewing four recent books on Suárez)</p> <p>Review of <i>Suarezismus. Erkenntnistheoretisches aus dem Nachlass des Jesuitengenerals Tirso Gonzáles de Santalla (1624–1705)</i>, by Sven K. Knebel, <i>Journal of the History of Philosophy</i> 50 (2012): 459–60</p>
AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS	<p>NEH Summer Institute (Between Medieval and Modern: Philosophy from 1300-1700), 2015</p> <p>Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy Founders Award, 2010</p> <p>Cornell University Sage Fellowship, 2005–2006, Spr. 2008, and Spr. 2009</p> <p>Andrew D. White Prize (for best senior essay in European history), 2005</p> <p>Mellon Research Grant, 2004</p> <p>Honours Summer Research Award, 2003</p> <p>E. Blanche Thomas History Prize, 2002</p>

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Kirkconnell Scholarship, 2002  
Traditio (Pew Younger Scholars), 2002

PRESENTATIONS

- 'Suárez on Substantial Forms and Substantial Unities: Innovator or Traditionalist?', HOPR, University of California, San Diego, November 2025
- 'Heavenly Hugs, Acapella, and Nutritionless Food: Suárez on Avoiding the "Excessively Material" '
- Pasmaupalooza 2025, University of Colorado, Boulder, February 2025
  - Kentucky Analytic Theology Seminar, January 2025
- 'Some Questions about the *Imago Dei*', Kentucky Analytic Theology Seminar, April 2024
- 'Suárez on Truth, Goodness, and Relations', APA Central, February 2024
- 'Suárez on the Origin of Falsity', *Francisco Suárez: Philosopher at the Crossroads*, University of Toronto, October 2023
- 'An Exercise in Conceptual Archaeology: A Curious Argument in Suárez for Why Absolutely Nothing Can Happen Without God's Help', Asbury University Faculty Brown Bag, October 2022
- 'A Suárezian Response to Malebranche's No-Necessary Connection Argument for Occasionalism', Kentucky Philosophical Association, 2022 Meeting
- 'Suárez on Substantial Forms and Substantial Unities', *Francisco Suárez: Predecessors and Successors*, Loyola University, Chicago, April 2019
- 'Making Use of the Testimonies: Suárez and Grotius on Natural Law', *Legal Foundations and Themes in Grotius's De jure belli ac pacis*, University of Leuven, November 2018
- 'A Unified Account of Unified Wholes: Suárez's Arguments for Substantial Forms', *Substance in Early Modern Scholasticism*, University of Groningen, June 2018
- 'Suárez on Substantial Forms: A Heroic Last Stand?', Seville, Spain, June 2018
- 'Final Causes and Divine Actions', *The Morris Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy*, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2018
- 'Medicine or Poison? Aquinas on Lying', Transylvania University, February 2018
- 'Hurtado on the Individuation of Effects', *Pedro Hurtado de Mendoza (1578–1641)*, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czechia, November 2016
- 'Epistemic Conditions on Causation', 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2016
- 'Comments on Suárez, DM 10.1', The Moody Workshop on Medieval Logic, UCLA, February 2016
- '"The Word of God is My Dutch Tube": Geulincx, Occasionalism, and Eudaimonism', *Controversies in Early Modern Psychology*, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, July 2015

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'Suárez and Malebranche on Necessary Causes'  
     - NEH Summer Institute, University of Colorado, Boulder, July 2015  
     - *Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy*, May 2015  
 'Suárez on Mid-level Goods and the Ultimate End', Colgate University,  
     December 2014  
 'Renaissance Debates about the Will and Its Freedom', Berlin, Germany,  
     October 2014  
 'Suárez on Universals', *How Universal are Universals*, University of  
     Cambridge, UK, April 2014  
 'Suárez on the Priority of Final Causation', *APA Central*, February 2013  
 '"An Accident That Is Simultaneously in Two Subjects": Leibniz and  
     Some Predecessors on the Possibility of Two-Subject Accidents', *APA*  
     *Eastern*, December 2012  
 'On Polyadic Accidents', *Medieval Philosophy in the UK Autumn 2012*  
     *Meeting*, November 2012  
 'Aquinas on Lying and Happiness', *Cornell Summer Colloquium in*  
     *Medieval Philosophy*, May 2012  
 'Suárez on Final Causation', University of Copenhagen, February 2012  
 'Interpretative Intention in Suárez', *The University of Toronto Colloquium*  
     *in Mediaeval Philosophy*, September 2010  
 'Termini and Final Causation', Discussion Club, Cornell University,  
     December 2009  
 'Free and Rational: Suárez on the Will'  
     - *APA Eastern*, SMRP session, December 2010 (presented in my  
         absence due to illness)  
     - *Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy*, May 2009  
 'Suárez on Intellect and Will', *Canadian Philosophical Association 53rd*  
     *Annual Congress*, Carleton University, May 2009  
 'Scotus's Two Affections of the Will in the Early Modern Period'  
     - *North Sea Early Modern Philosophy Workshop*, Leiden, February 2009  
     - Department Workshop, Cornell University, February 2009  
 'A Dualism of Theoretical Reason?', Department Workshop, Cornell  
     University, April 2008  
 'Disagreement, Reasonableness, and Epistemic Values', Department  
     Workshop, Cornell University, March 2007

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

**Asbury University, Wilmore, KY**

PHL 231: Ethics, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017,  
     Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022,  
     Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024  
 PHL 441: Philosophical Theology, Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2020,  
     Spring 2024  
 PHL 265 HN: Science, Faith, and Our Place in the Cosmos, Fall 2023  
 PHL 211: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Fall 2019, Spring 2023

LA 100: Liberal Arts Seminar, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2019,  
Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2022  
 PHL 343: Political and Social Philosophy, Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2020,  
Fall 2022  
 PHL 212: Modern Philosophy, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2021  
 PHL 200: Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2020  
 PHL 293: Ethics Seminar with Lab, Spring 2020  
 PHL 393: Believing Responsibly, Spring 2019  
 PHL 322: Metaphysics, Fall 2015

**University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY**

PHI 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2016

**Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**

PHIL 3210: Medieval Philosophy, Fall 2014

PHIL 6210: Medieval Philosophy (Suárez on Causation), Fall 2014

**The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH**

PHILOS 3220: History of Medieval Philosophy, Spring 2014

PHILOS 5850: Philosophy of Religion, Spring 2014

**Merton College, Oxford**

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Hilary 2012, Trinity 2012, Michaelmas 2012

Aquinas, Michaelmas 2012

**Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Oxford**

PHI/5: Ethics and the Good Life, Michaelmas 2011

**Cornell University** (teaching assistanships not listed)

PHIL 1112: The Good Life, Fall 2009 & Spring 2010

**DISSERTATION  
ABSTRACT**

In my dissertation I explore the ethical views of Francisco Suárez (1548–1617), a philosopher who, although widely seen as one of the primary conduits between medieval scholasticism and early modern philosophy and once highly-regarded, has been strangely ignored in recent scholarship. I argue that, contrary to some recent suggestions, Suárez fits into the tradition of Aristotelian eudaemonism, although he develops the view in response to challenges raised by his predecessors.

**SELECTED  
NON-ACADEMIC  
PUBLICATIONS**

‘Why I Believe False Things’, *Mirror* Winter 2023, 4–5

**OTHER ACADEMIC  
EXPERIENCE AND  
SERVICE**

Book manuscript referee: Catholic University of America Press, Leuven  
University Press

Journal referee: *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, *British Journal*

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*for the History of Philosophy, Ergo, Filosoficky Casopis, History of Philosophy & Logical Analysis, History of Philosophy Quarterly, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Journal of the History of Philosophy, Philosophers' Imprint, The Review of Metaphysics, The Review of Politics, The Southern Journal of Philosophy, The Thomist, Tijdschrift voor Filosofie*

Co-organizer of Suárez on relations reading seminar, 2011

Organizer of Malebranche reading group, 2009–2010

Graduate Student Representative, Fall 2008

Indexer for *The Oxford Handbook of Plato* (ed. Gail Fine), Spring 2008

Co-ordinator and co-founder of Cornell's Graduate Student Visiting Philosopher Series, 2007–2009

Job search committee member, Fall 2007

Discussion Club reception organizer, 2005–2006

LANGUAGES

Plautdietsch, English, Latin (reading), German (reading)

REFERENCES

Scott MacDonald (Cornell): scm8 [at] cornell.edu

Andrew Chignell (Princeton): chignell [at] princeton.edu

Terence Irwin (Oxford): terry.irwin [at] philosophy.ox.ac.uk

Sukjae Lee (Seoul National University): leesukjae [at] snu.ac.kr

Cecilia Trifogli (Oxford): cecilia.trifogli [at] philosophy.ox.ac.uk

TEACHING

REFERENCE

Chris Bounds (Asbury): Chris.Bounds [at] asbury.edu