

Marina Berzins McCoy
Professor of Philosophy
Curriculum vitae

Philosophy, Boston College
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140 Commonwealth Avenue, Stokes North, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167

Areas of Specialization: Ancient Philosophy, especially Plato and the sophists

Areas of Competence: History of Western Philosophy; Environmental Ethics

Languages Ancient Greek, French (reading)

Appointments Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Department, Boston College,
fall 2020-present.

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Department, Boston
College, fall 2009-spring 2020.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Department, Boston
College, fall 2003-spring 2009

Adjunct Assistant Professor (full-time), Philosophy Department,
Boston College, fall 1998-spring 2003.

NEH Fellow/ Lecturer, Core Curriculum, College of Arts and
Sciences, Boston University, fall 1996- spring 1998.

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Summer Term, College of Arts
and Sciences, Boston University, Summers 1992, 1993, 1995, 1998.

Educational Consultant and Teaching Fellow, Boston University
Academy, Boston, MA. Designed and taught new philosophy
curriculum for high school students, 1995-96.

Education Ph.D., January 1997; M.A., January 1994, Department of
Philosophy, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Boston
University.

Doctoral Thesis: “Reason, Virtue, and Moral Education: A Study of
Plato’s *Protagoras*.” *Director:* Charles L. Griswold. *Readers:* C.
Allen Speight, David Roochnik.

B.A., June 1990, with College Honors, Major in Psychology, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana.

Selected

Awards ILA major grant recipient, “Environmental Ethics in Dialogue” conference scheduled for September 2025, ILA, Boston College.

First place, Association of Catholic Publishers book awards, General category, for *An Ignatian Guide to Forgiveness*, 2021.

Bronze Medalist, Illumination Book awards, Education category, for *An Ignatian Guide to Forgiveness*, 2021.

Goldsmith Mentor of the Year, Benjamin Mays Mentoring Program, Boston College, 2015.

Inaugural holder of the Albert J. Fitzgibbons Chair in Philosophy (chair initially for junior faculty; automatically expired with tenure), 2007 – 2009.

NEH Core Curriculum Fellowship, Core Curriculum Program, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, 1996-1998.

Teaching Fellowships, Teaching Fellow Prize, Presidential University Fellowship, Boston University, 1990-97.

Phi Beta Kappa, Earlham College, 1990.

Departmental Honors, Honors Thesis, Psychology, Earlham College, 1990.

Publications:

Books

Image and Argument in Plato’s Republic, SUNY Press, July 2020.

Wounded Heroes: Vulnerability as a Virtue in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy, Oxford University Press, 2013.

Plato on the Rhetoric of Philosophers and Sophists, Cambridge University Press, 2008. (Also translated into Portuguese, 2010 and reprinted in paperback).

Popular works

The Ignatian Guide to Forgiveness: Ten Steps to Healing, Loyola Press, December 2020.

“Discernment: A Partnership with God,” *Human Development* 40 (1), 2019, 76-85.

Articles and Book Chapters

“The Capacity to Wonder as a Heuristic Virtue in Environmental Ethics,” *Environmental Ethics*, forthcoming summer 2025.

“Plato’s critique of democracy: *Gorgias* and *Republic*,” book chapter for the *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Greek Political Thought*, ed. Carol Atak, forthcoming.

“Vulnerability, Dialogue, and the Limits of Autonomy,” book chapter for *Platonic Autonomy* (ed Peterssen), Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2025.

“Socratic Midwifery and the Feminine in Plato’s *Theaetetus*,” *The Routledge Handbook of Women and Ancient Greek Philosophy*, edited by Sara Brill and Catherine McKeen, Routledge, 2024.

“Love and Jesuit Pedagogy,” *Church in the 21st Century Resources: Liberal Arts Education, Its Value and Impact*, Summer/Fall 2024 issue, guest ed Elizabeth Shlala.

“Forgiveness and Self-Knowledge in the Case of Höss's Confession,” in *Auschwitz and Absolution*, ed. James Bernauer, SJ, *Orbis* 2023.

“Developing Intellectual Empathy in Service-Learning Courses” for PULSE volume, eds. Eileen and Meghan Sweeney. Co-authored with Mary Troxell (Boston College). Accepted. Editors are seeking a publisher.

“Love and Soul leading in Plato’s *Phaedrus*,” *A Handbook on Platonic Love from Antiquity to the Renaissance* (eds. John Dillon and Carl Sean O’Brien, Cambridge University Press), August 2022.

“İmgeler ve İmgelem Gücü, (Images and Imagination)” translated into Turkish, *Sabah Ülkesi Magazine*, 6/30/2021 issue.

“Myth and Argument in Glaucon’s account of Gyges’ Ring and Adeimantus’ Use of Poetry,” *Logos and Mythos*, volume II (ed. William Wians), 2019.

“Why is Knowledge of Ignorance Good?” *Knowledge and Ignorance of the Self in Platonic Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press), eds. James Ambury and Andrew German, Cambridge University Press, 2018.

“Sophist” entry for *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Literary and Cultural Theory* (ed. Jeffrey DiLeo), 2018.

“Wounded gods and wounded men in Homer’s *Iliad*,” *Exploring Vulnerability*, eds. Heike Springhart and Gunther Thomas, Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2017.

“Rhetoric and Royalty: Odysseus’ presentation of the female shades in Hades,” *Logos without Rhetoric: The Arts of Language Before Plato* (ed. Robin Reames), U. of South Carolina Press, 2017.

“Plato’s *Protagoras*, Comedy, and the Power of *Aporia*,” In *Plato’s Protagoras: Essays on the Confrontation of Philosophy and Sophistry*, ed. Vigdis Sönge-Møller, Springer, 2017.

“Perspectivism and the Philosophical Rhetoric of the Dialogue Form,” *Plato Journal* 16 (2016), 49-57.

“Socrates and Protagoras on Political Rhetoric and Education,” *Studies in Philosophy and Education* 37 (2018), 421-22.

“The City of Sows and Sexual Differentiation in Plato’s *Republic*,” chapter for *Plato’s Animals* (eds. Jeremy Bell and Michael Naas), Indiana University Press, 2015.

“Commentary on Ionescu’s ‘The Place of Pleasure and Knowledge in the Fourfold Articulation of Reality in Plato’s *Philebus*,” *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy* 30 (1), 2015, 33-39.

“Freedom and Responsibility in the Myth of Er,” *Ideas y Valores* special issue (Plato and Socratic Politics) 61 (149), September 2012.

Encyclopedia articles on “Rhetoric” and “Sophists” for *Continuum Companion to Plato* (ed G. Press), Continuum Press, 2012.

"Alcidamas, Isocrates, and Plato on speech, writing, and philosophical rhetoric," *Ancient Philosophy* 29 (2), spring 2009.

"Love and Platonic Transcendence in the Music of U2" in *U2 and Philosophy*, ed. Mark A. Wrathall (Open Court, June 2006).

“Sophistry and Philosophy in Plato’s *Republic*,” *Polis* volume 22(2), 2005.

“Reason and Dialectic in the Argument against Protagoras in the *Theaetetus*,” *International Philosophical Quarterly*, volume 45 (1) (March 2005), 21-39.

“Philosophy, Elenchus, and Charmides’s Definitions of *Sophrosune*” *Arethusa* 38 (2005), 133-159.

“Socrates on Simonides: The Use of Poetry in Socratic and Platonic Rhetoric.” *Philosophy and Rhetoric* vol. 32 (4), 1999: 349-367.

“Protagoras on Human Nature, Wisdom, and the Good: The Great Speech and the Hedonism of Plato’s *Protagoras*.” *Ancient Philosophy* vol. 18, 1998, 21-39.

Selected Reviews Review of Andrea Nightingale, *Philosophy and Religion in Plato’s Dialogues*, for *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, January 2024.

Review of *The Gatekeeper: Narrative Voice in Plato’s Dialogues* by Margalit Finkelberg, *International Journal of the Platonic Tradition*, 2020.

Review of *The Rhetoric of Plato’s Republic* by James Kastely, *Review of Metaphysics*, 2017, 353-4.

Review of *Partakers of the Divine: Contemplation and the Practice of Philosophy* by Jacob Sherman, *Theological Studies* 76 (4), November 2015, 877-8.

Review of *Conversation and Self-Sufficiency in Plato* by A.G. Long, *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 52:4, October 2014, 836-7.

Review of *Plato and the Art of Philosophical Writing* by Christopher Rowe, *Ancient Philosophy*, Spring 2011.

Review of *Philosophy in Dialogue: Plato’s Many Devices* (ed. Gary Alan Scott), *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 51.1, March 2011, 107-9.

Review of *Trials of Reason: Plato and the Crafting of Philosophy* by David Wolfsdorf for *International Journal for the Classical Tradition*, 17.1, March 2010: 118-23.

Review of Scott Schreiber, *Aristotle on False Reasoning: Language and the World in the Sophistical Refutations* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2003), *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 38(1), 2005: 92-5.

**Presentations
(Selected Recent)**

Panel on Chris Higgins's *Undeclared* (on student formation), Sept 2025, (delivered virtually), Boston College.

Commentator, talk by Sonja Tanner "Were Plato's Dialogues Performed?", Ancient Philosophy Society, April 2023.

Invited speaker, "Socratic Midwifery and Barrenness," Universidad Alberto Hurtado (Santiago, Chile, virtual conference), November 2021.

Invited speaker, "Plato on the Rhetoric of Sophists and Philosophers," (virtual), Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, August 2021.

Invited speaker, "Socratic Midwifery" for Routledge Summer Workshop on Women and Ancient Greek Philosophy (virtual), Fairfield University, June 2021.

Invited speaker, "Plato's *Republic* for Today," hosted by the Ancient Philosophy Society, Penn State (virtual), April 2021.

Keynote speaker, J Getty Villa, "Sophocles' Philoctetes: From Wounding to Healing," Getty Foundation, a public talk featured in conjunction with a new production of the *Philoctetes* at the Villa, Los Angeles, September 2019.

Invited speaker, "Vulnerability, Dialogue, and the Limits of Autonomy," Conference on Rationality and Self-Governance workshop, Uppsala University, May 2019.

Author meets critic book panel on my *Wounded Heroes*, Central American Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, February 2019.

Keynote speaker, "Epistemic and Existential Vulnerability in *Oedipus Tyrannus* and Plato's *Apology*," Earlham College undergraduate philosophy conference, December 2017.

Invited speaker, “Epistemic and Existential Vulnerability in *Oedipus Tyrannus* and Plato’s *Apology*,” Providence College lecture series, October 2017.

Invited speaker, “Competitive Views of *Philosophia*: Plato, Isocrates, and Aristophanes,” Conference on Philosophy in its Ancient Beginnings: On the Conceptualisation, Criticism, and Justification of Philosophy in Antiquity, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, July 2017.

Media

Monthly blog author for Loyola Press’s Dot Magis site at Ignatianspirituality.com.

“Is Plato Still Relevant?” *Why?* philosophy radio show, North Dakota, Fall 2024.

“Is Expertise Dangerous?” for *Pulled Up Short* Podcast, with Stanton Wortham and Alexandra Michel, produced by the Lynch School, BC, 2022.

AMDG podcast on forgiveness and politics, December 2020 (<https://soundcloud.com/jesuitconference/why-ignatius-wants-you-to-forgive-with-marina-mccoy>)

Busted Halo interview on forgiveness, December 2020.

Service, University (Recent):

Core Renewal Committee, Boston College, Fall 2021 to present.

Core Renewal Assessments Subcommittee, Fall 2022 to present.

ILA grants board, Boston College, Fall 2023 to present.

Elections Committee, Spring 2024, 2023.

PULSE program advisory board, 2015- present. Regular participant in PULSE spring faculty workshops (May of each year).

Archbishop Romero Scholarship committee, BC, 2012-2017; 2023-24.

Spiritual Director, 2021-22 19th Annotated Retreat, Boston College Center for Ignatian Spirituality. I have at times also been a

companion on Campus Ministry student retreats or met with STM grad students as a director.

Participant in committee on future of student formation in the Jesuit tradition (led by Christiano Casalini, Dennis Shirley, and Margaret Laurence), fall 2018-spring 2020.

Member of Jesuit Institute seminar, “Spiritual Practice, Compassion, and the Transformation of Desire” (led by Prof Robinette), 2016-17.

Participation in a variety of Mission and Ministry programs such as Intersections Civitas lunches, Writing retreat, Nicaragua trip, Thresholds group, and Compañeras pilgrimage.

Service, Department (recent)

I have served as both director of graduate studies, director of undergraduate studies and placement director. I have also served on multiple hiring committees, admissions committees, on the undergraduate studies committee, the placement committee, and previously acted as a liaison to Phi Beta Kappa.

I created and have taught our Departmental Honors course and program and have been involved in two different revisions of the Philosophy of the Person core course.

I have also taught our teaching seminar for graduate students, and I currently am the formal faculty mentor to three other faculty.

Service to the Profession (selected recent):

Editorial board, *Polis* journal, 2013-present.

Co-director, Ancient Philosophy Society, 2020-2023, and member of the board, 2016-2023.

External referee, Canada Research Chairs, 2022-23.

Referee, Madrid Institute for Advanced Study, 2020.

Advisory Board member, Rational Self-Governance grant, Uppsala University, 2017-present.

Manuscript reviewer for various presses including Oxford, Cambridge, SUNY, Indiana, and Northwestern University Presses,

ongoing.

Referee for various journals including *Ancient Philosophy*, *Polis*, *Epoché*, *Journal of the International Plato Society*, *New Political Science*, *Classical World*, *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, *Philosophy*, *Mouseion*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Peitho*, over the years.

NEH Awards Review Panel, “Enduring Questions” grants, fall 2012.

Community

Prison volunteer, Norfolk Correctional Facility, June 2006-March 2020. About monthly, I teach and discuss theology, spirituality, and philosophy with inmates in the Dominican Laity group within the prison.

Regular column writer on the week’s Scripture, parish bulletin, St John Chrysostom Church, West Roxbury.

Women and Faith speaker, “Forgiveness: An Ignatian Perspective”, Randolph, MA, December 2019.

Speaker, “Ignatian Spirituality” Opening fall event, Ignatian Volunteer Corps meeting, Chestnut Hill, MA September 2018.

**Professional
Organizations**

Ancient Philosophy Society
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy
Philosophers in Jesuit Education
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society