

**Holly R. VandeWall**  
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**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

Boston College Associate Professor of the Practice Fall 2008-Present (full-time, non-tenure-track)  
Courses taught: Perspectives in Western Culture I & II; New Scientific Visions I & II; Environmental Ethics; Inquiring About Humans and Nature I & II; Self Knowledge and Reflection: The Experience of Pilgrimage; Philosophy of Science; The Vegetative Soul: A Philosophy of Plant/Human Interaction; Faith, Ethics, and the Sciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**AREA OF SPECIALIZATION**

History and Philosophy of Science, Environmental Ethics

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

History of Ethics, Biomedical and Research Ethics, Science and Religion

**EDUCATION**

**University of Notre Dame**, Notre Dame, IN

Ph.D., History and Philosophy of Science, January 2010

Dissertation Title: *Expertise and the Disunity of Science: A Case Study of the Difficulties of Providing Expert Advice for Policy*. Director: Vaughn McKim

**Pacific School of Religion**, part of the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA

M.A., Ethics; May 2002

Thesis: "Rethinking the Ethics of University Genetics Research" Director: Michael Mendiola

Program Associate for Communications, Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences  
September 2000 - 2002

**Boston University**, Boston, MA

M.A., Science Journalism, December 1999

**Macalester College**,

B.A., *cum laude*, Chemistry and Religious Studies, May 1997

Honors Project "Lost in Translation: an analysis of how science research is transformed by the media"  
Director: A. Truman Schwartz

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS**

*History and Philosophy of Science in Western Perspective: Antiquity to 1900* in three volumes

General Editors: Daniel J. McKaughan and Holly VandeWall Bloomsbury Press. Contract for publication in 2025.

"Inquiring about Humans and Nature: Creativity, Planning and Serendipity" with Min Song

Essay in *Curriculum by Design: Innovation and the Liberal Arts Core* Fordham University Press, 2022

A Chinese edition of *History and Philosophy of Science: A Reader* Co-edited with Daniel McKaughan, published by Beijing Spring Breeze & Rain Culture Co., Ltd, 2020.

*History and Philosophy of Science: A Reader* Co-edited with Daniel McKaughan. Bloomsbury Press, 2018.

"Why Water is Not H<sub>2</sub>O: and other critiques of essentialism from the philosophy of chemistry," *Philosophy of Science*, December 2007

Review of Regan and Worthing Interdisciplinary Perspective on Cosmology and Biological Evolution for *CTNS Bulletin* (Fall 2001).

Review of Conway, Ruth Choices at the Heart of Technology for *CTNS Bulletin* (Summer 2000).

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Panel presentation on *Toward Environmental Wholeness: Method in Environmental Ethics and Science*, Lonergan Institute Conference Boston College November 2023

“Pluralism in Plant Pedagogy” to the Values in Science, Technology and Medicine conference in Dallas May 2023

Invited Talk: “Francis Bacon’s Utopia: Wringing the Good Life out of a Corrupted Creation” Presented to the Perspectives Program at Boston College February 2018-2024

“Intersections Forefront Social” Invited Key Speaker Boston College November 2020

“Formative Education at Boston College” Invited Webinar Panelist September 2020

“A Role for History and Philosophy of Science in the Promotion of Science Literacy” to the Values in Science, Technology and Medicine conference in Dallas May 2019

Poster presentation of “A Role for History and Philosophy of Science in the Promotion of Science Literacy” to the Philosophy of Science association conference in Seattle November 2018

Presentation of “A Role for History and Philosophy of Science in the Promotion of Science Literacy” to the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice conference in Ghent, Belgium June 2018

Invited Talk: “In Praise of Erroneous Models” to &HPS, Edinburgh, June 2016

Presentation of “Knowledge Creation at the Congressional Research Service” to the Consortium for Socially Relevant Science and Engineering, in Dallas, TX May 2016

Presentation of “Knowledge Creation at the Congressional Research Service” to the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice conference in Aarhus, Denmark June, 2015

Invited Talk: “Francis Bacon’s Utopia: Wringing the Good Life out of a Corrupted Creation” Presented to the Perspectives Program at Boston College February 2015

Presentation of “The Epistemic and Pedagogical Value of Overturned Theories in Science” at the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science Conference, University of Ghent, BE June 2014

Invited Talk: “Teaching Francis Bacon to Undergraduates” Presented to Boston College Faculty at the Annual Perspectives Workshop May 2014

“In Praise of Erroneous Models” at the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice Conference, University of Toronto, Canada June 2013

Presentation of “Expertise and the Disunity of Science” at the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice Conference, University of Exeter, UK June 2011

Presentation of “Is Francis Bacon Trying to Put Liberal Arts Educators Out of Business?” at the Association for

Core Texts and Courses Conference, Yale University, April 2011

Presentation of “Environmental Quality and the Quality of Policy Advice: Interdisciplinary Expertise and the Clean Water Act” at the History of Science Policy Advice workshop of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld Germany May 2007

Presentation of “*Interdisciplinary Expertise and Public Policy: A Case Study of the Clean Water Act*” to the International Society for Policy and Social Studies of Science and Technology April 2007

Presentation of “The Understudied Science: challenging the neglect of chemistry by philosophers of science” to the American Chemical Society March 2007

Presentation of “Why Water is Not H<sub>2</sub>O: and other critiques of essentialism from the philosophy of chemistry” to the Philosophy of Science Association November 2006

Presentation of “To the Victor Go the Stories: Perspectives of the Allison Commission” to the International Society for Policy and Social Studies of Science and Technology April 2006

Participant in the Erasmus Institute Graduate Seminar, “The Cultural Context of Environmental Issues: Past, Present, Future” June 2004

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Boston College**, *Department of Philosophy*, Boston, MA. Professor:  
Perspectives on Western Culture I&II 2008-present  
New Scientific Visions I&II 2008-present  
Vegetative Soul: The hidden life of plants 2021-present  
Faith, Ethics and the Sciences in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century 2022-2024  
Environmental Ethics spring 2012  
Inquiring about Humans and Nature, 2015-2018  
Self-Discernment and Reflection: The Experience of Pilgrimage spring 2017  
Philosophy of Science fall 2018  
Advisor of 15 Senior Honors Theses

**University of Notre Dame**, *Science, Technology and Values Program*, Notre Dame, IN. Instructor:  
*Science and Environmental Policy in the United States* Fall 2006 & 2007

**University of Notre Dame**, *Research Experience for Undergraduates Program*, Notre Dame, IN. Instructor:  
*Research Ethics*, June 2006, June 2007

**University of Notre Dame**, *Department of Philosophy*, Notre Dame, IN  
Recipient of the **Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award**, University of Notre Dame, April 2006

Teaching Assistant:  
Ancient Wisdom, Modern Love, (David O'Connor), Spring 2004  
Medical Ethics (David Solomon), Fall 2004  
Philosophy 101 (William Ramsey), Spring 2005  
Science, Technology, Values (Vaughn McKim), Fall 2005  
Philosophy 101 (Marion David), Spring 2006

## TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

Inaugural Faculty Summer Teaching Retreat  
Seminars sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Advising Center including  
“Teaching for Inclusion and Social Justice” Cohort 2021-22 Academic year  
“How to have difficult conversations in the classroom”

“Teaching Through Disruption”  
Indigenous Helpers - Monthly Workshop  
Teaching Seminar for Core Pilot Courses

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Co-convener of the Jesuit Essentials seminar group at Boston College 2017-present  
Morrissey College Educational Policy Committee member 2021-25  
H3 Biomedicine Animal Care and Use Committee, Community Representative 2012-2018  
Boston College Sustainability Council, Member 2009 – 2020  
Philosophy of Science Association, Member: 2004- Present

**LANGUAGES**

Reading proficiency in French and German