

CURRICULUM VITAE

JOHN MATTHEW CONNOLLY
Sophia Smith Professor of Philosophy Emeritus
Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063

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Born: 1943. Married, two children, three grandchildren
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ACADEMIC & ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

- 1.) **Sophia Smith Professor of Philosophy, Smith College, 2011 – 2014 (now emeritus); Five College 40th-Anniversary Professor of Philosophy 2007 – 2010; Professor of Philosophy 1988 – 2011; Department Chairman, 1984-1987, 2004 -06, 2007-08; Director, Ethics Program, 2008-2011.**

Associate Professor, Smith College, 1981 - 1988,
Assistant Professor, Smith College, 1973 - 1981.

Responsible for a wide variety of courses on the history of philosophy, philosophy of mind, philosophical hermeneutics and other aspects of German philosophy, Wittgenstein, medieval philosophy, business ethics, etc. Led effort to revise the departmental curriculum, 1988-89. Devised and have taught novel entry colloquium for the philosophy major. Three times chair of department. Several books and numerous articles, detailed below, some in German language.

- 2.) **Acting President, Smith College, 2001 – 2002.** Chief Executive Officer of college with responsibility for budget of \$140 million, 1200 employees and 2800 students. Led the college through the turbulence created by the events of 9/11/01, and received its highest award for service May 2002.
- 3.) **Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Smith College, 1998 – 2001.** To my previous duties as Dean of the Faculty (see below) were added responsibilities as second-in-command to the President, and oversight of information technology services, the Museum of Art, and the School for Social Work. Smith's first Provost/Dean of Faculty.
- 4.) **Dean of the Faculty, Smith College, 1994 – 2001.** Chief academic officer of faculty with ca. 265 regular members. Chair of academic policy committee; member of tenure and promotion committee; served on president's senior staff, the college budget committee, and the long-term planning committee. Charged with oversight and review (1992-94) of the curriculum, and initiated several major curricular reforms (distribution requirements, student writing, freshman seminars, and first engineering program at a women's college). Cooperated with the president and senior staff on diversity initiatives, including faculty hiring. Helped plan the recent decennial self-study and strategic planning exercise (Smith 2020). Have participated in the college's investment committee and the board of trustees' capital campaign planning group. Have spoken to dozens of groups (alumnae, donors, students, prospects, etc.) about Smith and higher education more generally.
- 5.) **Dean for Curriculum & Faculty Development, Smith College, 1992 - 1994.** First to serve in this new post, charged with a major review of, and principal responsibility for, the College curriculum as well as for faculty compensation and development. Had oversight of extensive faculty development program; initiated ongoing all-faculty lunchtime lecture series (ca. 25 lectures per year since 1992); served on president's senior staff, , the college budget committee, and the long-term planning committee.

6.) **Instructor in Philosophy, Elms College, Chicopee MA, 1971 - 1973.**

EDUCATIONAL RECORD

- 1.) Harvard University, 1968 - 1971, Ph.D., Philosophy, June 1971. Dissertation Title: "Action"
- 2.) Princeton University, 1967 - 1968, Graduate Student in Philosophy
- 3.) Oxford University, Brasenose College, 1965 - 1967, B.A. (M.A.) with First Class Honours in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- 4.) Fordham University, 1961 - 1965, A.B. Summa cum Laude, English major, philosophy and history minors, Honors Program, Junior Class President, VP Student Government, Class Valedictorian.

PUBLICATIONS

A) Books and Published Courses

- 1.) *Philosophische Handlungstheorie I*, Correspondence Course, FernUniversität Hagen (the German national open university) 1982.
- 2.) *Philosophische Handlungstheorie II*, Correspondence Course, FernUniversität Hagen, 1983.
- 3.) *Absicht*, German translation, with introduction (together with Thomas Keutner), of G.E.M. Anscombe's *Intention* (Freiburg: Alber Verlag, 1986,).
- 4.) *Hermeneutics Versus Science? Three German Views*, Essays by H.-G. Gadamer, W.Stegmüller and E.K. Specht, translation with introduction (together with Thomas Keutner), (Notre Dame IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1988).
- 5.) *Philosophische Handlungstheorie, III*, "Menschliches Handeln im Lichte der 'Cognitive Science'," Correspondence Course, FernUniversität Hagen, 1988.
- 6.) *Living Without Why: Meister Eckhart's Critique of the Medieval Concept of Will* (Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2014).

B) Articles, Chapters, and Reviews

- 1.) "A Dialectical Approach to Action Theory," *Inquiry* 19, December 1976.
- 2.) "Adam Smith on Wealth, Power, and Authority," *Proceedings of the Bicentennial Conference on The Wealth of Nations*, Eastern Kentucky University, 1977.
- 3.) "Social Forces, Human Actions," (APA abstract) *Journal of Philosophy*, 1977.
- 4.) "Adam Smith on Wealth and Authority," *Philosophy Research Archives*, 1979.
- 5.) "Praxis and Intention," *Inquiry* 22, September 1979.
- 6.) "Apel and The Transcendental Pragmatics of Human Action," *Inquiry* 24, 1981.
- 7.) Book Review of K.-O. Apel's, *Transformation in Philosophy*, in *Mind*, 90, 1981.
- 8.) "Frege, Sense and Privacy," in *Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Psychology*, eds. R. Chisholm, J.C. Marek, J.T. Blackmore, A. Huebner, Vienna 1985.
- 9.) "Gadamer and the Author's Authority," *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* XLIV/3, 1986.
- 10.) "The Will as Impression," *Hume Studies*, November 1987, 276-305.
- 11.) "Martin Luther and the Hermeneutical Enterprise," forthcoming (Smith College Series in History).
- 12.) "The Significance of Martin Luther: a Reassessment," an address by Professor Heiko Oberman, translated from the German (together with Marianne Kaul-Connolly), forthcoming (Smith College Series in History).
- 13.) "Emotions and the Thought of Nuclear Holocaust," with Elizabeth V. Spelman, in L. Bowie, M. Michaels, R. Solomon, eds., *Twenty Questions*, New York etc. 1988.
- 14.) Book Review of Rüdiger Bubner, *Essays in Hermeneutics and Critical Theory*, in *The Philosophical Review*, vol. C, no. 4, 1991.
- 15.) "Whither Action Theory: Artificial Intelligence or Aristotle?" *The Journal of Philosophical Research*, XVI, 1991.
- 16.) Book Review of *Fathers and Mothers*, 2nd edition, ed. by Patricia Berry, in *Small Press*..

- 17.) "Anomaly and Folk Psychology," *Inquiry*, 36, 1993.
- 18.) "Foreword" to the Korean-language edition of *Hermeneutics Versus Science? Three German Views*, Seoul 1993.
- 19.) "The Academy's Freedom – The Academy's Burden," in P. Rose, ed., *Professorial Passions*, Northampton, MA 1998.
- 20.) "The Academy's Freedom – The Academy's Burden," in *Thought & Action*, XVI, 1, Summer 2000.
- 21.) "Applicatio and Explicatio in Gadamer and Eckhart," in *Gadamer's Century*, eds. Jeff Malpas, Ulrich Arnsward, and Jens Kertscher. Cambridge (MA): The MIT Press, 2002.
- 22.) Book Review of *Das Problem der Willensschwäche in der Mittelalterlichen Philosophie / The Problem of Weakness of Will in Medieval Philosophy [Recherches de Théologie et Philosophie médiéval, Bibliotheca 8*, in the *Review of Metaphysics*, vol. 60, no. 4, 2007.
- 23.) "Eudaimonism, Teleology, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Meister Eckhart on 'Living Without a Why,'" in *Faith and Philosophy*, Vol. 26 No. 3 July 2009, pp. 274-96.
- 24.) "Eckhart and the Will of God: A Reply to Stump," *Medieval Mystical Theology*, 25, 1, Summer 2016.
- 25.) "Tatort Garten Eden: Eigennutz und Individualisierung in der Ursündenlehre Meister Eckharts," *Theologische Quartalschrift*, 197, 1 (2017), pp. 48-71.
- 26.) "Freiheit und Wille bei Eckhart und Kant", *Meister-Eckhart-Jahrbuch* 12, Spring 2018, pp. 293-318.
- 27.) Book Review of Kurt Flasch, *Meister Eckhart: Philosopher of Christianity*, in *The Catholic Historical Review*, Fall 2016, Vol. 102, No. 4, pp. 831-32.
- 28.) "Von den guten wercken": Eckhart und Luther gegen die Werkgerechtigkeit", *Meister-Eckhart-Jahrbuch* 13, Spring 2019, pp. 113-138.
- 29.) "Erlösung in philosophischer Hinsicht: Anselm, Eckhart, Kant", *Meister-Eckhart-Jahrbuch* 15, Spring 2021, 81-108.

Trajectory of my Work

Having begun with the philosophy of human action (the topic of my dissertation), I transitioned to studies of Gadamer and Wittgenstein. It was during my years in the administration at Smith that I came to a deeper appreciation of the great insights of Meister Eckhart, and upon returning to teaching and research in 2002 his work became my focus for some 2 decades. In addition to continuing of my earlier research into Eckhart's critique of the eudaimonist (happiness) tradition in ethics, beginning in 2017 I shifted my focus slightly to the related question of soteriology and a study of various answers to the question raised by Christian philosophers, *Cur deus homo*: Why did God become man? My special interest was, as before, in the work of Eckhart. Having published some 7 or 8 articles and reviews on Eckhart, and having collaborated in Markus Vinzent's new translation of Eckhart's German sermons into English, I decided to end my active scholarly career. Currently I am writing a paper on the philosophy and politics of abortion with a special critical focus on the extreme anti-abortion stance of the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

PAPERS and TALKS GIVEN (selection)

- 1.) "A Dialectical Approach to Action Theory" at (a) Philosophy Colloquium, University of Massachusetts in Amherst, November 1975; and (b) (in a shortened form) the Bicentennial Symposium of Philosophy, N.Y., Oct. 1976.
- 2.) "Adam Smith on Wealth, Power, and Authority," at the Bicentennial Conference: Adam Smith and the Wealth of Nations, Eastern Kentucky University, March 1976.
- 3.) "Actions at a Distance", Symposium on Action, Responsibility, and Blame, California State College at Sonoma, October 1986.
- 4.) "The Social Life of Some Intentions," American Philosophical Association, Western Division Meetings, Chicago, April 1977.
- 5.) "Social Forces, Human Actions," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meetings, Washington, D.C., December 1977.

- 6.) "Social Science, Values and Change - a Commentary," American Philosophical Association, Western Division Meetings, Cincinnati, April 1978.
- 7.) "Ist die Handlungserklärung eine Kausalerklärung?" (in German - translation of title: "Is the Explanation of Action Causal Explanation?") Philosophisches Seminar A, Universität Bonn, June 1980.
- 8.) "Menschliches Handeln Zwischen Theorie und Praxis" (in German - translation of title: "Human Action Between Theory and Praxis"), Philosophisches Colloquium, FernUniversität Hagen, August 1980.
- 9.) "Gadamer and the Author's Authority," Northeast Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, March 1984.
- 10.) "Nishitani and Wittgenstein: a Commentary," Smith-Amherst Conference, "Encounter with Emptiness", April 1984.
- 11.) "Frege, Sense and Privacy," Ninth International Wittgenstein Symposium, Kirchberg/W., Austria, August 1984.
- 12.) "Martin Luther and the Hermeneutical Enterprise," Smith College Symposium in honor of Luther's 500th Birthday, November 1984.
- 13.) "Über den Begriff des Willens bei Thomas von Aquin, Locke, und Hume" (in German - translation of title: "On the Concept of Will in Thomas Aquinas, Locke, and Hume"), Philosophisches Colloquium, FernUniversität Hagen, July 1986.
- 14.) "The Will as Impression," Hume Society Meeting, Edinburgh, August 1986.
- 15.) "Truth Beyond Method: Gadamer on Poetry and Interpretation," Philosophy Colloquium, Hampshire College, April 1988; and at the NEH Institute on Interpretation, University of California at Santa Cruz, July 1988.
- 16.) "Rorty and the Anti-Autonomy Thesis," Conference on the Philosophy of the Human Studies, Philadelphia, February 1989.
- 17.) "Truth Beyond Method," Annual Meeting of the Society for the Philosophy of Creativity, Atlanta, December 1989.
- 18.) "The Myth(s) of Philosophy," Smith Philosophical Society, April 1990, and Alumnae College, May 1990.
- 19.) "How We Got in the State We're in: A Short History of the Smith Curriculum," Liberal Arts Luncheon, Smith College, November 12, 1993.
- 20.) "The Enduring Liberal Arts," Convocation Address, Smith College, 9 September 1994.
- 21.) "Seelye: the Man and the Hall," address on the rededication of Seelye Hall, 4 November 1994.
- 22.) "Favor and Grace," Lecture on the first bestowal of the Charis Medals, Smith College, 17 November 1994.
- 23.) "The Museum of History," Opening talk at the DAAD Symposium, Smith College, 9 January 1995.
- 24.) "The Academy's Freedom, The Academy's Burden," Address in honor of the inauguration of Ruth J. Simmons, Smith College, 29 September 1995; also presented at the NEA 2000 conference, Atlanta, GA, 8 April 2000
- 25.) "To Live with or without a Why? Meister Eckhart versus Thomas Aquinas," Annual Meeting of the Northern New England Philosophical Association, September 2003; also given at the 39th International Congress of Medieval Studies, 7 May 2004.
- 26.) "What is the Problem with Akrasia? A Medieval Perspective," Annual Meeting of the Northern New England Philosophical Association, November 2004;
- 27.) "St. Augustine and Original Sin," Liberal Arts Lecture Series, Smith College, Oct. 15, 2009.
- 28.) "Augustine on the Will, or Why Cooperation Is an *Unnatural* Act," The Five College Jackie Pritzen Lecture 2011, April 5, 2011;
- 29.) "Tatort Garten Eden: Die Ursünde nach Augustinus und Meister Eckhart," Guest Lecture for the *Stiftung Weltweite Wissenschaft*, Guest House of the University of Hamburg, June 25, 2013;
- 30.) "CSI Garden of Eden: Meister Eckhart on the 'Primal Crime'," Presidential inaugural lecture, Smith College, February 10, 2014.
- 31.) "Córdoba: The Spanish Athens?," University of Córdoba, Spain, April 1, 2014.
- 32.) "Tatort Garten Eden: Meister Eckhart über die Ursünde", Max-Weber-Kolleg, Universität Erfurt,

- Germany, June 23, 2015.
- 33) „Freiheit bei Eckhart und Kant,“ Annual Conference of the Meister-Eckhart-Gesellschaft, Hamburg, Germany, March 19, 2016.
- 34) „Von den guten wercken“: Eckhart und Luther über die Werkgerechtigkeit und die rechte Motivation als ‚Brunnen‘,“ Annual Conference of the Meister-Eckhart-Gesellschaft, Munich, March 18, 2017.
- 35) „Erlösung bei Anselm, Kant und Eckhart“, Annual Conference of the Meister-Eckhart-Gesellschaft, Freiburg, March 2019.
- 36) „What If? Meister Eckhart and the 14th-Century Reformation that Wasn‘t”. A 30th Anniversary Liberal Arts Luncheon Talk, 28 April 2022 at Smith College. (The Liberal Arts Luncheon talks were my initiative when I became dean in 1992. Since then there have been more than 600 such talks given by members of the Smith faculty from all divisions, as of 2024.)
- 37) etc.) Scores of talks about Smith College, its founder, and its future to audiences of alumnae, prospective students, parents and donors, both on campus and in cities here and abroad, 1990—2017.

EDITORIAL WORK

I collaborated with Markus Vinzent for more than a year in 2018-19 on the translation into English of 120 Middle-High German sermons by Meister Eckhart. The results were published by Peeters in two volumes in 2019 and 2020.

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

Phi Beta Kappa (1964).
 Danforth Graduate Fellowship, 1965 - 1971.
 Open Exhibition, Brasenose College, 1966 - 1967.
 Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, 1979 - 1980, 1981 – 1982, Universität Bonn, Germany; June-July 2015, Max-Weber-Kolleg, Universität Erfurt, Germany.
 Listings in *Who's Who* (55th edition and ff.), *Who's Who in American Education*, *Who's Who in the East*, and *Men of Achievement*.
 NEH Summer Institute on post-analytic philosophy, 1988, participant, University of California, Santa Cruz
 NEA Democracy in Higher Education Award, 2000
 John M. Greene Award (for outstanding service as interim president), Smith College, 2002
 Fellow, Max-Weber-Kolleg, Universität Erfurt, Germany, Summer 2015, Fall 2018

TEACHING

A) Courses since 1982:

- 1) Basic Philosophical Problems (PHI 111), 1982, 1983
- 2) History of Modern Philosophy (PHI 125), 1983-1985
- 3) A History of Western Ideas (HWI 150), 1985-1989
- 4) Recent and Contemporary (Wittgenstein), (PHI 210), 1987-1988
- 5) Philosophical Hermeneutics (PHI 260), 1983-1991
- 6) Colloquium for Majors (PHI 300, now 200), 1982-1984, 1990-1992, 2004-2012
- 7) Philosophy of Human Action (PHI 334), 1983-1991, 2004, 2005
- 8) History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (PHI 124), 1989, 1991, 2003
- 9) The Philosophy of Wittgenstein (PHI 211), 1991, 2003-2011
- 10) Senior Capstone Colloquium (PHI 390), 1992
- 11) History of Medieval Philosophy (PHI 126), 2004—; PHI 226, 2011-12.
- 12) Business Ethics: Ethical Issues of the Boardroom and the Classroom (PHI 241), 2005-2015

B) Other Teaching:

Directed the Honor's Thesis of Maura Henry, '87; of Lilith Dornhuber-deBellesiles, '08; and the Division III thesis of Michala Krug (Hampshire College), '12; served on five other Division Three Committees at Hampshire College; second reader on many Smith College theses; mentored six Stride students after returning to the faculty in 2003.

C) Co-designed and taught the interdisciplinary course, A History of Western Ideas, 1985-1990; authored four 1-act plays for course use.

COLLEGE SERVICE (partial list)

Founding member & President of Board, Smith Child Care Center, a parent coop daycare center, 1975-78. Member, Interterm Committee, 1976 - 1978, 1989; Chairman, 1977 - 1978, organized Symposium on Technology and the Humanities.

Member, Committee on Aid to Faculty Scholarship, 1977 - 1981.

Director, Smith Junior Year in Hamburg, 1978 - 1979 and 2012 - 2013.

Chairman, Foreign Students Committee, 1983 - 1985.

Committee for the Luther Symposium in October-November 1984, organized the presented papers for publication.

Chairman, Philosophy Department, 1984 - 1987; 2004 - 2006; 2007 - 2008

Secretary of the Faculty, 1984 - 1987.

Member of ad-hoc committee designing a (successful) proposal for a Luce Professorship, 1987.

Co-chaired the Faculty committee which organized the Wright Hall Humanities Cluster, 1985.

Member, Committee on Faculty Compensation and Development, 1987-88, Chair 1992-94.

Member, Committee on Academic Policy, 1988 - 1990, Chair, 1992 - 2001.

Member, Committee on Tenure and Promotion, 1991 - 1992, 1994-2002 (chair, 2001-02), 2004-05 (as alternate)

Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom and Outside Sources of Funding for Research, 1991. College Marshall, 1987 - 1994.

Many tours of duty as Pre-Major Adviser; House Fellow, 1986 - 1992.

Faculty Parliamentarian, 1988 - 1990.

Member of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation, 1992 -2002.

Member of the Committee on College Planning and Resources, 1992 -98.

Chair, committee organizing the College farewell to President Mary Maples Dunn, 1994-95.

Chair, committee organizing the bicentennial celebration of the birth of Sophia Smith, 1995-97.

Head, subcommittee on "Faculty," Smith decennial review 1996-97; member of 2020 Steering Ctee.

Member, Committee on Mission and Priorities, 1998-2002, Chair 2001-02.

Member, Smith College Board of Trustees, 2001-02.

Curricular Review Panel for Humanities and Social Sciences, 2003-04

Investor Responsibility Committee, 2003-06

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Bias Complaint Procedures, 2005

Member, Committee on College Writing, 2004-06

Chair, Grievance Committee, 2008-09; 2010-12

Member, Institutional Review Board, spring 2009

President, "OBND", Smith College's social organization for emeriti/ae, 2017-18.

Member, Emeriti/ae Advisory Committee, 2020-24.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of the American Philosophical Association, Phi Beta Kappa, and the Society for Business Ethics.

Long-term member of the Propositional Attitudes Task Force, a weekly Five-College discussion group.

Member of the Eckhart Society (GB), the *Meister-Eckhart-Gesellschaft* (Germany), the SIEMP, and the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy.

LANGUAGES

Speak, read and write German fluently; read some French, Greek, Latin, and Middle High German.