2018-2019
Academic Year

ANNUAL REPORT

The Institute for Human Ecology

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
The first and fundamental structure for “human ecology” is the family, in which man receives his first formative ideas about truth and goodness, and learns what it means to love and to be loved, and thus what it actually means to be a person.

Pope St. John Paul II
CENTESIMUS ANNUS, 39 (1991)

Message from the Executive Director

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Institute for Human Ecology (IHE) grew significantly.

Faithful to our core mission of promoting “rigorous multidisciplinary academic research, teaching, and outreach that engages Catholic social doctrine and economic and ethical principles to address core issues of human flourishing in God’s world,” we added graduate students and faculty, created an M.A. program in human rights, and initiated a program on subsidiarity and the Constitution. Additionally, we hosted numerous events and substantially increased our online presence, making our voices heard in the public sphere.

We have focused on the formation of graduate students, many of whom will become leaders in fields ranging from higher education to law to politics. Through programs such as the Civitas Dei Fellowship, now in its second year, we continue to introduce graduate students to the Catholic intellectual tradition and deepen their understanding of how it permeates a wide spectrum of academic disciplines.

During the past twelve months, we explored different aspects of human ecology and worked with numerous experts in related fields. Most of our programs are aimed at protecting, understanding, and promoting different aspects of the freedom necessary for humans to flourish. We hope that these initiatives equipped participants to advance our mission of valuing each human person, and society as a whole, in their individual spheres of influence, particularly as those spheres help protect and advance a freedom fitting for us all.

Highlights of the 2018-2019 academic year include a discussion with Princeton Professor Robert P. George about human rights, a symposium featuring Congressman Daniel Lipinski about what it means to be a faithful Catholic in contemporary American politics, a panel discussion about the crisis in the Church that was moderated by New York Times columnist Ross Douthat, and a talk (co-sponsored by First Things) by Notre Dame Professor Patrick Deneen about populism.

We are thankful for your interest in the Institute for Human Ecology.

All of us at the IHE are humbled by your support of our mission, which is so fundamental to individuals, communities, and the wider culture.

Joe Capizzi
Professor of Moral Theology, The Catholic University of America
Executive Director of the Institute for Human Ecology
Mission Statement
The Institute for Human Ecology (IHE) at The Catholic University of America is the nation's leading academic institute committed to increasing scientific understanding of the economic, cultural, and social conditions vital for human flourishing. Drawing on the Catholic intellectual tradition, the mission of the IHE is to educate students, sponsor multidisciplinary and social scientific research, advise Church leadership and policy-makers, and organize symposia, conferences, and lectures for the academy and the public square. IHE programs challenge the deterministic and reductive institutions and arguments that thwart the pursuit of greater freedom and prosperity for all.

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Overview

The IHE had an exciting, productive third year.

After launching in 2016, the IHE has grown steadily and is now the nation’s leading academic institute committed to increasing scientific understanding of the economic, cultural, and social conditions vital to human flourishing.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, building upon the achievements of the first two years, the IHE made significant strides, adding graduate students and faculty, creating an M.A. program in human rights, beginning a program on subsidiarity and the Constitution, and much more. The IHE is a dynamic entity that continues to grow. We look forward to maintaining — even accelerating — our momentum.

The IHE has increased its social media presence. The website includes news, events, publications, photos, videos, and bios of faculty, students, and staff. Additionally, the IHE has a detailed monthly e-newsletter, The Spotlight, to spread information about the IHE’s activities. The IHE livestreams its events and is active on Facebook and Twitter. Further, New York Times columnist Ross Douthat is a media Fellow with the IHE. The IHE is growing a network of relationships with media and other institutions, including First Things, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Baylor University, the University of Dallas, Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture, the American Enterprise Institute, the Catholic Information Center, and the Brookings Institute.

In three short years, much has been accomplished. People know about the IHE and reach out to us. We have hosted a number of high-profile speakers (e.g., Professor Robert P. George, CIA/NSA Director General Michael Hayden, Congressman Daniel Lipinski, Congressman/Ambassador Francis Rooney, George Weigel) who have edified the attendees and increased the name-recognition, stature, and prestige of the IHE, helping attract students and professors. We have built a cohort of more than a dozen graduate students, nine professors, and about 50 faculty Fellows. We have established a brand: we went from being an unknown institution with a perplexing name ("what’s ‘human ecology’?") to being a sought-after partner for events, programming, and strategizing around themes of economic and political liberty. The IHE is increasing in size and influence. It is a success.

For the upcoming academic year, we are working on a number of exciting items, including a panel discussion moderated by New York Times columnist Ross Douthat that features Sohrab Ahmari and David French, a book launch by Professor Brandon Vaidyanathan, and a debate at the Catholic Information Center with Ramesh Ponnuru of National Review. We look forward to the arrival in August of our graduate students for our new Master of Arts in Human Rights, and we are planning a new program on economics.

Thank you for your support and your interest in what is bound to be a bright and robust future.

The IHE’s success is the result of the support of our benefactors and the hard work of our students, faculty, and staff. We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation.
Highlights

PH.D. FELLOWSHIPS
The IHE supports exceptional doctoral students, providing tuition and stipends. Candidates are considered from (i) the School of Philosophy, (ii) the School of Theology and Religious Studies, and (iii) the School of Arts and Sciences (in particular, the departments of Psychology, English, History, and Politics).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
In collaboration with the Thomistic Institute at the Dominican House of Studies, the IHE runs a week-long conference for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. The focus of this annual event is instruction in the political and moral bases of human freedom, as well as modern constitutional jurisprudence and its impact on a free society. It includes a meeting at the Supreme Court with Justice Samuel Alito. In the summer of 2018, it featured Adrian Vermeule of Harvard Law School, Father Dominic Legge of the Thomistic Institute, and IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi.

FACULTY
The IHE supports nine faculty members. In addition to their scholarship and teaching, they help the IHE in numerous ways, including generating ideas about programs and conferences, suggesting partnerships with like-minded organizations, recommending faculty and graduate students, helping the IHE grow by networking with people in their fields, and raising the IHE’s profile by participating in lectures, symposia, and conferences.

FELLOWS
The IHE has almost 50 faculty Fellows, including ones from the Princeton Theological Seminary, the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia, Villanova University, and Baylor University.

EVENTS
During the 2018-2019 academic year, the IHE held numerous events, including speakers such as:
- Princeton Professor Robert P. George
- Ryan Anderson of the Heritage Foundation
- Ross Douthat of The New York Times
- Elizabeth Bruenig of The Washington Post
- Congressman Daniel Lipinski
- Former Acting CIA Director Michael Morell
- Notre Dame Professor Patrick Deneen (co-sponsored by First Things)

EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES
- Master of Arts in Human Rights led by IHE Fellow William Saunders (Advisory Council includes Robert P. George, Mary Ann Glendon, John Dilulio, Helen Alvaré)
- Program on Subsidiarity and the Constitution led by IHE Fellow Emmett McGroarty
- Interdisciplinary meetings
- Conversation group about the relationship between science and philosophy led by IHE Fellow Brandon Vaidyanathan
- Reading group on Catholic metaphysics led by IHE Fellows Reinhard Hütter and D.C. Schindler
- Discussion group on Catholic social thought led by IHE Fellows Brad Lewis and David Walsh
- Gathering of Catholic (and sympathetic) sociologists to re-envision the future of the Sociology Department at Catholic University organized by IHE Fellow Brandon Vaidyanathan at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia
- Session organized by IHE Fellow Andy Yuengert at a meeting in Atlanta of the Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) on explorations in Christian thought and economic analysis
Our four pillars

1. FREEDOM
   The foundation of human flourishing
   “The freedom of the individual finds its basis in man’s transcendent dignity…”

2. FAMILY
   The fundamental social unit of a healthy, functioning society
   “The family may be regarded as the cradle of civil society…”
   – Pope Leo XIII, Sapientiae Christianae

3. ECONOMY
   The intersection of free enterprise and ingenuity ordered towards human flourishing
   “It is… an error to say that the economic and moral orders are so distinct from and alien to each other that the former depends in no way on the latter.”
   – Pope Pius XI, Quadragesimo Anno

4. CULTURE
   The driving force behind the way we form human relationships
   “Human beings interpret and shape the natural environment through culture, which in turn is given direction by the responsible use of freedom, in accordance with the dictates of the moral law.”
   – Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate
In the 2018-2019 Academic Year

The IHE's Impact

- **100+** Countries Had People Visit IHE.catholic.edu
- **12** Monthly e-Newsletters
- **4** Videos for M.A. Program in Human Rights
- **10** Books and Chapters
- **12** Articles in Academic Journals
- **20** TV Appearances
- **27** Radio Appearances
- **8** Op-Eds in Major Newspapers*
- **1,500** THOUSANDS People Viewed IHE Video at Prayer Breakfast
- **Additional Views of IHE Video on ETWN**

* In addition to numerous pieces in The New York Times by IHE Fellow Ross Douthat

**New Graduate Students for Upcoming Academic Year**
- **7**

**Faculty Members**
- **9**

**Faculty Fellows**
- **48**

**Civitas Dei students at week-long summer conference with Thomistic Institute**
- **40**

**The IHE's Impact**

- **41** IHE-Sponsored Events
- **17** Large-Scale Events
- **13** Livestreamed Events
- **2,184** Livestream Views of Largest Public Event
- **~3,500** Attendees at IHE events, including 500+ people at largest public event
- **~175** Speaking Engagements / Events by IHE Scholars
- **TWO** Major newspapers featured at IHE events (NYT, Washington Post)
- **& ALL** Major Catholic newspapers regularly covered IHE events
- **2** Reading Groups
- **1200** Countries Had People Visit IHE.catholic.edu

**Graduate Students**
- **Civitas Dei** students at week-long summer conference with Thomistic Institute
- **76**

**Monthly e-Newsletters**
- **12**

**Videos for M.A. Program in Human Rights**
- **4**

**Books and Chapters**
- **10**

**Articles in Academic Journals**
- **12**

**TV Appearances**
- **20**

**Radio Appearances**
- **27**

**Op-Eds in Major Newspapers**
- **8**

**People Viewed IHE Video at Prayer Breakfast**
- **1,500** THOUSANDS

**Additional Views of IHE Video on ETWN**
- **In addition to numerous pieces in The New York Times by IHE Fellow Ross Douthat**
For a week in July of 2018, a group of rising scholars (graduate students and a few advanced undergraduates) from top doctoral and legal programs in the United States, Canada, England, Spain, and Colombia participated in the inaugural Civitas Dei Fellowship, an annual conference co-sponsored by the Institute for Human Ecology and the Thomistic Institute.

The first-ever cohort of students in the Fellowship comprised 40 students from 24 different colleges and universities, including Catholic University, Harvard, Holy Apostles Seminary, McGill University Law (Montreal), Amherst College, Columbia University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, ESADE Law (Barcelona), Augustine Institute, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fordham (Oxford), UC Berkeley, EAFIT University (Medellín, Colombia), the University of Chicago, the University of Notre Dame, St. Louis University, Yale University, Brown University, the University of San Diego, Boston College, Duke Divinity School, the University of Virginia, and the Dominican University (Ottawa).

Students were introduced to foundational themes in the natural law tradition, with a focus on the political and moral bases of human freedom, as well as modern constitutional jurisprudence and its impact on a free society. Similar conferences will be held each summer.

Father Dominic Legge of the Thomistic Institute, Professor Adrian Vermeule of Harvard Law School, and IHE Director Joe Capizzi taught daily, multi-hour, classroom sessions. The talks were framed by meals, prayer, and Mass.

The President of Catholic University, John Garvey, spoke on the first day to welcome the students. The students visited sites in Washington, DC, and encountered outstanding Catholic public figures, such as Assistant Attorney General John Demers and author Robert Royal. The conference included a private tour of the Supreme Court and an hour-long meeting with Justice Samuel Alito (right).

See the following pages for some images captured during the first edition of Civitas Dei Fellowship.
The week provided a superb way to explore the intersection of contemporary questions within the Catholic intellectual tradition and the practical consequences that follow — all taking place in the heart of the nation’s capital.

The Civitas Dei Fellowship has two main purposes. First, we want to gather the brightest Catholic graduate students studying in elite doctoral and legal programs to introduce them to the Catholic intellectual tradition. By this, we hope to whet their appetites for further study that will help them see the integrated nature of knowledge. This, in turn, will lead them to understand that their studies in physics, economics, sociology, law, biology, and other disciplines are different truth-seeking avenues — all pointing to greater understanding of a world created by a good God welcoming human ascent to truth and understanding. Second, we gather these students to build a community of like-minded scholars who can reinvigorate our colleges and universities and teach generations of students to come to know, love, and serve God and each other through their work.

For many of these students, this experience began what will be a life-long journey of reflecting and acting upon the principles valued by the Institute for Human Ecology. They are the principles at the heart of the Catholic intellectual tradition: freedom and human agency, political engagement for the common good, and the pursuit of a human flourishing ordered toward God.
Examples of Events 2018-2019 Academic Year

High-profile speakers and events edified the attendees and increased the name-recognition, stature, and prestige of the IHE, helping attract students and professors to the IHE.

Dr. Ryan Anderson

IHE Fellow Ryan Anderson, author of When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment, led a discussion about transgenderism. Dr. Anderson is a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a prolific author, and the founder of Public Discourse. Professor John Grabowski and Fr. Jude DeAngelo added insights to the discussion, with IHE Fellow Jay Richards, host of A Force for Good on EWTN, acting as the moderator.

Former Acting CIA Director Michael Morell

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 convulsed our country, and the effects reverberate to this day. Americans learned that day that they were not safe from external attack in their own country. The U.S. response to the attacks raised enduring questions about ends and means. How can a people flourish under the continual threat of attack by extremists bent on violence? How far do we go with security measures to ensure public safety?

These continuing questions manifest how the 9/11 attacks brought into vivid relief the relationship between security and liberty. Americans have had to grapple with the idea that, while too little security leaves us vulnerable to attack, too much security can undermine the liberty by which we define ourselves as Americans. As a people, we have been debating the proper balance ever since. To help us remember and put in context the 9/11 attacks and what followed, former acting director of CIA Michael Morell offered his memories and insights to the Catholic University community.

Mr. Morell served at that time as President George W. Bush’s CIA briefer and was with the President in Florida on that morning. He later served in several crucial leadership roles in the CIA as the Agency sought and eventually found Osama Bin Laden. He was the CIA’s deputy director during the raid on Bin Laden’s compound by a U.S. Navy Seal Team.

Michael Morell related the challenges, frustrations, and accomplishments of the men and women of U.S. Intelligence as they worked to make sure another 9/11 would not occur.
Yoram Hazony
IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi moderated a discussion with Yoram Hazony, a leading conservative thinker who argues that a nationalist order is the only realistic safeguard of liberty in the world today. He is the author of The Virtue of Nationalism.

Hazony contended that a world of sovereign nations is the only option for those who care about personal and collective freedom. He recounted how, beginning in the sixteenth century, English, Dutch, and, later, American Protestants revived the Old Testament’s love of national independence. He showed how their vision eventually brought freedom to peoples from Poland to India, Israel to Ethiopia. It is this tradition we must restore, Hazony argued, if we want to limit conflict and allow human difference and innovation to flourish. 4-6

Edward Hadas
Edward Hadas — a contributor to Reuters and a scholar at Oxford University — spoke to a group of IHE faculty and graduate students. He presented his thesis that endeavored to incorporate economics into a “realistic understanding of human nature and society,” as he put it. The IHE Fellow examined the concept of money during his presentation. He noted how critics of modernity generally dislike money, while promoters of free markets emphasize the role of money in economies. 7

National Security and Freedom
Espionage is the collection of national security intelligence through human means. One person, the spy — typically a foreign national with access to information — passes it to another person, called a handler or case officer. At the heart of this activity is the relationship between the spy and his handler. The IHE hosted a panel of former CIA case officers who explored the nature of that relationship. The discussion was moderated by Nicholas Dujmovic, assistant professor and director of the University’s Intelligence Studies program. He is a 26-year veteran of the CIA, having served as an analyst, manager, editor of the President’s Daily Brief, and CIA staff historian. 8-10

Professor Barry Strauss
IHE Fellow Jakub Grygiel arranged a lecture by Cornell University Professor Barry Strauss, which explored the legacy of the Roman Empire through the lens of ten of its most significant emperors. The audience gained new insight into our Western heritage based on his book Ten Caesars: Roman Emperors from Augustus to Constantine. 11-12
Special Events

The IHE increased its outreach through a number of special events.

Baylor University

At the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, the IHE co-hosted an event with Baylor University. On social media, university campuses, the campaign trail, and even in congressional hearings, Americans seem increasingly incapable of rational disagreement. Instead, we practice the art of emotive and often hysterical condemnation. Surveys reveal that an increasingly large percentage of Americans readily admit to hating fellow citizens who are members of the political party they oppose.

What are the sources of this decline in civility? What has led us to take such absolutist stances toward those with whom we disagree? Why do universities so often seem to encourage students in the worst habits of civic engagement? Could universities do a better job modeling rational disagreement?

Renowned social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, philosopher Robert P. George, Professor Allison Stanger of Middlebury College, IHE Fellow Tom Hibbs, IHE Fellow Chad Pecknold, and other intellectual leaders engaged these questions and proposed a way forward. IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi served as the moderator.

National Catholic Prayer Breakfast

The IHE was featured at a tabletop exhibit at The National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. The exhibit showcased books by IHE Fellows and information about the IHE. The event featured prominent speakers such as Mick Mulvaney, Acting Chief of Staff for President Trump, Curtis Martin, Founder and CEO of FOCUS, and Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted. At the breakfast, which was attended by about 1,500 people, the organizers played a three-minute video about the IHE’s Master of Arts in Human Rights. This event gave the IHE broad exposure to prominent lay and religious figures, political leaders, and numerous other VIPs.

Ross Douthat

The IHE hosted a conference on the Church’s current crisis, focusing on the role of the media in investigating, reporting, and framing our understanding of the crisis. IHE Fellow Ross Douthat (New York Times) led a panel discussion composed of Elizabeth Bruenig (Washington Post), J.D. Flynn (Catholic News Agency), and Chris White (Crux/The Tablet).
December 10, 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration signaled the world’s determination to avoid a third world war by recognizing and protecting universal human rights. Princeton’s McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence Robert P. George, who served as Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, and William Saunders, Director of the IHE’s Program in Human Rights, reflected on human rights and threats thereto in today’s turbulent world.

With First Things, the IHE co-sponsored a talk by Patrick Deneen, Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. In a liberal democratic age, two words are widely used to contrast what liberal democracy is not: aristocracy and populism. Yet, we have both political factions emerging today in new and caustic forms that pit an increasingly corrupt elite against an increasingly coarse and angry populace. Both are morally adrift and engaged in politics as an assertion of power, albeit for different reasons. In his lecture, Patrick Deneen envisioned the prospects for an ennobled aristoi and a more refined populace.

Congressman Daniel Lipinski drew on his experiences in the U.S. Congress to describe what it means to be a faithful Catholic in contemporary American politics, especially from the too-rare perspective of a pro-life Democrat. As with most IHE events, a lively question and answer session with the audience occurred after the remarks. IHE Executive Director Joe Capizzi moderated the event.
Profiles of current graduate students

Cohort of Graduate Students Grows
THE IHE NOW HAS SEVEN GRADUATE STUDENTS. STARTING IN THE FALL OF 2019, SIX MORE WILL BE ADDED, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO THIRTEEN.

1 MORGAN BROWNFIELD is a doctoral student in Political Theory. A graduate of Hillsdale College, where she majored in politics and minored in classical education, she participated in the George Washington Fellows Program, the Collegiate Scholars Program, and the Washington Hillsdale Internship Program.

“The Institute for Human Ecology has provided me with the chance to devote myself to studying, writing, and teaching, while simultaneously inviting me into the larger conversation surrounding human ecology taking place at The Catholic University of America and beyond. Without the IHE, I would not be able to be the scholar or person I am today.”

2 MEGHAN DUKE is a doctoral student in historical theology in the School of Theology and Religious Studies. She received her B.A. from Thomas Aquinas College and her M.T.S. from the University of Notre Dame. Her current interests include the theologies of Thomas Aquinas, Albert the Great, and Bonaventure, and the topics of faith, vision of God, and beatitude.

“The Institute for Human Ecology has provided invaluable support and resources for my theological studies. In particular, the Institute’s community of graduate and faculty fellows, from various disciplines, all asking questions about or pertaining to human flourishing, has enriched my own study of God, the human person’s relation to God, and the nature of happiness.”

3 CAMELIA LELESAN is a doctoral candidate in Political Theory. Camelia holds a B.A. in philosophy from the Babeș-Bolyai University (Romania), a Master of Philosophy from the University of Sorbonne (France), and an M.A. in Political Studies from the School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences (France), and is an alumna of the École normale supérieure (France).

“The Institute for Human Ecology encourages us to be seekers of truth. Through its engagement across disciplines, the IHE has challenged me to think more broadly about questions and it has deepened my own reflection on what it means to be a human person and how we can order reality based on this understanding. The IHE has been an excellent resource in connecting me with people in the academic world I would not have known otherwise and offered me the opportunity to participate in conversations that helped shape my intellectual development. The IHE has shaped my ability to speak more accurately about the truth of our world and of God.”

“The IHE has shaped my ability to speak more accurately about the truth of our world and of God.”
DARYL LI is a doctoral student in the School of Philosophy. Daryl holds an M.A. from St. John's College. His research is in investigating the limits of human knowledge vis-à-vis the possibility of human freedom, with an emphasis on the dialogue between Socratic philosophy and German idealism. “Through the IHE’s engagement of scholars from various fields, I have become more sensitive to the necessity and benefits of interdisciplinary discourse as a means of understanding the complexity of the human condition and its flourishing.”

JASON PAONE is a second-year doctoral student in Historical and Systematic Theology. Jason holds a B.A. in philosophy and classics from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.T.S. from Duke University. A major focus of his research is the confrontation of classical/medieval Christianity with philosophical modernity and its epistemological problematics. “The IHE nourishes and supports its graduate fellows in their transition from students to scholars. First, by providing much-needed funding, the IHE makes it possible for graduate students to thrive in their studies and to take part in events and research projects that would be otherwise infeasible. Second, the IHE inserts its graduate fellows into an interdisciplinary network of leading scholars who come to serve as important contacts, mentors, and models of the kinds of excellence to which they aspire as graduate students.”

BRIDGET SAFRANEK is a second-year doctoral student in the School of Philosophy. She holds a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Dallas. Her research interests include the philosophy of law and bioethics, as well as questions related to virtue ethics and natural law theory. “The Institute for Human Ecology is a tremendous resource. Its commitment to the question of human flourishing has been particularly enlightening. The interdisciplinary events hosted by the IHE consider practical answers to important philosophical questions. These events have shown me that questions regarding human flourishing must be answered through a variety of disciplines that inform each other.”

IAN TUTTLE is a second-year doctoral student in political theory. From 2014 to 2017, he was a fellow with the National Review Institute in New York City. He has been regularly published in, among others, National Review and The New Criterion. He holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John’s College. “The IHE takes seriously the commitment to a university, by bringing together in conversation scholars from every discipline. Learning from, and alongside, professors and students from across Catholic University has enriched and deepened my work, and served to remind me that we share one truth and one common pursuit.”

“The IHE nourishes and supports its graduate fellows in their transition from students to scholars.”
- Jason Paone
Select Faculty Fellows

1. DENNIS COYLE, PH.D.
   Associate Professor and Politics Department Chair, The Catholic University of America
   Expertise: Constitutionalism, Political Culture, Catholic Social Thought

2. ROSS DOUTHAT
   New York Times Columnist | Film Critic for National Review
   Expertise: Media, Church History, and Theology

3. JENNIFER A. FREY
   Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of South Carolina
   Expertise: Philosophy of Action and Ethics

4. ANGELA MCKAY KNOBEL, PH.D.
   Associate Professor of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America
   Expertise: Moral Philosophy, Thomistic Ethics, Virtue Ethics

5. V. BRADLEY LEWIS, PH.D.
   Associate Professor of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America
   Expertise: Political Philosophy, Jurisprudence, Ethics

6. CHAD C. PECKNOLD, PH.D.
   Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, The Catholic University of America
   Expertise: Fundamental Theology, Theological Anthropology, Theological Politics

7. JAY W. RICHARDS, PH.D.
   Assistant Research Professor, The Catholic University of America | Executive Editor of "The Stream"
   Expertise: Political Philosophy, Moral Theology, Economic Theory

8. FREDERIC SAUTET, PH.D.
   Associate Professor of Political Economy and Entrepreneurship Theory at The Busch School of Business, The Catholic University of America
   Expertise: Political Economy, Entrepreneurship Theory

9. STEPHANIE SAROKI DE GARCÍA
   Co-founder and Managing Director of Seton Education Partners
   Expertise: Education Philanthropy, Academic Leadership, Public Policy

10. LUCIA ANN SILECCHIA, J.D.
    Professor of Law, and Director, Summer Law Program in Rome, The Catholic University of America
    Expertise: Environmental Law and Ethics; Catholic Social Thought and Law; Catholic Higher Education

11. ERIN TUTTLE
    Public Policy Consultant
    Expertise: Federalism, Education

12. BRANDON VAIDYANATHAN, PH.D.
    Associate Professor of Sociology, The Catholic University of America
    Expertise: Work and Professions, Religion and Globalization, Religion, Science, and Health
Ross Douthat
“For someone whose vocation requires making Catholicism intelligible to a skeptical audience and bringing serious academic work into the realm of mere journalistic scribbling, the opportunity to be an IHE Fellow has been a great gift. In bringing me to Catholic University, the Institute has both put me in conversation with a range of serious scholars and students, and created opportunities for public events that have advanced, in a meaningful way, the fraught and difficult conversation about how to renew our Catholic faith.”

Bradley Lewis
“The IHE has provided conditions and context for some terrific collaboration across the university. My own work in political philosophy has already benefited enormously from the conversations I regularly have through the IHE with colleagues in theology and the social sciences in particular. This simply didn’t happen much before, but the IHE has made it a regular and very valuable part of life at Catholic University.”

James Nolan
“I have greatly appreciated the support I have received in being associated with the IHE this semester. Most importantly, I was given the time and space to complete a draft of my new book manuscript, Delivering Little Boy: Doctoring History at the Dawn of the Nuclear Age. I had the opportunity to present material from this book project, as well as from previous research, in a number of venues at Catholic University during the semester. I profited from the feedback I received during these presentations, as well as from the more informal conversations I had with other IHE fellows throughout the semester. It has been an intellectually rich and stimulating season, for which I am most grateful.”

Lucia Silecchia
“For years, I have cherished the opportunity to learn with and from my colleagues at Catholic University’s close-knit Law School. But, over the past several years, the Institute for Human Ecology has led me to make connections with so many others in such varied disciplines. Their perspectives have shaped my own work, led me to ask questions previously unasked, and generously introduced me to so many fields I knew nothing about. Through the Institute, I have come to understand more fully what it is to be a teacher at a Catholic research university. Yet, at the same time, the Institute’s discussions and programs have also reminded me of the joy of being a student again!”

“Through the Institute, I have come to understand more fully what it is to be a teacher at a Catholic research university.”

- Lucia Silecchia

Faculty Testimonials
The IHE is fostering collaboration.
Leadership

1. JOSEPH CAPIZZI, PH.D.
   Professor of Moral Theology, The Catholic University of America | Executive Director, The Institute for Human Ecology

2. STEPHEN P. HIGGINS, J.D.
   Managing Director, The Institute for Human Ecology | Former Legislative Director and Chief Counsel in the United States Senate

3. BEATRIZ LOPEZ-BONETTI
   Media Fellow, The Institute for Human Ecology | Research Associate for the Busch School of Business

4. WILLIAM L. SAUNDERS, J.D.
   Director of the Program in Human Rights, Institute for Human Ecology | Of Counsel, Americans United for Life | Chair of Religious Liberties Group of Federalist Society | President of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars

5. EMMETT MCGROARTY, J.D.
   IHE Director of Research and Planning

6. CLAES G. RYN
   Professor of Politics | The Catholic University of America | Founding Director, Center for the Study of Statesmanship
A New Master of Arts in Human Rights

The Institute for Human Ecology is pleased to announce the launch of a new Master of Arts in Human Rights, designed for graduate students from the United States and abroad, with diverse academic interests and backgrounds, who wish to study human rights from the distinctly Catholic perspective. The interdisciplinary degree will be awarded by the School of Arts and Sciences through the new Center for Human Rights associated with the IHE.

Through this program graduates will:
1. Develop a strong knowledge of the international legal structure of human rights
2. Understand the Catholic anthropology of the human person
3. Understand the natural law of rights and the place of rights in the political order
4. Be able to analyze and discuss whether claimed "rights" are defensible as such
5. Understand the intersection of human rights concepts and Catholic Social Thought
6. Be prepared to contribute to the building of a culture of human rights that advances the good of the human person in community

First Class of Students Will Start in the Fall of 2019
IHE Fellow William Saunders, JD, is the Director of the Program

Following introductory orientation sessions before the semester begins, the program consists of 30 semester hours of post-baccalaureate coursework, including a capstone course designed to bring together the insights from other courses in examining the Church’s work at the United Nations and with other international bodies. The capstone course will consist of a seminar, and requires completion of a research paper. The degree, which could be completed in one year, may include one or two summer courses.
I think this [program] will really bring something new to the table. That is an understanding of human rights rooted in the deep tradition of thought that takes us back to Athens and to Jerusalem, an approach to human rights that really anchors human rights in the truth about the human person and the flourishing of the human person. … We need that kind of deep understanding.

Robert P. George, Princeton University’s McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence
The Center for the Study of Statesmanship

PROMOTING RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW STATESMANNISH CAN DEFUSE CONFLICT AND FOSTER RESPECTFUL FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS.

The Catholic University of America announced the establishment of the Center for the Study of Statesmanship in the spring of 2017.

The Center promotes research, teaching, and public discussion about the meaning of statesmanship and how it can defuse conflict and foster respectful foreign and domestic relations. The Center explores the sources and prerequisites of sound leadership and how to counter such influences as intemperance and blinding ideology.

The Center studies the deeper origins of moderation, humility, compromise, and circumspection, placing special emphasis on the moral and cultural dimensions of restraint and broad views. Specifically, the Center considers how American constitutionalism, with its emphasis on limited and decentralized power, virtue, and deliberation, relates to statesmanship in foreign and domestic affairs. The Center examines the moral, political, social, and financial costs of imperial ambitions, military interventions, and nation-building.

Claes G. Ryn, Professor of Politics at The Catholic University of America, is the Founding Director of the Center.

"In American thinking, the pendulum has swung between unrealistic idealism and amoral realism, not least in foreign policy,” Ryn says. “Scholarship at the new Center will address an unmet intellectual need by exploring the preconditions and prospects for statesmanship that combines morality and realism."

The Center pursues its mission through professorships and visiting fellows, bringing its research to bear on diplomacy, military affairs, intelligence, constitutionalism, and other fields. It offers faculty research grants and supports graduate study. Anchored in scholarly research, the Center sponsors conferences, seminars, and public speeches and works with other organizations, in the nation’s capital and elsewhere, to enrich and influence public debate.

The Center for the Study of Statesmanship
Program on Subsidiarity and the Constitution

The Program on Subsidiarity and the Constitution examines the “space,” as Alexis de Tocqueville termed it, in which human free activity operates.

It answers key questions on whether government intrudes in that space, drives public discourse on the issue, and offers practical solutions:

- Does government interfere with, or protect, the natural yearning of individuals to order their lives and the surrounding world?
- Does American government abide by the constitutional structure — a form of political subsidiarity?
- Does the violation of subsidiarity and federalism principles affect solidarity? Does government take from the individual opportunities to practice, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church observes, “the natural tendency … to associate with one another for the sake of attaining objectives that exceed individual capacities”? Are such takings disproportionately injurious to the poor and the weak?
- What policy solutions can restore the integrity of the constitutional structure?

Background:

- Our Program on Subsidiarity and the Constitution previously existed as another entity’s Project on Federalism. It is continuing the work at the Institute with the benefit of the university’s scholarship and research resources.
- Program Director Emmett McGroarty and IHE Fellow Erin Tuttle co-authored Deconstructing the Administrative State: The Fight for Liberty (Sophia Institute Press/Liberty Hill, 2017).
- Emmett McGroarty is adept at injecting policy issues into the public square, having served on the development team of the federal government’s human trafficking awareness program and having been one of the key leaders of the grassroots effort against the federal government’s Common Core effort.
- Twice this year, he has been invited to high-level policy meetings at the White House.
- In March, Emmet McGroarty provided his invited testimony to the South Carolina state legislature on three model bills he and Erin Tuttle drafted to help states push back against federal incursions into state sovereignty.
- In February, Erin Tuttle accepted an invitation for meetings with South Dakota’s governor, attorney general, and secretary of education, and presented to the members of its legislature (over half attended).
The examination of the principles of subsidiarity and federalism leads to practical activities in the public square:

- In April, Indiana’s governor signed legislation that incorporated one of our state model bills — the Federal Grants Model.
- The legislation addresses the federal government’s preferred way to drive legislative, regulatory, and discretionary changes into the state: through conditional grants.
- This seminal legislation puts the state’s evaluation and disposition of such grant offers firmly in control of elected officials and requires that they be given the key information on fiscal, statutory, and regulatory effects.

The program in action

- The Federal Grants Model also mandates that the state create a public database with the important grants documents.
- Another of our models — the Economic Analysis Unit (based on our procedural ideas and Mercatus’s economic work) — would give the state legislature an independent means of evaluating regulations, federal grant offers, and executive cost-benefit analyses. This would end their reliance on the federal administrative state and the state bureaucracy (which is often more responsive to the federal government than to the state legislature).
- Both models are gaining traction among state policy groups.
Constutition Day

Professor Daniel Burns, a Fellow of the IHE, gave a lecture about the boundaries of the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion.

On September 17, 2018, Professor Daniel Burns delivered the Constitution Day lecture at Catholic University entitled "What Makes Freedom of Religion Different from Freedom of Speech?"

In his lecture, Dr. Burns contrasted the First Amendment’s two guarantees: the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion.

AEI Students Meet with the IHE

The IHE hosted a cohort of students from the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). The students were taking a week-long course entitled "Capitalism & Christianity: Do Markets Allow Us to Love our Neighbor?"

The students visited the IHE to discuss the worldview and broad philosophical/theological commitments of the IHE. Stephen Higgins, William Saunders, and Chad Pecknold made presentations to the group.

Interdisciplinary Meetings

Throughout the year, the IHE holds meetings of professors and graduate students.

To stimulate discussions of timely topics, promote ties across disciplines, and foster partnerships among the professors, the IHE holds interdisciplinary meetings of the professors and graduate students during the academic year.

Here is a description of the most recent meeting: Professor Jim Nolan gave a talk that was a spin-off from his book project, Delivering Little Boy: Doctoring History at the Dawn of the Nuclear Age. The book project follows the journey of his grandfather, Captain James F. Nolan, M.D., from Los Alamos to Tinian Island to Hiroshima and Nagasaki and beyond.

This talk, though, was not so much about Captain Nolan as about two fascinating individuals he encountered along the way, Fr. Thomas M. Conway and Dr. Takashi Nagai. Fr. Conway was the Catholic chaplain on the USS Indianapolis, the ship that carried the Little Boy bomb and was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine several days after Little Boy was delivered to Tinian Island. Takashi Nagai was a Japanese radiologist and convert to Catholicism, who was in the Nagasaki Medical School on the morning when the Fat Man bomb was dropped on August 9, 1945. Both men, who acted with great heroism in unimaginably difficult circumstances, are inspiring stories about suffering and hope.

Sub-Groups

Robust discussions occurred at smaller meetings.

In addition to the larger interdisciplinary meetings, sub-groups meet to talk about topics of interest. For example, Sociology Professor Brandon Vaidyanathan convened a discussion group about science and philosophy. At these get-togethers, significant questions were discussed that a Catholic university should be in the business of asking and is uniquely suited to respond to. Significant mutual learning occurs across disciplinary boundaries.
IHE Fellows discussed how Catholic perspectives on society and the human person might affect how we think about economics and the economy.

This winter, three IHE Fellows (Mary Hirschfeld, Catherine Pakaluk, and Andy Yuengert) presented recent research in a paper session at the annual meeting of the Allied Social Sciences Association in Atlanta. The well-attended session, “Explorations in Christian Thought and Economic Analysis,” was organized by Andy Yuengert (right) and sponsored by the Association of Christian Economists.

The three papers each offered insight into how Catholic perspectives on society and the human person might affect how we think about economics and the economy.

Mary Hirschfeld (Villanova), drawing on her recent book, Aquinas and the Market: Toward a Human Economy (Harvard University Press), explored the distinction between “being” and “having” in Catholic social doctrine. How should we look at the economy differently when our vocation (“being”) is not equivalent to the multiplication of material goods (“having”)?

Catherine Pakaluk followed with a discussion of dependence in economic studies of human relationships. She outlined the differences between statistical dependence in social science research and dependence in actual families, schools, and in the workplace. She then reflected on the challenge of analyzing these two kinds of dependence together.

Andy Yuengert reflected on the difficulty that economics has in analyzing virtue, especially Aristotelian virtue. To model reality, economists must simplify it, and the virtues are needed to address the complexities that economists leave out of their models. A fourth paper, presented by Gordon Menzies of University of Technology, Sydney, outlined an economic humanism based on Christian principles.

The presenters were joined by four discussants (young economics PhDs and PhD students) interested in Catholic social doctrine. The discussants brought their mainstream economic expertise to bear in their comments while, at the same time, being willing to grapple with the perspectives of the papers, which were decidedly outside of the mainstream. Their comments added critical perspective to the session, placing the papers more firmly in conversation with the economics discipline.

John Courtney Murray Dinner Series

These meetings brought faculty and graduate students together for multi-hour sessions to discuss the Catholic Church and its relationship with the world.

Two Fellows of the Institute for Human Ecology — Bradley Lewis and David Walsh — moderated the John Courtney Murray Dinner Series during the 2018-2019 academic year. Lewis, an associate professor of philosophy at Catholic University, and Walsh, an ordinary professor of politics at Catholic University, led five separate sessions of the dinner series, which is named for the 20th-century American Jesuit who influenced the writing of Dignitatis Humanae, the Second Vatican Council’s document on religious freedom.

The Institute invited its faculty members, along with other professors, graduate students, and academics, to the dinner series. Lewis and Walsh carefully chose a document or excerpt from prominent authors such as Pope Leo XIII, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and Jacques Maritain that dealt with the Catholic Church and liberalism. The readings regularly sparked lively conversations about the complicated relationship between the two, as well as what might occur in the future.

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Reading Group

A monthly reading group of faculty and graduate students explored the relationship between people and God.

The Institute for Human Ecology aims, among other things, to deepen our understanding of the relationships in which human existence unfolds: the relationships between human beings, between man and world, and ultimately between man and God.

The magnum opus of Ferdinand Ulrich (b. 1931), one of the great Catholic philosophers of the 20th Century, Homo Abyssus: The Drama of the Question of Being, recently appeared in English — the first of any of Ulrich’s major works to be translated.

Guided by a philosophical reason informed by faith, this work aims to bring to light the most profound ontological depths of the relationships that constitute human existence. Taking his bearings at every point from Saint Thomas Aquinas, Ulrich engages in a living dialogue with modern thought — above all, that of Hegel and Heidegger — to articulate an essential Catholic metaphysics, and one that is especially important for our time.

Two members of the IHE — theologians Reinhard Hütter and D.C. Schindler, the translator of the volume — led a faculty-student reading group devoted to the study of this difficult, but fruitful, text.
The IHE engages in multi-disciplinary academic research, teaching, and outreach involving Catholic social doctrine and economic and ethical principles to address core issues of human flourishing in God’s world.

The IHE is working with various faculty members, such as Professor Brandon Vaidyanathan (right).

On the final day of the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, he organized a gathering of sociologists to help him re-envision the future of the Sociology Department at Catholic University. The discussion began by examining needs, gaps, and challenges in American sociology today. Participants argued that the discipline of sociology has radically narrowed its focus to what is statistically measurable. Many called for a return to an older model of sociology, which was more interested in significant questions about what it means to be human, the effects of modernity, and the social conditions for human flourishing.

Another criticism was the parochialism of the discipline and its need to engage more seriously with knowledge outside of sociology — especially in fields such as economics, political theory, and philosophy — which are relevant to understanding cultural changes today.

They also discussed how studying sociology can foster the cultivation of a Catholic mind: for instance, introducing students to living witnesses of hope, fostering community-based service-learning, and focusing not simply on “social problems” but on the common good and a good society. It was pointed out that Catholic social teaching should be brought into better dialogue with social theory as a means of enriching social theory, as well as exploring ways in which it might be enriched by social theory; it should guide research, rather than be an after-thought.

The meeting generated helpful insights and valuable strategies to pursue.
For two and a half centuries, America has been held together by the belief that if you work hard and conduct yourself responsibly in this country, you will be able to prosper and leave a better life for your children. But over the past decade, that idea has come into crisis. A recession, the mass outsourcing of stable jobs, and a coming wave of automation that will replace millions of blue- and white-collar jobs alike have left many people worried that the game is rigged and that our best days are behind us.

In this story-driven manifesto on the future of American work, IHE Fellow Jay Richards argues that such thinking is counterproductive — making us more fragile, more dependent, and less equipped to succeed in a rapidly changing economy. If we are going to survive, we need a new model for how ordinary people can thrive in this age of mass disruption. Richards pulls back the curtain on what is really happening in our economy, dispatching myths about capitalism, greed, and upward mobility. And he tells the stories of how real individuals have begun to rebuild a culture of virtue, capitalizing on the skills that are most uniquely human: creativity, resilience, and empathy for the needs of others.

The Human Advantage, which was featured in The Wall Street Journal, is the essential book for understanding the future of American work, and how each of us can make this era of staggering change work on our behalf.
Aquinas and the Market: Toward a Humane Economy
By Mary L. Hirschfeld

Economists and theologians usually inhabit different intellectual worlds. Economists investigate the workings of markets and tend to set ethical questions aside. Theologians, anxious to take up concerns raised by market outcomes, often dismiss economics and lose insights into the influence of market incentives on individual behavior. Mary L. Hirschfeld, who was a professor of economics for fifteen years before training as a theologian, seeks to bridge these two fields in this innovative work about economics and the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas.

According to Hirschfeld in her book, which was the recipient of the 2019 Economy and Society International Award given by the Fondazione Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice, an economics rooted in Thomistic thought integrates many of the insights of economists with a larger view of the good life, and gives us critical purchase on the ethical shortcomings of modern capitalism. In a Thomistic approach, she writes, ethics and economics cannot be reconciled if we begin with narrow questions about fair wages or the acceptability of usury. Rather, we must begin with an understanding of how economic life serves human happiness. The key point is that material wealth is an instrumental good, valuable only to the extent that it allows people to flourish. Hirschfeld uses that insight to develop an account of a genuinely humane economy in which pragmatic and material concerns matter but the pursuit of wealth for its own sake is not the ultimate goal.

The Thomistic economics that Hirschfeld outlines is thus capable of dealing with our culture as it is, while still offering direction about how we might make the economy better serve the human good.

Aquinas on Transubstantiation: The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
By Reinhard Hütter

Aquinas on Transubstantiation treats one of the most frequently misunderstood and misrepresented teachings of Thomas Aquinas: Eucharistic transubstantiation. The study interprets Aquinas’s teaching as an exercise of “holy teaching” (sacra doctrina) that intends to show theologically and back up philosophically the simple yet profound thesis that “transubstantiation” affirms nothing but the truth of Christ’s words at the Last Supper: “This is my body,” “This is my blood.” Yet in order to achieve a contemporary ressourcement of this simple yet profound truth, it is necessary to probe the depths of Thomas Aquinas’s philosophical interpretation of it.
We extend our deepest appreciation to our benefactors and to everyone who has assisted the IHE. Your support has made possible our achievements.

Thank you!
Human beings interpret and shape the natural environment through culture, which in turn is given direction by the responsible use of freedom, in accordance with the dictates of the moral law.

Pope Benedict XVI

CARITAS IN VERITATE, 48 (2009)

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