



SELF, MOTIVATION & VIRTUE PROJECT NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

LEAD ARTICLE: *Performing Virtue*, by Michael Zampelli, S.J., Ph.D.

SPOTLIGHT: *Professor Linda Zagzebski Delivers the Prestigious Dewey Lecture*

MEET OUR RESEARCHERS: *Featuring Dr. Dawne Moon and Dr. Theresa Tobin*

RECENT PUBLICATIONS & NEWS

SMV LEADERSHIP TEAM ~ RECENT PUBS & PRESENTATIONS

Dear Readers,

This April 2016 issue of the SMV newsletter is appearing later than expected, but I'm happy to say it is worth the wait!

I am also happy to report that we just finished our 2016 Self, Motivation & Virtue Project Conference at the University of Notre Dame. Our next issue will feature pictures and more from the conference.

Yours,
Max Parish



PERFORMING VIRTUE



By Michael A. Zampelli, S.J., Ph.D.

[Dr. Michael A. Zampelli](#), SJ is the Paul L. Locatelli University



Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Santa Clara University. Currently serving as Rector of the Santa Clara Jesuit Community, he has recently contributed several articles to a forthcoming encyclopedia of the Jesuits (to be published by Cambridge University Press). His "Bridging the Distance: Jesuit Performance Transposed to a Contemporary Key" appeared in [Music as Cultural Mission: Explorations of Jesuit Practices in Italy and North America](#), ed. by Anna Harwell Celenza and Anthony DelDonna (Philadelphia: St. Joseph's University Press, 2014).

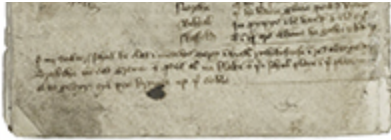
As a university professor and as a Jesuit priest, I am privileged with many and varied opportunities to notice virtue "passing into holy souls." Whether it is a student trying to cultivate honesty and intellectual perseverance in the frenzy of a results-driven Silicon Valley, an LGBTQ colleague aiming to live an integral life of justice and love in an often confusing religious landscape, or an incarcerated youth in the downtown jail trying to figure out how to water hope and forgiveness within a seemingly hopeless and unforgiving landscape, I am continually amazed at how the pursuit of virtue (whether intentional or not) remains a critical ingredient in the recipe for engaged human living.

Though classical Greek tragedy clearly aimed to inculcate civic virtues in its audiences, the early fathers of the Christian church...saw the form and content of public spectacles as essentially incompatible with Christian commitments.

As a theatre historian I have always been compelled by the ways in which performance and virtue have intersected (or not). Though classical Greek tragedy clearly aimed to inculcate civic virtues in its audiences, the early fathers of the Christian church (e.g., Tertullian, Augustine, Chrysostom) saw the form and content of public spectacles as essentially incompatible with Christian commitments. Though amateur medieval theatres personified the virtues as the defenders of humanity (as in, for example, the 15th century morality play *The Castle of Perseverance*), the increasingly professionalized early modern theatre—which involved the exchange of money, the competition for audiences, and the *mysterium tremendum* of the professional actress—caused civic and religious critics of performance to construct the theatre and its practitioners as peddlers of vice sowing the seeds of society's demise.



My research interests of late, however, have focused on the role of performance in Jesuit educational enterprises. Founded in 1540 by the erstwhile Basque nobleman Ignatius of Loyola, the Society of Jesus made broad and deep cultural engagement, particularly through education, a hallmark of its service to the church and the world. Born in schools that aimed to impart a deeply humanistic education to young laymen preparing to take their places on the early modern public stage, Jesuit theatre worked at cultivating the verbal and physical eloquence necessary for public life as well as forming hearts and minds in the human and Christian virtues required for becoming a moral person. In relationship to other species of Catholic school drama, Jesuit theatre proved distinctive in the extraordinary number of plays produced, the geographical reach of the dramas, and the



extensive investment of resources in theatrical presentation.

Stage drawing from the only surviving manuscript of *The Castle of Perseverance*.

Image courtesy of [Wikipedia Commons](#).

[READ MORE >>](#)



[Discuss this article on the SMV Project Website](#)

SPOTLIGHT



Core Project Team member, Professor Linda Zagzebski, delivered the prestigious [Dewey Lecture](#) at the 2016 Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division on April 1.

Her lecture was entitled, "The Joys and Sorrows of Philosophy." It will be published in the [Proceedings of the American Philosophical Association](#).

MEET OUR RESEARCHERS



DAWNE MOON (Ph.D., University of Chicago, 2000) is Associate Professor in Social and Cultural Sciences at Marquette University and author of [*God, Sex, and Politics: Homosexuality and Everyday Theologies*](#) (University of Chicago Press, 2004). She earned her Bachelor's (1991), Master's (1994) and Doctorate (2000) degrees in Sociology from the University of Chicago, and studies how social power works through meaning-making processes, particularly in the areas of religion, gender, and sexuality.

I came to study religion and sexuality as I was considering dissertation topics, realizing that one of the questions that really puzzled me was why anyone would care whether someone else were gay or not. I decided to study homophobia, and realized that I would need to study a context where people were really grappling with it, and not just tossing around sound bytes. Churches became that site, but it wasn't until I had been conducting participant-observation for a few months that I realized that I was actually studying religion!

After I published a few things from that dissertation project, I decided to examine how that mix of collective self-definition, social power, and emotion looked in a controversy where I myself (as a self-identified queer raised in a Christian church) was not so central, so I spent several years interviewing American Jews about their views on Middle East politics. In the course of that research, I came across the intergroup "dialogue" movement and the writings of Martin Buber on relationality and dialogue. This combination of interests—religion, sexuality, gender, social power, emotions, intergroup dialogue, and relationality—all came together when I learned that there was a movement happening among conservative Christians, evangelicals and fundamentalists, to rethink the way they've been handling sexual and gender variation.

[READ MORE >>](#)

THERESA TOBIN (Ph.D., University of Colorado, Boulder, 2005) is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Marquette University. She studies contemporary ethics with a special focus on ethical questions that arise at the intersections of gender, sexuality, religion and culture. Publications in these areas include: [*"On Their Own Ground: Strategies of Resistance for Sunni Muslim Women"*](#) (2007), [*"The Relevance of Trust for Moral Justification"*](#) (2011), and *"Spiritual Violence, Gender, and Sexuality: Implications for Seeking and Dwelling Among Some Catholic Women and LGBT Catholics"* (forthcoming).



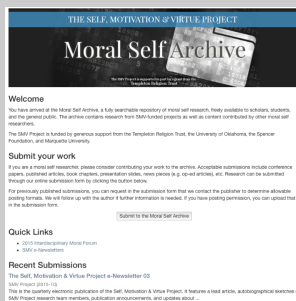
From where I stand now, I can see that my interest in the phenomenon I eventually came to know as 'spiritual violence' began in 2002, when news broke publicly about the decades-long sexual abuse of children perpetrated by Roman Catholic clergy and the extensive cover up by Church leaders of that abuse. As a member of this faith community, I was spiritually devastated by this news. Although I was never directly abused, I felt deeply betrayed by and angry at church leaders who had instilled so much shame and guilt in people and especially in women and girls about sexual sin and

moral purity, all while they themselves were engaging in horrific forms of sexualized violence against children or shielding perpetrators from accountability for their crimes and their sinfulness. At the time, it never occurred to me that I'd take up this topic as research; this was personal. But in 2010, I began reading testimony from clergy abuse victims and their stories commanded a moral attention that I just couldn't ignore.

As I read their stories, I perceived a gap in both public and academic conversations about this tragedy. These conversations focused a lot on institutional credibility and accountability, as well as the severe psychological, physical, and sexual harms victims endured, but not as much on something that many victims were naming as one of the most devastating consequences of the abuse: that the abuse had damaged their faith and relationship with God. Their stories moved me to want to understand how faith communities can sometimes be places of spiritual trauma and even spiritual death, rather than places that foster spiritual life. And as a moral philosopher, I wanted to understand the moral impact of victimization by this form of abuse.

[READ MORE >>](#)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS & NEWS

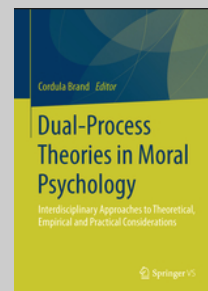


We are actively seeking submissions for the SMV Project's [Moral Self Archive](#). Submit materials [here](#), or contact Max Parish (smvproject@ou.edu) with any questions.

SMV research team member, [Michael Spezio](#), along with three co-authors, recently published, "[Congruence of Inherent and Acquired Values Facilitates Reward-Based Decision-Making](#)" (*The Journal of Neuroscience*, 36:18), which deals with the problem of learning in the presence of persistent inherent values.

David Carr, in "[Virtue and Knowledge](#)" (*Philosophy*, 2016), draws on Plato and Iris Murdoch to develop a robust "epistemic foundation for virtuous deliberation as primarily grounded in clear or correct perception of the world and human association, character and conduct."

The new volume, [Dual-Process Theories in Moral Psychology](#) (Springer 2016), edited by Cordula Brand, offers "Comprehensive insight into the current debate on dual-process theories in moral psychology and metaethics."



In "[The Role of Moral Beliefs, Memories, and Preferences in Representations of Identity](#)," published in *Cognitive Science* (2016), SMV research team member Nina Strohminger and her co-authors explore why people think their identity would change if their moral beliefs changed.

The British Journal of Educational Psychology published a special issue (March 2016) entitled, "[What role does culture play in motivation and does it matter?](#)"



Video: [Virtue, Happiness and the Meaning of Life](#) - [Candace Vogler](#) (University of Chicago) speaks about the "[Virtue, Happiness, and the Meaning of Life](#)" project she directs with co-PI [Jennifer Frey](#) (University of South



Carolina).

SELECTED RECENT PUBS & PRESENTATIONS FROM THE SMV LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dr. William Fleeson

- With Law, M. K., Arnold, E. M., & Furr, R. M. (2016). [Using negative emotions to trace the experience of borderline personality pathology: Interconnected relationships revealed in an experience sampling study](#). *Journal of Personality Disorders*, 30, 52-70.
- With McCabe, K. O. (2016). [Are traits useful? Explaining trait manifestations as tools in the pursuit of goals](#). *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 110, 287-301.

Dr. Jennifer Herdt

- (2016). Aquinas and Democratic Virtue: An Introduction. *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 1-13.
- (2016). Secrecy, Corruption, and the Exchange of Reasons: Malesic Meets Haidt--and Yoder. In C. S. Evans and P. Martens (eds.), [Kierkegaard and Christian Faith](#). Baylor University Press, 157-172. (Dr. Herdt delivered this paper at Baylor University; [watch the video here](#).)
- (2016). "[Happiness and the Well-Lived Life](#)," "[Happiness as the Wrong Kind of Reason](#)," and "[The Call to Responsible Agency](#)," The Jellema Lectures, Calvin College, April 11-12.

Dr. Daniel Lapsley

- (2016). Teaching moral development. In M. Cecil Smith & N. Defrates-Densch (Eds). [Challenges and innovations in educational psychology teaching and learning](#). Information Age Publishing.
- With Woodbury, R. D. (2016). Social cognitive development in emerging adulthood. In J.J. Arnett (Ed.), [Oxford handbook of emerging adulthood](#) (pp. 142-159). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- With Woodbury, R. & Townsend, D. (2016) [The Moral Identity Q-Sort](#). Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, April, Baltimore.

Dr. Darcia Narvaez

- (2016) From Neurobiology to Culture: Fostering Sustainable Wisdom. Presented at: The Cultural Mind In Psychotherapy: Identity, Inclusion, Power and Diversity in a Changing World. [Learning for Life Annual Conference](#), UCLA, Los Angeles, CA (Mar 4).
- With Wang, L. & Cheng, Y. (2016). [The evolved developmental niche in childhood: Relation to adult psychopathology and morality](#). *Applied Developmental Science*.
- (2016). [Neurobiology, Emotion, Morality and Healing](#). Workshop, MN Trauma Project, Minneapolis (Mar 8).
- With Kampis, G., Christen, M., Tanner, C. & Ott, T. (2016). [Using thesauruses as a heuristics for mapping values](#). *Cognitive Systems Research*, 40, 59-74.
- (2016) [Interview with Derrick Jensen](#), Resistance Radio on child development (Feb 28).
- (2016) Dr. Narvaez was recently [elected Fellow](#) in the [American Educational Research Association](#) (AERA). AERA Fellows are selected on the basis of their notable and sustained research achievements.

Dr. Howard Nusbaum

- With Williams, P., Mangelsdorf, H. Kontra, C. and Hoeckner, B. (2016). [The Relationship between mental and somatic practices and wisdom](#). *PloS ONE*, 11(2). [Open Access PDF](#).
- With Williams, P. (2016). Towards a neuroscience of wisdom. In J. R. Absher & J. Cloutier (Eds.). [Neuroimaging personality, social cognition, and character](#). Academic Press, 383-395.
- (2016). Learning to strengthen character. Talk presented at a John Templeton Foundation meeting, Strengthening Character through Challenges and Failures, February 7th-8th, Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Nancy Snow

- (2016). [From 'ordinary' virtue to Aristotelian virtue](#). Presented at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues Conference, Oxford, England (Jan 11).
- (2016) [Comments on Badhwar, Well-Being: Happiness in a Worthwhile Life](#). *Journal of Value Inquiry*, 50, 209-17.

If you would like to contribute a news item, publication, or newsletter article, please contact Max Parish at smvproject@ou.edu.



Copyright © 2016 *The Self, Motivation, and Virtue Project*, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in at the SMV Project website (www.smvproject.com).

[Contact Us](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp