

ROBERT E. SULLIVAN

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University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (History), Harvard University, 1977
M.Div., St. John's Seminary, 1980
A.M. in History, Harvard University, 1969
B.A. (History) *summa cum laude*, Oakland University, 1968

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2014-2015 Interim Director, the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study
2011- Professor of History, University of Notre Dame
2008- Associate Vice President, University of Notre Dame
2006-2008 Senior Executive Fellow, Provost's Office, University of Notre Dame
2005-2006 Senior Executive Fellow, College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame
2003-2008 Director, the Erasmus Institute, University of Notre Dame
2003- Fellow, Nanovic Institute for European Studies, University of Notre Dame
2001-2011 Associate Professor of History, University of Notre Dame
1998-2003 Senior Associate Director, the Erasmus Institute
1998-2001 Concurrent Associate Professor of History, University of Notre Dame
1997-1998 Adjunct Professor of History, University of Notre Dame
1990-1997 Dean of Faculty, School of Theology, St. John's Seminary, Brighton, MA
1990-1992 Visiting Professor of History, Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, MA
1990-1993 Registrar, School of Theology, St. John's Seminary, Brighton, MA
1984-1997 Professor of Church History, St. John's Seminary, Brighton, MA
1982-1984 Lecturer in History, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
1972-1973 & 1974-1976 Tutor in History, Assistant Senior Tutor, Kirkland House, Harvard University

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

2007- Assisting Priest, University of Notre Dame
1998-2007 Visiting Priest, St. Matthew's Cathedral, South Bend, IN
1984-1997 Visiting Priest, St. Albert's Church, Weymouth, MA
1980-1984 Parochial Vicar, St. John's Church, East Bridgewater, MA
1969-1971 Army of the United States, Adjutant General's Corps, ACM with Oakleaf Cluster

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS:

2010

Macaulay: The Tragedy of Power. Pb. Hyderabad, India: Orient BlackSwan. Pp. v, 614.

2009

Macaulay: The Tragedy of Power. Cambridge, MA, and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Pp. v, 614.

1982

John Toland and the Deist Controversy: A Study in Adaptations. Cambridge, MA, and London: Harvard University Press. Pp. viii, 355.

EDITED VOLUMES

2001

Ed. and intro., Higher Learning and Catholic Intellectual Traditions. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press. Pp. xiv, 157.

1985

Co-editor (with James M. O'Toole), Catholic Boston: Studies in Religion and Community, 1870-1970. Boston, MA: Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston. Pp. ix, 280.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2001

“Rethinking Christianity in Enlightened Europe: A Review Essay,” Eighteenth-Century Studies 34: 298-309.

1998

“John Toland’s Druids: A Mythopoeia of Celtic Identity,” Bullán: An Irish Studies Journal 4:19-41.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS (REFEREED)

1993

“Modernizing Tradition: Some Catholic Neo-Scholastics and the Genealogy of Natural Rights.” In Religion and the Authority of the Past, ed. by Tobin Siebers. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. Pp. 184-208.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS (NON-REFEREED)

2002

“A Memorandum on the Higher Learning in Catholic America,” in Religion, Education, and the American Experience, ed. Edith L. Blumhofer. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2002. Pp. 152-76.

1993

“The Transformation of Anglican Political Theology, c. 1716-1760.” In Politics, Politeness, and

Patriotism, ed. Gordon J. Schochet, et al. The Folger Institute Center Proceedings, Vol. 5. Washington, DC: The Folger Shakespeare Library. Pp. 46-58.

1985

"Beneficial Relations: Toward a Social History of the Diocesan Priests of Boston, 1975-1944." In Catholic Boston: Studies in Religion and Community, 1870-1970, ed. Robert E. Sullivan and James M. O'Toole. Boston, MA: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston. Pp. 201-238.

BOOK REVIEWS—ACADEMIC

2015

"Two Quests for Edmund Burke, Continued," *Reviews in American History* 43:193-202.

2014

Rev. of Castlereagh: A Life, by John Bew. Journal of Modern History 86:671-673.

2003

Rev. of The Ideological Origins of the British Empire, by David Armitage, International Journal of the Classical Tradition 9:646-48.

2003

Rev. of Conscience and Its Critics: Protestant Conscience, Enlightenment Reason, and Modern Subjectivity, by Edward G. Andrew, University of Toronto Quarterly, 72:1, 324-25.

1998

Rev. of The Varieties of Ultramontanism, ed. Jeffrey Von Arx. Catholic Historical Review 84:717-718.

1995

Rev. of The Catholics of Harvard Square, ed. Jeffrey Wills. Catholic Historical Review 81:148-49.

1989

Rev. of Christian Doctrine and Modern Culture (since 1700). The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine, vol. 5, by Jaroslav Pelikan. St. John's Library Occasional Bulletin, no. 14 0, 28 November, 1-4.

1988

Rev. of At the Origins of Modern Atheism, by Michael Buckley. St. John's Library Occasional Bulletin, no. 79, 10 February, 1-4.

1988

Rev. of Tradition and Transformation in Catholic Culture: The Priests of Saint Sulpice in the United States from 1791 to the Present, by Christopher J. Kauffman. Journal of Church and State

30:595-96.

1988

Rev. of Explaining Religion: Criticism and Theory from Bodin to Freud, by J. Samuel Preus. Catholic Historical Review 74:620-21.

1987

Rev. of The Authority of the Bible and the Rise of the Modern World, by Henning Graf Reventlow. Catholic Historical Review 73:625-26.

1986

Rev. of Nationalism, Positivism and Catholicism: The Politics of Charles Maurras and French Catholics, 1890-1914, by Michael Sutton. Catholic Historical Review 72:334-35.

1986

Rev. of Christianity in the West, 1400-1700, by John Bossy. St. John's Library Occasional Bulletin, nos. 43 and 44, 27-28 January, 1-4, 1-2.

1984

Rev. of Henry Stubbe, Radical Protestantism and the Early Enlightenment, by James W. Jacob. Catholic Historical Review 70:459-60.

1983

Rev. of Treason against God: A History of the Offense of Blasphemy, by Leonard W. Levy. Catholic Historical Review 69:425-27.

1982

Rev. of The Polish Brethren: Documentation of the History and Thought of Unitarianism in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and in the Diaspora, 1601-1685, ed. and trans. George Huntston Williams. Catholic Historical Review 68:523-24.

1981

Rev. of The Parish Clergy under the Later Stuarts: The Leicestershire Experience, by John H. Pruett. Catholic Historical Review 67:298-99.

1979

Rev. of Reason, Ridicule and Religion: The Age of Enlightenment in England, by John Redwood. Catholic Historical Review 65:625-626.

BOOK REVIEWS—GENERAL

2023

Rev. of Legacy of Violence: A History of the British Empire, by Caroline Elkins. Commonweal 150:1, January, 62-64.

2014

Rev. of James Anthony Froude: An Intellectual Biography of a Victorian Prophet, by Ciaran Brady. Dublin Review of Books, 10 February, available at <http://www.drb.ie/essays/demonic-ideologist>, accessed 10.02.14.

1998

Rev. of Reformations: A Radical Interpretation of Christianity and the World (1500-2000), by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto and Derek Wilson. America, 4 April, 35-37.

1996

Rev. of Critics on Trial: An Introduction to the Catholic Modernist Crisis, by Marvin R. O'Connell. America, 10 February, 27, 29.

Rev. of History of Vatican II. Vol. I. Announcing and Preparing Vatican Council II: Toward a New Era in Catholicism, ed. Giuseppe Alberigo. America, 31 August-7 September, 28.

1995

Rev. of Pope John Paul II: The Biography, by Tad Szulc. America, 1-8 July, 26-27.

1993

Rev. of Paul VI: The First Modern Pope, by Peter Hebblethwaite. America, 1 May, 18, 20-21.

1992

Rev. of Saint Anselm: A Portrait in Landscape, by R.W. Southern. America, 20-27 June, 544-45.

1989

Rev. of Vatican II: Assessment and Perspectives Twenty-five Years After (1962-1987), Volume I, ed. Rene Latourelle. America, 22 July, 41-42.

1988

Rev. of The American Catholic Parish: A History from 1850 to the Present, ed. Jay P. Dolan. Commonweal, 7 October, 533-34.

1987

Rev. of The Vatican and Italian Fascism, 1929-1932: A Study in Conflict, by John F. Pollard, and Moscow and the Vatican, by Alexis Ulysses Floridi. America, 3-10 January, 13-15.

1987

Rev. of Britain and the Vatican during the Second World War, by Owen Chadwick. America, 24 October, 276-77.

OTHER

2005

Article on “Toland, John” in Hans Dieter Betz, et al, eds., Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart, 4th ed., vol. 8 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck), 458.

2002

Articles on “Socinianism” and “Toland, John” in Alan Charles Kors, et al, eds., Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), 4:104-105 and 164-65.

**UNPUBLISHED CONFERENCE PAPERS, COMMENTS, AND LECTURES—
ACADEMIC**

“Simplify, Then Exaggerate: toward a Biography of Economic Man,” University of Notre Department of History Faculty Workshop, 23 March 2022.

“Macaulay Revisited,” University of Cambridge Seminar on Church History, 25 April 2007

“The Classical Conversions of Thomas Macaulay,” University of Notre Dame Intellectual History Seminar, 4 April 2003.

Conference Respondent, “Rethinking U.S. Catholicism: International and Comparative Frameworks,” University of Notre Dame, 15 March 2003.

Respondent to Papers on “New Perspectives on the Catholic Enlightenment,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 21 April 2001.

Respondent to Papers on “Historians Histories,” Conference on Faith and History: Catholic Perspectives, Cornell University, 30 March 2001.

“Modernizing Antiquity: Reason, Privilege, and the Cultural Authority of Classicism, History Department, University of Notre Dame, 5 December 2000.

“Imagining Antiquity,” University of Notre Dame Intellectual History Seminar, 21 January 2000.

“Constricting Reason: An Enlightened Architectonic of Religious Experience,” University of Notre Dame Intellectual History Seminar, 27 February 1998.

"Toward Monopolistic Competition: Gothic Revivalists, Church Musicians and the Papacy, ca. 1836-1914." Presented in the series on "Economies of Art," the University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, Ann Arbor, 25 April 1990.

"Reading Texts and Plotting Contexts: Analysis and Designs in Intellectual History." Presented at a Conference on American Intellectual History in Honor of Donald Fleming, Harvard University, 14-15 October 1988.

–POPULAR

“The Birth of Modern Christianity, 1685-1815.” Presented in the series “Two Millennia of Christianity” sponsored by the Wethersfield Institute, New York, NY, 12 November 1998.

CURRENT RESEARCH

A book titled *Simplify, Then Exaggerate: a Biography of Economic Man*. Primatologists inform us that economic agency exists among chimpanzees, which share the most DNA with Homo Sapiens. At issue in this history is the scope and limits of various, often competing modern notions of economic agency, as well as the assumptions informing them. The book begins in the seventeenth century with various explanations of how self-interested human beings can live and function as social animals. By the eighteenth century the primacy of self-interest was a contested commonplace, most famously (notoriously?) in Bernard Mandeville’s *The Fable of the Bees or, Private Vices, Publick Benefits* (1714). Adam Smith, a Scottish moral philosopher later misinterpreted as the primal economic theorist of self-interest, offered a naturalistic theory of its socialization and moralization. This was the debut of the dialectic of demoralizing economic agency followed by attempts to remoralize it that persists.

The story continues in the nineteenth century with the emergent tension between, on the one hand, both imperial and constrained theories of humans as economic agents, and, on the other, the recognition that time, contingency, and uncertainty forbid both totalizing explanations of human nature and accurate predictions about human behavior. This fostered the commonplace distinction between the abstract science (theory) and the supple art (practice) of Political Economy and the cautionary, limiting *ceteris paribus* clause. “Economic man” and “homo economicus” also appeared, first as caricature and then as terms of art. When the academic discipline of Economics emerged out of Political Economy in the early twentieth century, the inhibiting tension between imperial and constrained theories of economic agency persisted, though with constraint predominating. Despite premature obituaries, economic man flourished after World War II, as the increased mathematical sophistication of economists, particularly in the Anglosphere, seemed to meet the demands of centralizing governments and globalizing corporations for usable economic knowledge, rules (laws), and control. At the end of the twentieth century, this reciprocity fostered the ascendancy of economic man, in some quarters as a totalizing theory of human behavior. Partial nemesis has followed hubris.

ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATION

The cultural history of modern north Atlantic culture, particularly the interdependence of Christianity and its surrogates since ca. 1700

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript reader for Bloomsbury Academic, University of America Press, Harvard University Press, Journal of the History of Philosophy book series, University of Notre Dame Press, Catholic Historical Review, and Church History

External reviewer, University of St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto, October 2015

Grant reviewer for Killam Research Fellowship, Canada Council for the Arts, 2012

Member of the decennial accrediting team of the New England Association of Schools and

Colleges, Boston College, 2007

External evaluator for fellowship applications, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, 1994, 2005

DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY SERVICE SINCE 2000

2022 June Moderator, Invited Leadership Seminar, Office of Pre-College Programs
 2021-2022 Chair, Search Committee for Junior Appointment in Latinx History
 2018-2019 Chair, Search Committee for Junior Appointment in Military History
 2017-2018 Member, Search Committee for director of the Nanovic Institute
 2016-2017 Member, Search Committee for Junior Appointment in South Asian History
 2015-2016 Chair, Search Committee for Junior Appointment in Modern European History
 2014-2016 Ex officio member of the Committee to Revise Undergraduate General Education
 2013--2014 Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the Undergraduate Physical Education Requirement; Chair, All Faculty Committee to Review the Undergraduate General Education Requirements
 2013-2020 Merit Scholars Selection Committee
 2012-2014 Committee on Appointments and Promotions, Department of History
 2009-2012 Steering Committee of the Contending Modernities Project, Joan B. Kroc Institute
 2008-2009 Committee on the Articulation of the University's Catholic Values
 2007-2014 Laetare Medal Selection Committee
 2006-2007 Chair, University Committee on the Future of Mission Faculty Hiring
 2005-2006 Committee on Appointments and Promotions and Committee for Double Search in Modern European History
 2004-2010 Advisory Board, Institute for Church Life
 2003-2004, 2009-2010 Undergraduate Studies Committee, History Department
 2003-2008 Advisory Board of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism
 2003- Outside Chair, Ph.D. Comprehensive Examinations in English, Philosophy, and Sociology Departments
 2003 May Retreat Leader, C.S.C. Corby Hall Community
 2002- Sacramental Services (celebrating Masses, Marriages and Baptisms for members of the University and Alumni)
 2000-2001 Search Committee, Southern European History
 1999-2001 Chair, Honesty Committee, History Department
 1999-2001, 2003, 2008 New Faculty Orientation Retreat
 1998-1999 Honesty Committee, History Department

TEACHING

PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Margaret Abruzzo

Bryan Bademan
 Elizabeth Baker
 Angel Cortes
 Michael Kamen
 Madeleine Klem
 Shea Ramquist
 Jonathan J. Reyes
 David Hill Scott
 Kirstin Sundell (English/Irish Studies)
 Joshua Tonkel (HPS, History Track)
 Aaron Willis

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION COMMITTEES

Past Ph.D. Exam Committees:

Margaret Abruzzo
 Bryan Bademan
 Elizabeth Baker
 Angel Cortes
 Neil Dhingra
 Gavin Foster
 Darrin Hayton (History of Science)
 Madeleine Klem
 Jonathan Knowles
 David Komline
 Michael Lee
 Miriam Rainbird
 Joshua Tonkel (HPS, History Track)
 Aaron Willis

SENIOR THESES ADVISED, 2014-

Erin McMannon (2014)
 Joseph Henares (2015)
 Colleen Marshall (2016)
 Wm. Robert Billups (2017)
 Jens-Henrik Munthe-Kaas, Political Science (2018)
 Joseph Pinto & Lucy Collins (2019)
 John Ligon (2023)
 Garrett Pacholl (2024)

COURSES TAUGHT, SINCE 1997

Undergraduate

History of Modern European Catholicism (F 1997)
 History of Christianity, 400-1500 (F 1998, F 2000, S 2004)

History of Christianity, 1500 to the Present (S 1999, S 2001, F 2003)
 Enlightenment in Europe (F 1999, F 2004, S 2006, F 2009, F 2012)
 English History from 1789 (S 2000, S 2002, S2005, S 2011, S 2012, S2013, S2016, S2017, S2018)
 (Old) Core Section on Freedom (F 2001)
 History of Catholicism, 400-1500 (F 2008)
 History of Catholicism, 1500 to the Present (S 2009, F 2010)
 University Seminar (F 2012, F2013, F2014, F2015, F2016, F2017, F2018 & S2019, F2019 & S2020, F2020 & S2021, F2021 & S2022, F2022 & S2023)
 Britain and Its Empire, 1815-1997 (S2015)

Graduate

Catholic Cultural Medievalism (S 1998)
 Research, Writing, and Publishing (S 2010)
 Directed Readings

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2013 Joyce Teaching Award, University of Notre Dame
 2006 Kaneb Teaching Award, University of Notre Dame
 2001 As senior associate director of the Erasmus Institute, I collaborated with Professor James Turner in securing a \$2 million grant for the Erasmus Institute from The Pew Charitable Trusts
 1990 Visiting Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
 1968 Woodrow Wilson National Fellow
 1968-1969, 1971-1975 Graduate Prize Fellow, Harvard University