John Robert Bagby
Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness
California Institute of Integral Studies
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Education

2021. PhD, Philosophy, Boston College.
2016. MA, Philosophy, Boston College.
2013. BA, Philosophy, Minor in Ancient Greek, Pennsylvania State University.

General Areas of Research

Consciousness Studies, Philosophy of Science, History of Philosophy.

Special Interests

Phenomenology, Process Philosophy, Aesthetics, Musicology, Ethics, and Digital Humanities.

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Chapters

2027 "**Operative Ideality of Life: Absential Virtuality of Eternal Objects from Plotinus to Ruyer**" in *Revitalising Biophilosophy* likely *Edinburgh University Press.* (forthcoming).
2027 "**World-Soul, Élan Vital, and Bergson's Inverted Neo Platonic Metaphysics of Personality**" in *The Anthem Handbook on the Present and Future of Ancient Greek Philosophy, Anthem Press* (forthcoming).
2026 **Spinoza and Bergson Through and Beyond Deleuze: Freedom as Undissociated Joy** *Philosophies*
2026. **Spinoza on the Nature of God: Participating in Collective Empowerment** *Religions.*
2025. **Attunement: How the Musicology and Metaphysics of Taras Shaped Athenian Philosophy,** in *Meter and Music in Ancient Greece* *Parnassos Press*
2024. **Ancient Greek ideas of attunement can breathe new life into music** *Psyche* (A popular philosophy magazine by Aeon, not peer reviewed)
2024. **Invention in Bergson's Integral Empiricism** *Process Studies*
2024. **Aristotle on Intensity: *physis, energeia, psyche*** ***Epoché:*** *A Journal for the History of Philosophy*
2024. **Bergson and the Metaphysical Implications of Calculus** *Process Studies*
2023. **The Nature of Music in Peripatetic Phenomenological Musicology** *Epoché*
2022. **Analogy and Metaphor in Aristotle's "Pros Hen" Understanding of Psychical Activity** in *Timeliness of Analogy*
2021. **Aristotle and Aristoxenus on Effort** *Conatus Journal of Philosophy.*
2021. **Mapping Spinoza's Ethics** *Italian Journal of Philosophical Investigation and New Practices of Knowledge*
2020. **Reconstructing Bergson's Critique of Intensive Magnitude** *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*

Translation

2027. Time: Lectures at the Collège de France 1902-3, Henri Bergson. Bloomsbury Press.
2023. **Lectures on Psychology at Henri-IV 1893-4. Henri Bergson**
2023. **Lectures on Plotinus at ENS 1898-9. Henri Bergson**

Dissertation
2021. *Aristotle's Theory of Dynamics*, Boston College.
Passed with distinction. Committee: John Sallis (Chair), William Wians (internal), Leonard Lawlor (external; Pennsylvania State University). http://hdl.handle.net/2345/bc-ir:109133

Reviews
2021. Interpreting Bergson: rubbing up against the grain of our intellectual habits
Metascience.

Teaching

California Institute of Integral Studies
I designed and taught the following original graduate seminars:
2026. French Spiritualism.
2026. Baruch Spinoza.
2025. Phenomenology of Music.
2024. Intuition in Bergson, Deleuze, and Sri Aurobindo (co-taught w/Debashish Banerji).
2024. Aesthetics and the Study of Consciousness.
2024. Introduction to Phenomenology.
2024. Henri Bergson.
2024. History of Western Worldviews Part II.
2023. History of Western Worldviews, Part I.
2023. The Metaphysics of Integral Ecology.
2023. Philosophy of Infinity.
2023. Philosophy of Music and the Attunement of the Soul.
2022. Merleau-Ponty's Philosophy of Nature.

MFA Arts Mentorships
2026 Phenomenology and Musical Improvisation (3 credits)
2024 Musical Practice (1 credit)

Independent Studies
2024 Deleuze Metaphysics
2024 Ancient Greek Mysteries

Boston College
I designed and taught the two-semester core undergraduate courses:
2017-2022. Philosophy of the Person I & II (12 sections total.)

Scholarly and Public Discourse

Keynote Presentations
May 2024. *Metron kai Mousike, 9th Interdisciplinary Symposium on The Hellenic Heritage of Sicily and Southern Italy,* Syracusa, Italy. **Tonos and Harmonia: from Archytas to Aristoxenus**

Conference Presentations
July 2026. 14th International Whitehead Conference: Zhuhai, China. **Operative Ideality of Life: Absential Virtuality of Eternal Objects from Plotinus to Ruyer**
April 2026. Rendering Violence in Textual and Visual Media, Pennsylvania State University.
Musical Pharmakon to Injustice and War

March 2026. Metaphysical Society of America, Yale University. **Sublime and Generous Intelligence: Spinoza and Ruyer on the Infinite Intellect.**
July 2025. Revitalizing Biophilosophy: virtual, global participation. **Ateles Entelecheia A Brief History of Biophilosophy in Aristotle and Bergson**
November 2024. PAMLA Session on Ancient Greek and Roman: Palm Springs, CA. **Footnotes to Hesiod; The Philosophy of Poetry through the Lens of Plato**
April 2024. Making Sense of Experience: Analyses of Sensation after Mach, Yale University. **The Organization of Sensations: Mach and Bergson**
June 2023. North American Society for Early Phenomenology: The University of San Diego. **The Prism and the Kaleidoscope: Metaphor and Analogy in Bergson's Metaphysics**
April 2022. History of Women Philosophers series: Boston College.
Émilie du Châtelet On Happiness
April 2022. Ancient Philosophy Society, Pennsylvania State University. **The Nature of Music in Peripatetic Phenomenological Musicology**
March 2017. The Territory of "a People": Questioning Community, Boston College. **'The Obligation to Ground Community in Kant and Bergson'**
March 2017. Symposium on Contemporary Philosophy, Boston College. **Heidegger on Questioning**
April 2016. Deserts and Oceans: Transdisciplinary Approaches to the Environment, University of Arizona. **Metaphysics of Complexity**

Podcasts and Interviews

2022-present. *Socratic Swansongs.* Independent YouTube account mixing philosophy, harmonics, and music theory. https://www.youtube.com/@SocraticSwansongs
September 2025. Envisioning a New Global Culture: The Search for Unity between East and West, online. Discussion of Nishida and Bergson and Dialogue with Jay McDaniel.
August 2025. The Nearly Lost Ancient Scale of Archytas on Levi McClain. https://youtu.be/JfduDXnwN_0?si=lvZgnjM0gtsQmIY6
April 2025. *PCC Forum with Jack Bagby and Kerri Welch: Sacred Geometry and the Philosophy of Math*. Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness Forum. https://youtu.be/rIPZgFtWtfY?si=8mYnwuDI_aLKo2sR
March 2025. Processing Plotinus: A Bergsonian Reading (Dialogue with Pedro Brea and Jack Bagby). Footnotes2Plato.
March 2025. *Bergson's Harmonic Theory of Consciousness - Dr. Jack Bagby.* The DemystifySci Podcast. https://youtu.be/sNw_FGWKyLY?si=a9BAPpTjisfz8keM
November 2024. *Matt Segall and Jack Bagby in Dialogue – The Nature of Consciousness and What To Do About It, Redux*. Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness Forum. https://youtu.be/aWcHl3Ibpc0?si=5Wm_wl0N0He48Nvj
April 2024. *Matter and Memory: An Intro to Henri Bergson with Jack Bagby.* Acid Horizon. https://youtu.be/byQjq-9Zbzc?si=EryukOBDJZcBvuFg
September 2023. *The Philosophy of Music and the Attunement of the Soul.* The East-West Psychology Podcast. https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-philosophy-of-music-and-the-attunement-of-the-soul-with-jack-bagby

Conference Organizing

November 2024. PAMLA *Henri Bergson Reconsidered*: Palm Springs, CA.
March 2017. *The Territory of "a People": Questioning Community*, Boston College.

Conference Respondent
June 2025. *Meter and Music* Syracusa, Italy.
Mark Nyvlt "Aristotle and Aristoxenus on Harmonics: Science, Melody, and Catharsis"
November 2022. *Aurbindo Gose International Conference,* Ecole Normale Superieure.
Debashish Banerji 'The Inward Turn and the Radically Creative Posthuman: Bergson, Deleuze, and Sri Aurobindo'
May 2018. *Boston Phenomenology Circle*, Boston University.
Leonard Lawlor 'Phenomenon closest to the Noumenona'

Grants and Fellowships
2026. Faculty Development Grant, [~$1,100] California Institute of Integral Studies.
Funding publication fees for open access Peer-reviewed article.
2019-2021. Dissertation Research Fellowship, [~$50,000] Boston College.
Competitive departmental award granted to select doctoral students in support of full-time dissertation research.
2018. ATIG Technology Grant [$8000] *Online research tool mapping and navigating Spinoza's Ethics* (Boston College's Academic Technology Advisory Board) ethica.bc.edu
2015. The Exploratory Technology Grant [$1500] *Prototype Mapping of Spinoza's Ethics* (Boston College's Academic Technology Advisory Board) metamaps.cc/maps/1516

Academic Duties

Committees and Positions
2023-present. Member of CARC (*committee on curriculum review*).
2023-present. Program Assessment Coordinator (2 credit course load).
2022-present. Recruiting and Interviewing Graduate Students.
2023-2024. Hiring Committees for Core Faculty.
2025. Board Member at Local Non-Profit (*Three Dots*, State College).

Doctoral Chair
Past:
2026 Dr. Cindy Cleavland
Future:
2028 Keka Chakraborty
2028 Claire Chambers
2029 Josh Larosa
2030 Joseph Pryor

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member
Past:
2025 Dr. Jonathan Kay
Future:
2027 Josh Hogins
2028 Xuan Wen
2028 Vince Wurm
2028 Natelie Theil-Gebheim
2029 Malstrom Fonseca

Doctoral Comprehensive Exams:
2026 Claire Chambers
2026 Tyler Glauz-Todrank
2026 Natelie Theil-Gebheim
2026 Sam Harrelson
2025 Andi Chatburn
2025 Keka Chakraborty
2023 Kate Kettelkamp
2023 Lucian Lazar

Graduate Advising
2022-present. ~25 MA and first year PhD students.