

## Dr. Paul Joseph DiRado

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### Area of Specialization

Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

### Areas of Competency

History of Philosophy, Ethics, Asian Philosophy, Medical Ethics, Logic, Continental Philosophy

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### Language Experience

Ancient Greek Proficiency

### Education

2008-2015                      University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
M.A. in Philosophy (Spring 2011)  
PhD. in Philosophy (May 2015)  
Dissertation: "Judgment and Perception in Plato's  
*Theaetetus*"

2003-2007                      Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA  
Graduated Summa Cum Laude  
B.A in Philosophy with Honors  
Honors Thesis: "The Worldly Call of Conscience"

### Awards

June 2016                      Travel Grant Awarded to 2016 Meeting of the International Society for  
Neoplatonic Studies

2014                              Outstanding Teaching Award, Department of Philosophy, University of  
Kentucky

Fall 2012                      Graduate School Allocated Fellowship, University of Kentucky

2007                              Soper Prize for Philosophy, Whitman College  
Awarded by Whitman College Philosophy Department, for the top Honors  
Thesis in senior class

2006                              Abshire Grant, Whitman College  
"Supervenient Conversation in Emerson's 'Experience'"  
A semester grant of \$800. Conducted research for Professor Thomas  
Davis at Whitman College

## Curriculum Vitae

### **Professional Publications**

“Cephalus, Myth of Er, and Remaining Virtuous in Unvirtuous Times.” *Journal of the International Plato Society* 14 (2014), pp. 63-84.

“Karl Marx.” *The Concord Review* 14.1 (2003), pp. 121-139.

### **Papers Under Revision for Resubmission**

"Theaetetus' Definition of Incommensurability as Power." Resubmitted to *Epochē Journal for the History of Philosophy*.

### **Papers Under Review**

"In What Sense Does the One Exist? Existence and Hypostasis in Plotinus." Co-written with Dr. Michael Wiitala.

### **Popular Publications**

“Rabbit’s Feet, Hatches, and Monsters: Mysteries vs. Questions in J.J. Abrams’ Stories.” *The Philosophy of J.J. Abrams (The Philosophy of Popular Culture)*. Ed. Patricia Brace and Robert Arp. University Press of Kentucky, 2014.

### **Presentations**

June 2016, "In What Sense Does the One Exist? Existence and *Hypostasis* in Plotinus." 14th Annual Conference of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies, Seattle, WA. Co-Presented with Dr. Michael Wiitala. (Forthcoming)

September 2015, "Why Plato's Socrates Argues that Being Cannot Be Seen or Heard." Invited Paper at Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA.

April 2015, "Theaetetus' Definition of Incommensurability as Power." 2015 Meeting of the Ancient Philosophy Society, Lexington, Kentucky.

October 2014, “*Logos* and Eidetic Structure in the *Theaetetus*.” Fall 2014 Meeting of the Society of Ancient Greek Philosophy, Fordham University, New York, New York.

October 2013, “The Normative Structures of Judgment in Plato’s *Theaetetus*.” Fall 2013 Meeting of the Society of Ancient Greek Philosophy, Fordham University, New York, New York.

July 2012, “Dialectic, Midwifery, and the *ὄρμη* for Philosophy.” Participants Conference. 2012 *Collegium Phaenomenologicum*, Città di Castello, Italy.

October 2011, “*Theaetetus* 166a-168c: How Plato Makes Use of his Philosophic Past.” Fall 2011 Meeting of the Society of Ancient Greek Philosophy, Fordham University, New York City, New York.

## Curriculum Vitae

April 2011, “Can Bodily Life be Ruled by Rational Limit?—The Attuning Structure of Anger in Seneca’s *De Ira*,” 2011 Meeting of the Ancient Philosophy Society, Sundance, Utah.

March 2011, “The Ethical Foundations of Logic,” Gulf University of Science and Technology Conference for the Humanities, Kuwait City, Kuwait.

### **Commentaries**

March 2014, Commentary on George Harvey’s paper at the Workshop in Ancient Philosophy. University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

April 2013, Commentary on Terence Sweeney’s paper at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

March 2013, Commentary on Matthew Evans paper at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop in Ancient Philosophy, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

March 2012, Commentary on Mike Neal’s paper at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

March 2011, Commentary on Donald Beith’s paper at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

### **Chaired Panels**

October 2013, “The Socratic Way of Life” at the Fall 2013 Meeting of the Society of Ancient Greek Philosophy, Fordham University, New York, New York.

### **Academic Service**

2014            Graduate Student Organizer of the Workshop in Ancient Philosophy at the University of Kentucky

2009            Research Assistantship, University of Kentucky  
Conducted research for Professor Eric Sanday at the University of Kentucky concerning Plato’s *Gorgias*

## Curriculum Vitae

### Teaching Experience

Instructor, Colorado State University

Introduction to Ethics and Political Theory	Fall 2016
	Fall 2017
Critical Thinking	Spring 2017
Medieval Philosophy [proposed and designed course]	Spring 2017
Philosophy and Science Fiction [proposed and designed course]	Fall 2017

Instructor, University of Kentucky

Introduction to Philosophy	Spring 2010
	Fall 2014
Introduction to Logic	Fall 2010
Introduction to Ethics and Political Theory	Spring 2011
	Spring 2013
Death, Dying and Quality of Life	Fall 2011
Symbolic Logic	Spring 2012
	Spring 2014
Philosophy and Science Fiction	Spring 2013
Asian Philosophy	Fall 2013
Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	Spring 2014
Healthcare Ethics	Spring 2015
Upper Division Ethics	Spring 2015

Teaching Assistant or Grader, University of Kentucky

Introductory Logic	Fall 2008
	Spring 2009
Introduction to Ethics and Political Theory	Fall 2009
Asian Philosophy	Spring 2012

## Curriculum Vitae

### **Graduate Coursework**

Ancient Metaphysics	Eric Sanday
Nietzsche and the Greeks	David Bradshaw
Republic and the Laws	Eric Sanday
Parmenides, Philebus, Timaeus	Eric Sanday
Theaetetus and Sophist	Eric Sanday
Parmenides	Eric Sanday
Independent Study: Seneca and Aristotle	Eric Sanday
Independent Study: Plotinus	David Bradshaw
Medieval Philosophy: Early Church Fathers	David Bradshaw
Medieval Philosophy	David Bradshaw
19 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy	Dan Breazeale
Phenomenological Directions	Bob Sandmeyer
Existentialism	Ron Bruzina
20 <sup>th</sup> Century Continental Value Theory	Eric Sanday
Phenomenology and the Power of Place	Omer Aygün
History of Western Marxism	Arnold Farr
The Analytic Turn	Clare Batty
Metaphysical/Epistemological Paradoxes	Meg Wallace

### **References**

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Eric Sanday  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
University of Kentucky  
859-257-6540  
[eric.sanday@uky.edu](mailto:eric.sanday@uky.edu)

Dissertation Committee Member: Dr. David Bradshaw  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of Kentucky  
859-257-7107  
[david.bradshaw@uky.edu](mailto:david.bradshaw@uky.edu)

Dissertation Committee Member: Dr. Arnold Farr  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
University of Kentucky  
859-257-9414  
[arnold.farr@uky.edu](mailto:arnold.farr@uky.edu)

Teaching Evaluator: Dr. Brandon Look  
Professor of Philosophy, Department Chair  
University of Kentucky  
859-257-3071  
[look@uky.edu](mailto:look@uky.edu)

All letters are also confidentially on file with Katie Barret at [kbarret@uky.edu](mailto:kbarret@uky.edu).

## Curriculum Vitae

### Dissertation Abstract

Title: Perception and Judgment in Plato's *Theaetetus*

I argue that Plato's dialogue *Theaetetus* demonstrates that knowledge is never caused by sense perception. While various kinds of qualities appear to the soul or mind as a result of sense perception—as a result of external bodies impacting with the sense organs—the being (*einai* or *ousia*) of these qualities is something different from the mere appearance of the qualities that occurs through the senses. While white colors appear to the soul through vision, perception itself does not reveal that these many appearances are all instances of one white quality. However, I demonstrate that it is impossible to know anything, even something as basic as “the chalk is white,” if the knower does not recognize that “white” is some one thing and not merely a plurality of instances. Since sense perception does not disclose the one being of what appears within it, knowledge always requires the soul or mind to go beyond what is receptively disclosed to it through sense perception.

In order to demonstrate this conclusion, I show how the Plato uses a *reductio ad absurdum* argument in the *Theaetetus*. He develops a theory I will call the Flux Thesis. This theory argues that perceiving and knowing are the same. In order to justify this result, the Flux Thesis posits that qualities have no one being that is distinct from their many appearances. I show that the theory entails a series of unacceptable consequences. The worst of these consequences is that it makes reality itself unintelligible. According to the theory, the world cannot be linguistically described because the world does not possess any concrete determinacy to describe as a result of the theory denying the difference between being and appearances. Plato's Socrates demonstrates that these conclusions are unacceptable on the theory's own terms. As a result, the theory fails and the postulate that being and appearances are identical must be rejected. It is impossible for the mere appearance of a quality through sense perception to ever be knowledge. It will only be possible for knowledge to come about through an activity of the soul that discovers the being of what appears to it.