

# Stephen Ross

Updated July 14, 2026

**Email:** ross23@mcmaster.ca

## Research interests

History and philosophy of science, pragmatism, logic

## Education

### McMaster University

Hamilton, Ontario

PhD in Philosophy

Defended September 2025

Committee: Alex Klein (supervisor), Holly Andersen (external), Sandra Lapointe, Megan Stotts

Thesis: "Pluralism, Truth and Synthesis"

### University of British Columbia

Vancouver, British Columbia

MMus in Piano Performance

Awarded June 2020

Committee: Corey Hamm (supervisor), Terence Dawson

Thesis repertoire:

- Poulenc, Trois Pièces FP48 (1953 ed.)
- Schubert, Sonata D894
- Bach, Prelude and Fugue BWV 867
- Hindemith, Sonata no. 3

### University of Calgary

Calgary, Alberta

MA in Philosophy

Defended May 2019

Committee: C. K. Waters (supervisor), Mark Migotti, Ann Levey

Thesis: "The Scientific Practice Turn as Philosophical Progress"

### St. Thomas University

Fredericton, New Brunswick

BA in Music and Philosophy

Awarded June 2016

Electives in History, Mathematics, Psychology.

## Teaching experience

### Instructor, McMaster

Winter 2026

PHILOS/ARTHIST 2H03: Aesthetics

Survey of key philosophical works on art and beauty, with assignments focused on analysis of texts and clear argumentation.

### Instructor, McMaster

Winter 2025

PHILOS 2CT3: Critical Thinking

Analytical reading, argument reconstruction, classifying types of inference.

### Teaching Assistant, McMaster

Each Winter 2021–2024 and Fall 2024

PHILOS 2B03: Introductory Logic, Prof. Shubert

Propositional and first order logic. Tutorials and grading.

**Teaching Assistant, McMaster** Fall 2023  
PHILOS 1B03: Philosophy, Law and Society, Prof. Leferman  
Introductory survey of ancient, Early Modern, and contemporary political philosophy. Tutorials and grading.

**Teaching Assistant, McMaster** Fall 2022  
IBH 2AE3: Critical Thinking, Prof. Leferman  
Introduction to patterns of deductive and inductive reasoning. Grading and student meetings.

**Teaching Assistant, McMaster** Fall 2021  
PHILOS 2U03: Philosophy of Health and Medicine, Prof. Mercuri  
Theories of health and disease, use of evidence and statistics in medicine, a critical overview of Evidence-Based Medicine. Tutorials and grading.

**Teaching Assistant, UBC** Fall and Winter 2018-2020  
MUSC 141/241: Class Piano, Instr. Chai  
Piano technique and sight reading fluency for nonpiano majors. In-class instruction and examination.

**Teaching Assistant, UCalgary** Fall 2017  
PHIL 279: Logic I, Prof. Macintosh  
Propositional and first order logic. Three tutorials, some lecturing, and grading.

**Tutor, St. Thomas** Winter 2014–Fall 2015  
FNAR 2053/63 Tonal Music: Harmony and Counterpoint I/II, Prof. Kutnowski  
Tonal harmonic analysis, four voice harmonisation, species counterpoint. Tutorials.

## Service

**Instructor, Catherine Project** August 2025–present  
The Catherine Project is a nonprofit based at St. John's College in the USA. It offers online university-level seminars to the general public for free. I have run seminars on mathematical proofs, David Hume, George Berkeley, C. S. Peirce, and Sir Walter Scott.

**Guest Speaker, McMaster Philosophy Society** September 2022–December 2023  
I gave extracurricular lectures to undergraduates in mathematical logic every two weeks or so. This was in demand because the department does not offer logic beyond an introductory course.

**Assistant Editor, *Stance*** October 2015–January 2016  
*Stance* is an undergraduate journal based out of Ball State University. I gave input on their acceptance policy and refereed several entries.

## Research assistantships

**Senate Curriculum Committee, St. Thomas** September 2014–July 2015  
I, alongside fellow committee members, evaluated new or amended courses and degree programmes.

## The/La Collaborative

Mentor: Prof. Sandra Lapointe (McMaster) August 2021–March 2023  
Scoping reviews, qualitative survey distribution and analysis, conference facilitation, translation, among other duties. The research topic was knowledge mobilisation in Canadian universities. For examples of work I contributed to, see "Community Innovation and Impact in University-based Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts," both the [Report and Discussion Paper](#) and the [Phase One Report](#), as well as the "[Canadian Forum for Social Innovation: Consensus Report](#)".

## Harriet Irving Library

Mentor: Barry Cull (New Brunswick) October 2015–January 2016  
Literature database management for research on digital and paper reading habits at the university level. Also assisted with library acquisitions processing.

## Awards

|                                                              |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Ontario Grad. Scholarship (Government of Ontario)            | 2024-2025 |
| Graduate Teaching Excellence Award (McMaster University)     | 2023-2024 |
| McMaster Grad. Award (McMaster University)                   | 2022-2025 |
| Ontario Grad. Scholarship (Government of Ontario)            | 2021-2022 |
| Faculty of Arts Grad. Award (University of British Columbia) | 2018-2020 |
| Queen Elizabeth II Grad. Scholarship (Government of Alberta) | 2017-2018 |
| Canadian Grad. Scholarship–Master's (SSHRC)                  | 2016-2017 |

## Presentations

### "Scientific Pluralism and Complete Representations"

McMaster Philosophy Speakers Series, Hamilton November 2024

### "Peirce on a Role for History: A Comparison with Kuhn on the Logic of Science"

Canadian Philosophical Association, Toronto May 2023

## Commentaries

### Jennifer Whyte, "Mathematical SETIbacks: Open Texture in Mathematics as a New Problem for Messaging Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence"

Canadian Philosophical Association, Toronto May 2023

### Hassan Massoud, "Epistemic Rigor: Going beyond Formal Rigor"

Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Edmonton October 2016

## Skills

### Languages

French (advanced)

### Research Software

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Git, Covidence, NVivo

### Music Engraving Software

Sibelius, Lilypond