

Paul Rezkalla

Department of Philosophy
151 Dodd Hall
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306-1500

prezkalla@fsu.edu
+1 (917) 386-5843
<https://sites.google.com/view/paulrezkalla>

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, Florida State University (To be defended in 2021)

Committee: Michael Ruse (advisor), Jack Justus, John Kelsay, and John Schwenkler

Dissertation: *Survival of the Ethicist: Why Evolutionary Debunking Arguments Go Wrong...And How to Fix Them*

M.Sc., Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology (*with merit*), University of Oxford, 2019

Graduate Certificate in Bioethics, Florida State University, 2015

M.A., Theology, St. John's University, 2015

M.A., Philosophy and Ethics (*with merit*), University of Birmingham, 2013

B.A., Pre-Medicine, History, and Religious Studies, New York University, 2012

Positions Held

2015-present: Graduate Assistant & Philosophy Instructor, Florida State University

2018-present: Associate, Ian Ramsey Centre for Science & Religion, University of Oxford

2018-present: Adjunct Philosophy Instructor, Florida A&M University

2018-2019: Graduate Fellow for Science Cross-Training (Templeton Foundation)

2018: Adjunct Philosophy Instructor, Tallahassee Community College

2014-2015: Adjunct Philosophy Instructor, College of New Rochelle

2014-2015: Adjunct Arabic Instructor, Wagner College

2013-2015: Research Assistant in Theology and Religious Studies, St. John's University

Areas of Specialization and Competence

AOS: Ethics, Philosophy of Science

AOC: Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysics, Bioethics, Evolutionary Biology, Anthropology, & Cognitive Science

Publications

The Emotional Mind: The Affective Roots of Culture and Cognition by Stephen T. Asmi & Rami Gabriel, The Quarterly Review of Biology 95, no. 4 (December 2020): 324.

“Theism & Evolutionary Debunking Arguments Against Moral Realism” *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*. 12 (3): 41. 2020

“Aren't right and wrong just matters of opinion? On moral relativism and subjectivism.” In *Introduction to Philosophy*, edited by Christina Hendricks. Rebus Press (2019)

Neurotheology: How Science Can Enlighten Us About Spirituality by Andrew Newberg, The Quarterly Review of Biology 94, no. 1 (March 2019): 77.

“Does Cognitive Science of Religion Undermine Religious Belief?” *Philosophy and Cosmology* 12, no. 1 (2015)

In Progress

“Is Evolutionary Contingency a Problem for Moral Realism?” (*Under Review*)

“A New Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Special Obligations to Kin” (*In Preparation*)

“Why Humean Accounts of Decision-Making Can’t Account for Consent” (*In Preparation*)

“Adaptive Lag and Other Empirical Assumptions of Evolutionary Debunking Arguments” (*In Preparation*)

“Proximal and Distal Accounts of Belief-Formation Cannot be Disentangled” (*In Preparation*)

“Virtue is the Wrong Metric for Merit” (*In Preparation*)

Invited Academic Presentations

“Intellectual Humility: It’s Not What You Think...”

Newman Theological College, (upcoming) November 2020

“What’s Wrong with the Scientific Study of Morality?”

Humane Philosophy Seminar Series, University of Oxford, May 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

“Clarifying the Target of the Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Moral Realism”

Philosophy of Religion Workshop, University of Birmingham, October 2018

“Embracing Teleology and Salvaging Moral Realism”

Templeton Philosophy, Religion, and Science Workshop, University of Madaba, July 2017

Academic Presentations

“In Defense of the Erasure Model of Forgiveness”

Long Island Philosophical Society, Molloy College, April 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

“The Libertarian Dilemma”

Southeastern Evangelical Philosophical Society, Anderson University, March 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

“What’s Wrong with the Scientific Study of Morality?”

North/South Carolina Philosophical Society, NC-Asheville, March 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

New Directions in Philosophy of Science, Concordia University in Edmonton, September 2019

Long Island Philosophical Society, April 2019

“Is it Really the Evolution of Religion?”

Religion, Evolution, and Social Bonding, University of Oxford, July 2019

“Retroactive Causation, Evolution, and Evil”

Ian Ramsey Annual Science and Religion Conference, University of Oxford, July 2019

“Clarifying the Target of the Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Moral Realism”

Evolutionary Research on Morality Conference, University of Urbino, October 2018

“Meeting the Challenge of Folk Belief: A Response to Daniel Korman”

Long Island Philosophical Society, Molloy College, April 2018

“Eliminating Eliminativism: What, the Folk?!”

North Carolina Philosophical Society, Winthrop University, March 2018

“Evolution’s Contingency and Morality’s Immutability”

Religion, Society, and the Science of Life, University of Oxford, July 2017

“Survival of the Ethicist: In Defense of the Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Moral Realism”

Philosophical, Social, and Moral Issues of War, KU Leuven, May 2017

“Compatibilist Options in Light of Mele’s Zygote Argument”

Long Island Philosophical Society, NYC, March 2017

“Theistic Compatibilism and Bullet-Biting”

North Carolina Philosophical Society, February 2017

“Pre-Augustinian Patristic Views on Military Involvement”

FSU Religion Symposium, February 2017

“The Querulous Problem of Evil”

Evangelical Philosophical Society Southeastern Meeting, March 2016

“The failure of evolutionary ethics”

Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, November 2015

“Some problems with moral realism and evolutionary ethics”

The Human Difference Conference, University of Oxford, July 2015

“Outta My Head: Cognitive Science of Religion and Arguments Against Theism”

Evolution and Historical Explanation Conference, University of Oxford, July 2014

Teaching

Florida State University:

Primary Instructor

Philosophy of Mind (Fall 2020; online/synchronous)

Introduction to Philosophy (Summer 2020; online/asynchronous)

Metaphysics (Spring 2020)

Ethical Theory (Summer 2018)

Ethical Issues (Spring 2018)

Teaching Assistant

Environmental Ethics (Fall 2019)

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2017)

Modern Philosophy (Fall 2016)

Philosophy of Law (Spring 2016)

Florida A&M University:

Logic (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020)

Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2018, Fall 2019)

Tallahassee Community College:

World Ethics (Spring 2018)

College of New Rochelle:

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2014)

Ethics (Spring 2015)

Wagner College:

Elementary Arabic I (Fall 2014, Spring 2015)

Elementary Arabic II (Spring 2015)

Saint John's University:

Church History [Teaching Assistant] (Spring 2014)
Mystery of God (The Trinity) [Teaching Assistant] (Fall 2013)
Bioethics [Teaching Assistant] (Fall 2014)
Medical Ethics [Teaching Assistant] (Spring 2013)

Graduate Coursework

Florida State University

Kant in the History of Western Thought—Michael Ruse
The Ethics of Hume & Kant—Michael Ruse
Evolutionary Ethics—Michael Ruse
American Philosophy—Michael Ruse
Philosophy & Darwinism—Michael Ruse
War: Philosophical, Religious, and Historical Dimensions—Michael Ruse & John Kelsay
Manipulation, Moral Responsibility, & Self Control—Alfred Mele
Philosophy of Science—Jack Justus
Metaphysics: World Without God?—David McNaughton
Theistic Ethics—David McNaughton
Modern Philosophy—John Roberts
Modern Logic—John Piers Rawling
Ethics: Core Course—Mark LeBar
Bioethics—Tracie Mahaffey
Bioethics Capstone—Tracie Mahaffey
Methods of Inquiry in Aristotle—Nathaniel Stein
Metaphysics & Epistemology—Stephen Kearns
Classical Islamic Thought—John Kelsey
Philosophy of Photography—Randolph Clarke
Teaching Philosophy—Michael Bishop
World Music—Danielle Davis

University of Birmingham

God, Freedom, and the Meaning of Life—Yujin Nagasawa
Global Ethics—Jussi Suikkannen
Classic Problems in Philosophy—David Cheetham
Research Skills & Methods—David Hunter

University of Oxford

Principles of Evolutionary Biology—Caroline Philips
Quantitative Modeling—Arran Davis
Mind & Culture—Bronwyn Tarr
Evolution of Human Behaviour—Laura Fortunato

Saint John's University

Greek I—Tenny Thomas

Greek II—Tenny Thomas

Mystery of God—Paul Molnar

Bioethics—Meghan Clarke

Counseling—Joann Heaney-Hunter

Synoptics & Modern Criticism—Frank Conolly-Weinert

The First Six Centuries—Christopher Denny

Theological Anthropology—Michael Dempsey

Hebrew I—Ilbar

Medieval Thought—Christopher Denny

The Thought of Karl Barth—Paul Molnar

Professional Experience

2021 Mentor for *Minorities in Philosophy*

2021 Society for Christian Philosophers Annual Eastern Conference, Conference Organizer

2020 *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, Referee

2019 ISSR Evolution, Religion, and Social Bonding Conference, Conference Co-organizer

2019 Ian Ramsey Annual Conference on Science and Religion, Conference Co-organizer

2018 *The New Bioethics: A multidisciplinary journal of biotechnology and the body*, Referee

2016 FSU Free Will, Agency, and Moral Responsibility Conference: Conference Organizer

2016 Minds Conference: Conference Co-organizer

Affiliations

2018-present Ian Ramsey Centre for Science & Religion

2018-present Florida State University Fellows Society

2016-present Long Island Philosophical Society

2015-present Society of Christian Philosophers

2015-present Florida Philosophical Association

2014-present International Society for the Cognitive Science of Religion

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

2020 IHS Research Grant (\$600)

FSU Philosophy Department Travel Grant (\$300)

2019 Templeton Travel Bursary, Concordia University at Edmonton (\$700 CAD)

Congress of Graduate Students Travel Grant (\$500)

2018 Florida State University Fellows Society

IHS Research Grant (\$550)

Barbinder Watson Research Grant (£150)

2018 Graduate Student Cross-Training Fellowship (\$34,000)

Templeton Foundation/Society of Christian Philosophers

2017 International Society for Science and Religion Bursary (£650)

John Templeton Foundation Grant for Invited Presentation (\$1250)

- Lucy Werkmeister Scholarship, Florida State University (\$500)
Travel Grant, Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University (\$400)
FSU Philosophy Department Travel Grant (\$300)
- 2016 Lucy Werkmeister Scholarship, Florida State University (\$500)
Travel Grant, Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University (\$400)
- 2015 Florida State University Teaching Assistantship (awarded 2015-present)
Lucy Werkmeister Scholarship, Florida State University (\$1,000)
Travel Grant, Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University (\$200)
- 2014 Templeton Foundation and the Center for the History of European Discourse
Research in Cognitive Science of Religion (\$1,000)
- 2014 St. John's University Graduate Assistantship in Theology (awarded twice: 2013,2014)
- 2013 NYU President's Service Award (awarded twice: 2011, 2013)
This is the highest awarded student honor at NYU
- 2011 Social Impact Business Challenge Winner (\$20,000)
Grant awarded to start up a Medical Ethics curriculum software
- 2008 New York City Comptroller's Special Recognition Award: for volunteerism and exemplary citizenship.

Media & Outreach

[Interview with Randal Rauser \(2019\)](#)

Contributor at:

[The Olive Press](#)

Languages

Arabic: Fluent

Koine Greek: Limited reading knowledge

Ancient Hebrew: Limited reading knowledge

References

Michael Ruse

Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy
Director, History and Philosophy of Science Program
Florida State University
mruse@fsu.edu
(850) 644-7248

John Schwenkler

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Florida State University
jschwenkler@fsu.edu
(850) 778-1655

James “Jack” Justus

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Florida State University
jjustus@fsu.edu
(850) 644-1483

Yujin Nagasawa

Professor of Philosophy
Co-Director, John Hick Centre for the Philosophy of Religion
University of Birmingham (UK)
y.nagasawa@bham.ac.uk
+44 (0)121 41 46055

Emma Cohen

Associate Professor, Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology
Fellow in Human Sciences, Wadham College
University of Oxford
emma.cohen@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Andrew Pinsent

Director, Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion
University of Oxford
andrew.pinsent@theology.ox.ac.uk

Ard Louis

Professor of Theoretical Physics
University of Oxford
ard.louis@physics.ox.ac.uk