

## **RYAN PRESTON-ROEDDER, *curriculum vitae***

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Department of Philosophy  
Occidental College  
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### **Education**

Ph.D., New York University, Department of Philosophy, 2007  
Dissertation: *Civic Trust: On the Foundations of Moral Rights*  
Committee: Thomas Nagel (chair), Derek Parfit, Sharon Street

B.A., Rice University, Department of Philosophy, 2000 (*summa cum laude*)

### **Employment**

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Occidental College, 2016-present

Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2016-2017

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill, 2008-2016

### **Research Interests**

Areas of Specialization: Moral and Political Philosophy, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of  
Religion

Areas of Competence: Philosophy and Literature, Medical Ethics, Africana Philosophy

### **Academic Honors**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Assistant Professorship, MIT, 2016-2017

APA Article Prize Honorable Mention, 2014

Prize for the “best article published by a younger scholar in the previous two years”  
Awarded for “Faith in Humanity”

Research Award, Templeton Foundation Project on the Nature and Value of Faith, 2014

Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC Chapel Hill Office of the Provost, 2010

Faculty Fellowship, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University,  
2007–2008

Graduate Fellowship, New York Institute of Philosophy Science and Religion  
Project, 2006–2007

Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (Declined), 2000-2003

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship (Declined), 2000-2002

## **Publications**

“Three Varieties of Faith”, *Philosophical Topics* 46 (1): 173-199 (2018)

“Grief and Recovery” (with Erica Preston-Roedder), in *The Moral Psychology of Sadness*, ed. Anna Gotlib. London: Rowman & Littlefield International (2017)

“Civic Trust”, *Philosophers’ Imprint* 17 (4): 1-22 (2017)

“A Better World”, *Philosophical Studies* 168 (3): 629-644 (2014)

“Faith in Humanity”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 87 (3): 664-687 (2013)  
Awarded 2014 APA Article Prize Honorable Mention

## **Presentations and Commentaries**

“The Religious Outlook”

Brandeis University, Conference on Analytic Existentialism, October 2020

“Love and Social Justice”

Pacific APA, Invited Symposium, April 2020

CSU Bakersfield, Department of Philosophy and Religion, April 2019

“Meaning and the Absurd in Tolstoy’s Confession”

CSU Bakersfield, Keynote for Kegley Institute of Ethics Undergraduate Conference, April 2019

University of Kansas, Keynote for Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, April 2019

Cal Poly Pomona, Department of Philosophy, November 2018

USC, Department of Philosophy, October 2018

Comments on Linda Zagzebski, *Exemplarist Moral Theory*

Eastern APA, Author-Meets-Critics Session, January 2019

“Three Varieties of Faith”

University of Vermont, Department of Philosophy, May 2017

MIT, Department of Philosophy, Work in Progress Seminar, April 2017

UCLA, Department of Philosophy, April 2017

Rice University, Humanistic Ethics Workshop, March 2017

Bellingham Lecture in Philosophy and Religion, February 2017

Pacific APA, Invited Symposium, April 2015

Project on the Nature and Value of Faith, Fall Conference, November 2014

“Grief and Recovery”

UCLA, Ethics Workshop, April 2017

MIT, MLK Visiting Scholars Program Luncheon, November 2016

Brandeis University, Department of Philosophy, February 2016

Ohio State University, Department of Philosophy, February 2016

Occidental College, Department of Philosophy, January 2016

Lafayette College, Minds and Morals Colloquium Series, April 2015

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2014

“Love, Scorn, and the Assertion of Black Humanity”  
University of Portland, Department of Philosophy, April 2016  
Comments on Lara Buchak, “Faith, Commitment, and Disagreement”  
Pacific APA, March 2016  
Comments on Justin Weinberg, “Wishing Some Things Were Different”  
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2013  
“Faith in Humanity”  
UNC, Africana Philosophy: Breaking New Ground, February 2013  
UNC, UNC-Hebrew University Workshop, February 2012  
Duke University, Kenan Institute for Ethics, September, 2011  
University of Washington, Seattle, Department of Philosophy, November 2010  
British Society for Ethical Theory, July 2010  
University of Texas, Austin, Just Ethics Workshop, May 2010  
Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Philosophy, November 2009  
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2009  
International Social Philosophy Conference, July 2009  
Pacific APA, Invited Symposium, April 2009  
Harvard, Safra Center for Ethics, Faculty Fellows Seminar, May 2008  
“Moral Education and Moral Demands or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and  
Pass the Buck”  
International Social Philosophy Conference, July 2010  
“Personal Projects and the Greater Good”  
Harvard, Safra Center for Ethics, Fellows Seminar, December 2007  
“Civic Trust and the Problem of Self-Defense”  
UNC Chapel Hill, Department of Philosophy, February 2007  
Cornell University, Department of Philosophy, February 2007  
University of Notre Dame, Department of Philosophy, February 2007  
UCLA, Department of Philosophy, February 2007  
UC San Diego, Department of Philosophy, January 2007  
University of Utah, Department of Philosophy, January 2007  
Harvard University, Department of Philosophy, January 2007  
MIT, Department of Philosophy, January 2007

## **Teaching**

*Department of Philosophy, Occidental College*

Death

Faith, Hope, and Trust

Love in Personal and Political Life

Barack Obama Scholars Program Seminar

Philosophy Department Senior Seminar

Philosophy of Religion

*The Brothers Karamazov*

*Department of Philosophy, MIT*

*Graduate*

Partiality (with Kieran Setiya)

*Department of Philosophy, UNC Chapel Hill*

*Graduate*

Applied Ethics (with Thomas E. Hill)

Contemporary Normative Ethics

Death

Faith, Hope, and Trust (with Thomas E. Hill)

Partiality

Protoseminar (with Thomas Hofweber; with Matthew Kotzen)

*Undergraduate*

Death as a Problem for Philosophy

Medical Ethics

Philosophical Perspectives on Social Justice

Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Capstone Seminar (with Geoffrey Brennan)

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Gateway Course

*The Brothers Karamazov*

## **Advising**

*Ph.D.*

Larisa Svirsky, “Responsibility and Relationship”, defended April 2019

Joshua Blanchard, “Angsty Metaethics”, defended May 2018

Kiran Bhardwaj, *Reason, Emotion, and Consequence: Kantian Ideals and Moral Psychology*, defended 2017

Vida Yao, “Loving the Bad & Not Giving a Damn: A Defense of Psychic Disharmony”, defended 2016

Benjamin Bagley, “Improvisational agency”, defended 2013

Dana Falkenberg, “Practical Reason, Character, and Morality”, defended 2013

Yujia Song, “Empathy, Understanding, and Judgment”, defended 2013

Kristen Bell, “Mercy and criminal justice”, defended 2010

## **Professional Service**

*To Occidental College*

Faculty Mentor, Barack Obama Scholars Program, 2018 – present

Member, Barack Obama Scholars Program Faculty Committee, 2017 – present

Helped design four-year full scholarship program that aims to empower recipients to promote the public good.

**References**

Thomas E. Hill, Jr.

Kenan Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, UNC Chapel Hill

thill@email.unc.edu

Douglas MacLean

Professor of Philosophy, UNC Chapel Hill

maclean@unc.edu

Thomas Nagel

University Professor of Philosophy and Law, Emeritus

New York University

thomas.nagel@nyu.edu

Sharon Street

Professor of Philosophy, New York University

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Susan Wolf

Edna J. Koury Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, UNC Chapel Hill

susanw@email.unc.edu