

## Sean M. Smith, Ph.D – Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
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### Employment

- July 2020 - Chair of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Aug. 2018- Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### Education

- 2012-2018 PhD in Philosophy at the University of Toronto
- 2008 B.A. Honours, University of Toronto, Woodsworth College, with distinction. Specialist in Philosophy, Major in English

*Areas of Specialization:* Indian Buddhist Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind (including Cognitive Science and Philosophy of Psychology)

*Areas of Competence:* Phenomenology, Existentialism, Philosophy of Biology, Ethics and Moral Psychology, Classical Chinese Philosophy

### Publications

#### *Peer Reviewed*

- Forthcoming “The Epistemic Role of Consciousness from a Practical Point of View” in *Contemporary Pragmatism*
- 2021 “The Negation of Self in Indian Buddhist Philosophy” in *Philosopher's Imprint*, Vol. 21, No. 13: 1-23.
- 2020 “A Pāli Buddhist Philosophy of Sentience: Reflections on *Bhavaṅga Citta*” in *Sophia*, Vol. 59: 457-88.
- 2019 “Phenomenal Overflow, Embodied Affect, and Some Varieties of Access” in *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, Vol. 10: 787-808.

2019 "A Buddhist Analysis of Affective Bias" in *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, Vol. 47, No. 1: 155-85.

#### *Invited*

2021 "Buddhist Modernism, Scientific Explanation, and the Self" in *Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, Vol. 12, No. 1: 157-69.

2020 "Paying Attention to Buddhaghosa and Pāli Buddhist Philosophy" in *Philosophy East/West*, Vol 69, No. 4: 1125-51.

2015 Sean M. Smith and Evan Thompson "Searching for Affect: From William James to Neurophenomenology," *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, Vol 2(1): 19-23.

#### **Talks**

#### *Refereed*

"Ledi Sayadaw and Buddhaghosa on Bhavanga Citta"

- International Symposium of Contemplative Studies, San Diego, CA, 2016
- International Association for Buddhist Studies Congress, University of Toronto, 2017

"A Novel Approach to the Phenomenal Overflow Thesis"

- Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary, AB, 2016
- Central APA, Baltimore, MD, 2017

"The Phenomenology of Attention and the Mereology of the Self"

- Pacific APA, Vancouver, BC, 2015

"Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Mind in the light of Contemplative Neuroscience"

- Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison, NY, 2014

"The Evolutionary Function of Phenomenal Consciousness"

- *Canadian Philosophical Association* Congress, St Catherines, ON, 2014

"The Spatial Dynamics of Political Subjectivity"

- *Concordia Graduate Conference*, Montreal, QC, 2014

"The Explanatory Scope of Early Indian Buddhist Teachings on *Anatta*"

- Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison, NY, 2013

"With a View to Nibbana: Buddhist Soteriology and its Various Western Appropriations"

- Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison, NY, 2011

“Consciousness does not Supervene Locally over the Brain”

- University of Toronto’s Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind (UTISM), 2006

"Neutral Monism and the Nature of Consciousness"

- Toward a Science of Consciousness, Tucson AZ, 2006

*Invited*

“The Rhetoric of Science in the Construction of Buddhist Modernism”

- International Cultural Studies Speaker Series, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, Honolulu, USA 2020

“Perspective, Bias, and Attention Norms”

- Central APA, Chicago IL, 2020

“Pain as a Scaffold for the Lifeworld”

- Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver, Canada, 2019
- Symposium on Practical Philosophy, National University of Taiwan, 2019

“Some Norms of Affectively Biased Attention: Lessons from Buddhaghosa”

- Norms of Attention Workshop, University of Virginia, 2019

“Are Emotions Conceptually Constructed? Cross Cultural Philosophical Reflections”

- Keynote Address for UH Mānoa Philosophy Dept. Graduate Conference, Honolulu, USA, 2019

“Embodiment and Consciousness: Phenomenological and South Asian Buddhist Philosophical Perspectives”

- South Asian Studies Symposium, Honolulu, USA 2019

“Cross-Cultural Philosophical Pedagogy”

- Pacific Meeting of the APA, Vancouver, Canada, 2019

“How to Conduct Interdisciplinary Research”

- Pacific Meeting of the APA, Vancouver, Canada, 2019

“The Buddhist Roots of 4e Cognition”

- University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, 2018
- University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI, 2018

“The Near and Far Enemies of Contemplative Science”

- Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, 2018
- Institute for Transcultural Psychiatry, McGill University, Montreal, QC, 2018

"The Dynamics of the Subliminal Mind in Theravāda Buddhism"

- Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Asian Perspectives on Mind, Action and Cultivation, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2015

“The Status of Animals in Early Indian Buddhist Moral Psychology”

- University of Toronto Animal Rights Club, 2013

Panel discussion with Andy Clark, Brian Cantwell Smith and others

- University of Toronto Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind, 2006

### *Commentaries*

“Comments on How to Object to Jackson’s Knowledge Argument”

- Pacific Meeting of the APA, Vancouver, Canada, 2019

“Death as the Ultimate Transformative Experience: Response to Thompson”

- University of Toronto Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2017

“The Hyper-Illusory Account of Normative Valence”

- Pacific APA, Vancouver, BC, 2015

“An Anti-Intellectualist Theory of Know-How”

- *Canadian Philosophical Association* Congress, Victoria, BC, 2013

### **Awards**

#### *Research*

- Dean’s Travel Award, 2020 (\$1300)
- Faculty Research Travel Award, 2019 (\$1700)
- Dean’s Travel Award, 2019 (\$1000)
- University of Toronto Philosophy Fund Award, 2017 (\$5000)
- Julia Ching Memorial Prize, 2017 (\$2213.73)
- University of Toronto Doctoral Completion Award, 2017 (\$6266.41)
- Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages - Summer Institute on Buddhism and Science, 2017 (\$1000)
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2013-17 (\$60 000)
- American Philosophical Association Travel Grant, 2016 (\$300)
- Senior Doctoral Fellow at New College in the University of Toronto - Buddhist Psychology and Mental Health, 2015 (\$1000)
- George Paxton Young Memorial Prize in Philosophy, 2015
- Gordon Cheesbrough Graduate Fellowship in Philosophy, 2014, 2016-17 (\$4000)
- Sandhya and Ritten Ray Award for Indian Philosophy, University-wide award for merit, 2014 (\$1000)
- Junior Research Fellow - *Mind and Life* Summer Research Institute, 2011, 2013, and 2014
- Sunflower Scholarship for Most Improved Student in Philosophy, 2006
- Queen Elizabeth Reaching for the Top Scholarship, 2003

## *Teaching*

Faculty Teaching Award, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (nominated)

Runner up for the Martha Lile Teaching Prize in Philosophy, 2016

TATP University of Toronto Teaching Assistant Award, 2015 – This award is given out yearly to the top 4 of the University's 6000 TA's.

## **Teaching Experience**

### *Professor*

Philosophy and Evolution, PHIL 313 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Fall 2020

Graduate Seminar in Buddhist Philosophy, PHIL 790 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, 2019, Spring 2020

Introduction to Philosophy: Morals and Society, PHIL 101 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020

Buddhist Philosophy, PHIL 360 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Philosophical Psychology, PHIL 422 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

### *Instructor*

Introduction to Philosophy: Persons and Value, PHL 113 at the University of Toronto Mississauga, 2018

Philosophy of Religion: Indian Buddhism, PHL 235 at the University of Toronto, Mississauga, 2018

The Continental Tradition: Phenomenology and its Discontents, PHL 324 at the University of Toronto, Mississauga, 2017

Seminar in Cognitive Science: Conceptual Foundations for the Science of Consciousness, COG 401 at the University of Toronto, 2015

Persons, Minds and Bodies, PHL 240 with Luke Roelofs at the University of Toronto, 2015

### *Teaching Assistant*

Person's, Minds, and Bodies, PHL 240, 2017

Introduction to Philosophy, PHL 100, 2013-14, and 2016-17

Introduction to Continental Philosophy, PHL 217, 2015 and 2016

Socrates Project Teaching Assistant Position and Seminar Participant, 2007-08

### *Grader*

Existentialism, PHL B30H3So, 2015

### **Professional Service**

#### *Referee*

Buddhist Studies Review

Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences

Philosophy East and West

Journal of Dharma Studies

Theory and Psychology

Topoi

#### *Conferences*

Content steering committee for *Canadian Philosophical Association* annual congress, 2019

### **Languages**

Pāli and some Sanskrit

## **Referees**

### **Evan Thompson, PhD - Supervisor**

Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver Campus  
1866 Main Mall, Buchanan E370  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

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### **Christoph Emmrich, PhD**

Professor of Religious Studies  
Department for the Study of Religion  
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### **Monima Chadha, PhD**

Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy  
Monash University VIC 3800  
Australia

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### **Jennifer Nagel, PhD**

Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Toronto  
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### **William Seager, PhD - Supervisor**

Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Toronto  
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### **Mark Kingwell, PhD - Teaching Reference**

Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Toronto  
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### **William Waldron, PhD**

Professor of Religion, Department of Religion  
Middlebury College  
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