

BRANDON POLITE
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
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EXPERTISE

- AOS: Aesthetics, Philosophy of Music, Value Theory
- AOC: Philosophy of Language, Greek Philosophy, American Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Logic

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor of Philosophy, Knox College, Spring 2017–present
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Knox College, Fall 2014–Spring 2017
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Knox College, Winter 2011–Spring 2014
- Visiting Instructor of Philosophy, Knox College, Winter 2008–Fall 2010

EDUCATION

- PhD. Philosophy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, December 2010
Thesis: *A Correspondence Theory of Musical Representation*
Committee: Steven J. Wagner (chair), Barbara Sattler, James D. Wallace, Robert C. Cummins
- MA. Philosophy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, August 2005
- BA. Philosophy, *cum laude* with honors, Knox College, June 2003

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. “Shared Musical Experiences,” *British Journal of Aesthetics*, forthcoming.
2. “Prelude to a Theory of Musical Representation,” *Revista Musica*, Vol. 17, no. 1. (2017).
3. “The Varieties of Musical Experience,” *Pragmatism Today*, Vol. 5, no. 2 (Winter 2014).

4. "Tortured Calculations: Body Economies in Shakespeare's Cultures of Honor," *Selected Papers of the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference*, Vol. 4, 2011 (January 2013).

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. "Confronting the 'Forever Empty,'" in *Louis C.K. and Philosophy*, ed. Mark Ralkowski (Chicago: Open Court Publishing, 2016).

SELECTED PAPERS IN PROGRESS

1. "Musical Kinds As Social Kinds: Or, There's More Than One Way to Rock"
2. "Vinylphile Aesthetics"

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. "Vinylphile Aesthetics." Royal Musical Association Music and Philosophy Study Group, Biennial Conference. King's College London, July 2019.
2. "Musical Kinds As Social Kinds: Or, There's More Than One Way to Rock." Essence and Context: A Conference Between Music and Philosophy. The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Vilnius, Lithuania, September 2016.
3. "Shared Musical Experiences." Royal Musical Association Music and Philosophy Study Group, Annual Conference. King's College London, July 2015.
4. "The Varieties of Musical Experience." Aesthetic Experience and Somaesthetics Conference. Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, June 2014.
5. "Musical Representation and Unexploited Content." Eastern Division American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, March 2014.
6. "Music and the Embodied Ear: Against Musical Purism." Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium, Conversations IX: Grounding Aesthetics. The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, November 2013.
7. "Prelude to a Theory of Musical Representation." Pacific Division American Philosophical Association, Annual Meeting. San Francisco, March 2013.
8. "Prelude to a Theory of Musical Representation." Illinois Philosophical Association, Annual Meeting. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 2012.
9. "Making Sense of Music." The Philosophy of Performance: Art in Modern Society Conference. University of Notre Dame, April 2012.
10. "Tortured Calculations: Body Economies in Shakespeare's Cultures of Honor." Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference, Annual Meeting. Michigan State University, November 2011.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTARY

- "Indifference Realism about Music" by Anton Killin at Eastern Division American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting. Philadelphia 2019.

- “Two Theories of Emotional Expression in Music” by Philip Jenkins at Eastern Division American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting. Philadelphia 2018.
- “Music and Vague Existence” by David Friedell at Central Division APA Meeting, March 2017.
- “Scientific Models, (Anti)Fictionalism, and the Distinct Questions of Representation and Mediation” by Guilherme Sanches de Oliveira at Illinois Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- “When Studio Meets Audience in Artistic Dance Practice” by Aili Bresnahan. Illinois Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, November 2011.

KNOX PRESENTATIONS

- “The Metaphysics of Rock Music.” Philosophy Club, October 2017.
- “Entertaining Your Self: Stand-up Comedy and Personal Identity.” The Humanities Series on Identities, January 2015.
- “The Considered Life: Reflections on Lobsters and the Liberal Arts.” Opening Lecture to the Incoming Class, September 2013.
- “Imaginative Correlations: Music, Representation, and Linguistic Communication.” Friday’s @ Four, Faculty Colloquium, February 2013.
- “Kant, Enlightenment, and the Freedom to Flourish: Philosophical Reflections on a Knox Education.” Opening Lecture to the Incoming Class, September 2012.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Society for Aesthetics

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

- Chair. Department of Philosophy. Fall 2018–present.
- Member. Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs Search Committee. Fall 2017–Winter 2018.
- Member. Curriculum Committee Implementation Subcommittee. Fall 2017.
- Member. Committee on Faculty Research (CoFR). 2015–2017.
- Member. Honorary Degrees Subcommittee, 2014–16
- Member. Vovis Center Faculty Advisory Board, 2014–16.
- Member. Religious Studies Program Committee, 2012–present.
- Member. First-Year Preceptorial Steering Committee, 2012–14.
- Member. McNair Director Search Committee, 2015.
- Co-director. Knox College Humanities Initiative. 2014–15
- Co-director. Philosophy Department Self-Assessment, 2010–13.
- Faculty advisor. Philosophy Club, 2010–present.
- Faculty advisor. Improv Club, 2010–13.
- Faculty advisor. Delta Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon, 2010–present.
- Faculty advisor. Interfraternity Council, 2010–present.
- Faculty editor. *The McNair Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, Knox College, 2011–13.
- Narrator. “Knox College Honor Code” video, 2011.

TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

- Recipient. Faculty Innovation Grant for Summer Research and Course Development, Summer 2019.

- Recipient. Parke Ethics Fund Course Development Grant for creating Philosophy as a Guide to Life, Spring 2017.
- Recipient. Interdisciplinary Course Development Grant (Mellon Faculty Career Enhancement Grant) for creating Philosophy of Music, Spring 2016.
- Recipient. Interdisciplinary Course Development Grant (Mellon Faculty Career Enhancement Grant) for revisions to Philosophy of Religion, Fall 2014.
- Attendee. Introducing Change: Introductory Courses and the Nature of Faculty Work. ACM-Teagle Workshop on teaching critical thinking skills at the introductory level. Chicago, February 2014.
- Author. Proposal to designate Greek Philosophy a Humanities Foundations (H) course (approved Spring 2015).
- Author. Proposal to designate American Philosophy and Postmodernism a Writing Intensive (W) course (approved Spring 2015).
- Author. Proposal to designate Symbolic Logic as satisfying Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning (QSR) foundation (approved Winter 2014).
- Author. Proposal to designate Symbolic Logic as satisfying Quantitative Literacy (QL) competency (approved Spring 2013).

STUDENT RESEARCH

Honors Projects

- Augustus Martini, *“Your Dying Never Stops”: Monuments and Memorialization at Ludlow and Herrin*, 2019. (Member)
- Rebecca Hixon, *The Makings of a Man: Exploring Masculinity in Shakespeare’s Second Historical Tetralogy*, 2016. (Member)
- Nat Baldino, *Orienting Toward the Other: Trans Embodiment and Empathy*, 2015. (Chair)
- Ruth Amerman. *Authentic Social Relationships: Examining Bad Faith and Social Responsibility through Jean-Paul Sartre’s Woman on the Date*, 2014. (Chair)
- Alyssa Gill. “Performing Evil: A Look at Meaning and Creation Through Devising the Play ‘The Devil Is Bored,’” 2014. (Member)
- Jennifer Kaufman. *Virtual Bodies and Immortal Flesh: What Transhumanism’s Valuation of the Human Body Means for Human Life*, 2013. (Chair)
- Erin Coleman. *“I am half yourself”: Love and Androgyny in Shakespearean Comedy*, 2010. (Member)
- Makenzi Crouch. *“Shall I have justice?”: Audience and Expectations of Justice in Shakespeare’s Titus Andronicus*, 2010. (Member)

Ronald McNair Program

- Francis Miyata. “Toward a Nietzschean Theory of Violence,” Summer 2015. (Mentor)
- Nat Baldino. “Trauma and Tragedy: Understanding through Personal Narrative,” Summer 2013. (Mentor)
- Andrew Kunsak. “Salient Features of Synonymy,” Summer 2011. (Mentor)

Knox Ford Fellowship

- Nat Baldino. “Pain as Personal: A Phenomenological Account of the Inexpressibility of Pain on Interpersonal Relations,” Summer 2014. (Mentor)

Knox ASSET Fellowship

- Andrew Marr, “Cultivating the Camelopard: Nietzsche and Lamarckianism,” Summer 2016. (Mentor)

Independent Senior Theses

- Anya Wang, *Mysticism within the Bounds of Kant*, 2017. (Supervisor)
- Chelsea Coventry. “The Changing Meaning of Dissonance,” 2012. (Co-supervisor)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Anya Wang. Attended the 2016 Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy. [[link](#)]

Student Awards

- Nat Klaung. Winner of the 2015 Illinois Philosophical Association Undergraduate Student Essay Contest. (For his paper from Philosophy of Religion, Winter 2015.) [[link](#)]

Student Publications

- Anya Wang. “The Inviability of Narrow Mental Content.” *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research*, 7 (2017), pp. 88–94. (A paper written while studying abroad at Oxford, but significantly revised—with my help—during the summer of 2016.)
- N. F. Baldino. “Trans Phenomenology: A Merleau-Pontian Reclamation of the Trans Narrative.” *Res Cogitans*, Vol. 6, no. 1 (2015). (Originally from their honors project.) [[link](#)]
- David Baker. “Pluralism and Foundationalism in the Applied Sciences.” *Res Cogitans*, Vol. 5, no. 1 (2014). (Originally from Philosophy of Science, Spring 2013.) [[link](#)]
- James Sheppard. “Fundamentalism Against the Patchwork Theory of Laws.” *Res Cogitans*, Vol. 5, no. 1 (2014). (Originally from Philosophy of Science, Spring 2013.) [[link](#)]
- Michael Kaminski. “Donald Davidson’s Account of Conceptual Schemes as Related to Inter-Lingual Translation.” *Res Cogitans*, Vol. 2, no. 1 (2011). (Originally from American Philosophy and Postmodernism, Spring 2010.) [[link](#)]