

JAMES HAROLD

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Areas of Specialization: Aesthetics and Meta-Ethics

Areas of Competence: Ethics, Classical Chinese Philosophy, Ancient Greek Philosophy

Positions Held

Professor. Mount Holyoke College. South Hadley, MA. Since 2014. Previously Associate and Assistant Professor.

Visiting Instructor. Washington University. St. Louis, Missouri. 2001-02.

Instructor. St. Olaf College. Northfield, MN. 1998-99.

Education

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Minneapolis, MN. Ph.D. in Philosophy, August 2001.

Oberlin College. Oberlin, OH. B.A. in Philosophy and Politics, with high honors in Philosophy, May 1993.

Publications

Books:

Dangerous Art: On Moral Criticism of Artworks. Oxford University Press, 2020.

Oxford Handbook of Ethics and Art (editor). Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2022.

Articles:

The Value of Fidelity in Adaptation. *The British Journal of Aesthetics* 58.1 (2018): 1-12.

- Named one of the “Best of Philosophy from Oxford University Press 2018”
- The most read article in *The British Journal of Aesthetics* in 2019.

Music. With Eric Hutton. In Eric Hutton (ed.), *The Dao Companion to Xunzi* (New York: Springer, 2016), pp. 269-89.

On the Ancient Idea that Music Shapes Character. *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 15.3 (2016): 341-354.

Literary Cognitivism. In Noël Carroll and John Gibson (eds.), *Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Literature* (New York: Routledge, 2015), pp. 382-93.

El Anatsui: New Worlds as New Forms of Art. Catalog entry for *El Anatsui: New Worlds*. Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, 2015.

- Aesthetic and Artistic Value. With Sondra Bacharach. In Anna Christina Ribeiro (ed.), *Continuum Companion to Aesthetics* (New York: Continuum Press, 2012), pp. 98-111.
- Cognitivism, Non-Cognitivism, and Skepticism about Folk Psychology. *Philosophical Psychology* 25.2 (April 2012): 165-185.
- Literature, Genre Fiction, and Standards of Criticism. *nonsite.org* Issue #4 (October 14, 2011).
<<http://nonsite.org/issues/issue-3/literature-genre-fiction-and-standards-of-criticism>>
- Is Xunzi's Virtue Ethics Susceptible to the Problem of Alienation? *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy* 10.1 (Spring 2011): 71-84.
- Autonomism Reconsidered. *The British Journal of Aesthetics* 51.2 (April 2011): 137-147.
- Sans goût : l'art et le psychopathe. [Without Taste: Psychopaths and the Appreciation of Art.] With Heidi Maibom. *La Nouvelle Revue Française d'Esthétique* 6 (2010) : 151-163.
- Mixed Feelings: Conflicts in Emotional Responses to Film. *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* XXXIV (2010): 278-292.
- The Value of Fictional Worlds (or, Why *The Lord of the Rings* is Worth Reading). *Contemporary Aesthetics* 8 (2010).
<<http://www.contempaesthetics.org/newvolume/pages/article.php?articleID=584>>
- Can Expressivists Tell the Difference Between Beauty and Moral Goodness? *American Philosophical Quarterly* 45:3 (July 2008): 289-300.
- Immoralism and the Valence Constraint. *The British Journal of Aesthetics* 48.1 (January 2008): 45-64.
- The Ethics of Non-Realist Fiction: Morality's *Catch-22*. *Philosophia* 35:2 (June 2007): 145-159.
- Imagining Evil (Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love *The Sopranos*). In Kuçuradi, Ioanna (ed.) *The Proceedings of the Twenty-First World Congress of Philosophy* (Ankara, Turkey: Philosophical Society of Turkey, 2007), pp. 7-14.
- On Judging the Moral Value of Narrative Artworks. *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 64.2 (Spring 2006): 259-270.
- Translated into French [as *De la valeur morale des œuvres narratives*] and published in Carole Talon-Hugon (ed.), *Art et éthique: Perspectives anglo-saxonnes* (Presses Universitaires France, 2011), pp. 223-248.
- Infected by Evil. *Philosophical Explorations* 8.2 (June 2005): 173-187.
- Narrative Engagement with *Atonement* and *The Blind Assassin*. *Philosophy and Literature* 29.1 (April 2005): 130-145.
- Between Intrinsic and Extrinsic Value. *Journal of Social Philosophy* XXXVI.1 (Spring 2005): 85-105.
- A Moral Never-Never Land: Identifying with Tony Soprano. In Richard Greene and Peter Vernezze (eds.), *The Sopranos and Philosophy: I Kill Therefore I Am* (Chicago and LaSalle, IL: Open Court Press, 2004), pp. 137-146.
- Reprinted in Sonia Maasik and Jack Solomon (eds.), *Signs of Life in the USA: Readings on Popular Culture for Writers*, 5th and 6th eds. (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2006).
- Flexing the Imagination. *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 61.3 (Summer 2003): 247-257.
- Practical Reasons and 'Companions in Guilt.' *Philosophical Investigations* 26.4 (October 2003): 311-331.
- Narrative vs. Theory. *American Journal of Bioethics* 1 (January 2001): 48-49. A peer comment on Tod Chambers' "The Fiction of Bioethics: A Precis."
- Empathy with Fictions. *The British Journal of Aesthetics* 40 (July 2000): 340-355.

Travelers, Mercenaries, and Psychopaths. With Carl Elliott. *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology* 6 (1999): 45-48. A reply to Piers Benn's "Freedom, Resentment, and the Psychopath."

Book reviews:

Robert Stecker, *Intersections of Value: Art, Nature, and the Everyday*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (February 2, 2020) <<https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/intersections-of-value-art-nature-and-the-everyday/>>

Peter Lamarque, *The Opacity of Narrative*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (July 31, 2015). <<https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/59593-the-opacity-of-narrative/>>

Noël Carroll and John Gibson (eds.), *Narrative, Emotion, and Insight*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (June 19, 2012). <<http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/31354-narrative-emotion-and-insight>>

Gregory Currie, *Narratives & Narrators: A Philosophy of Stories*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (October 18, 2010). <<http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=21710>>

John Gibson, *Fiction and the Weave of Life*. *The British Journal of Aesthetics* 49.1 (January 2009): 88-91.

Elisabeth Schellekens, *Aesthetics and Morality*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (July 13, 2008). <<http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=13625>>

Jenefer Robinson, *Deeper than Reason: Emotion and Its Role in Literature, Music, and Art*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (June 3, 2007). <<http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=9903>>

Matthew Kieran and Dominic McIver Lopes (eds.), *Imagination, Philosophy, and the Arts*. In *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 63 (Winter 2005): pp. 86-89.

Christopher New, *Philosophy of Literature: an Introduction*. In *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 61 (Winter 2003): pp. 89-90.

Paul Thom, *Making Sense: A Theory of Interpretation*. In *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 60 (Winter 2002): pp. 93-94.

Alcohol, Freedom, and Responsibility. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* 25 (August 2000): pp. 760-769. A review essay of Mariana Valverde's *Diseases of the Will: Alcohol and the Dilemmas of Freedom* and Judith Runggay's *Crime, Punishment, and the Drinking Offender*.

Opinion pieces and blog posts:

What Fandoms Can Teach Us about the Value of Plot Holes and the Badness of Bad Artists.

Guest post on *Aesthetics for Birds* (May 18, 2019).

<https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2019/05/18/what-fandoms-can-teach-us-about-the-value-of-plot-holes-and-the-badness-of-bad-artists/>

When the Movie Is Not Like the Book: Faithfulness in Adaptations. Guest post on *Oxford*

University Press Blog (April 8, 2019). <https://blog.oup.com/2019/04/when-the-movie-not-like-book-adaptations/>

Damn the Consequences. Guest post on *Aesthetics for Birds* (August 16, 2014).

<https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2014/08/16/damn-the-consequences-by-james-harold/>

Distinguishing Wars from Metaphors. *Hampshire Gazette* (September 5, 2004), p. A6.

Ruling Raises Questions about States' Role in Marriage. *Hartford Courant* (November 19, 2003).

State Should Get Out of Marriage Business. *Hartford Courant* (August 10, 2003).

- This piece also ran in the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “Separation of Church and State: Let Religion Define Matrimony” (August 6, 2003).

Here’s Why the War against Iraq Is Fundamentally Flawed. *Chicago Tribune* (March 25, 2003), p. 21.

Presentations

Bad Fans and the Oppositional Gaze: When Audiences Attempt to Reinvent Artworks. *National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics*. November 2020.

- Note: this conference was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adrian Piper and the Value of Political Art.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Berkeley, CA. March 2020.

- Note: this conference was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so the paper was not presented

Annual Meeting of the British Society for Aesthetics. Oxford, UK. September 2021.

Bad Artists. *Dartmouth Art and Ethics Workshop*. Hanover, NH. May 2019.

Loving a Lovely Sight and Expressivism in Aesthetics.

Aesthetics Work Group at the College of Charleston. Charleston, SC. February 2019.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Toronto, ON. October 2018.

Alain Locke and the Aims of the Artist. *Art and Ethics Workshop*. Southampton, UK. January 2019.

The Value of Fidelity in Adaptation. *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. San Diego, CA. April 2018.

Turning a Work of Literature into a Movie: Some Puzzles about Adaptation.

Keynote Address at the 2017 *White Rose Aesthetics Forum: Medium, Translation, and Adaptation*. University of Leeds. May 2017.

Lecture at the *London Aesthetics Forum*. University College London. May 2017.

Consequentialism for Aesthetics.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Savannah, GA. November 2015.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Vancouver, BC. April 2015.

Two Aims in Artistic Interpretation: Thesis and Theme.

Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. St. Louis, MO. March 2015.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. San Antonio, Texas. October 2014.

Lecture at Lingnan University. Hong Kong, SAR, China. February 2014.

Aesthetes and Psychopaths in Classical Confucianism. Lecture at City University of Hong Kong. Hong Kong, SAR, China. February 2014.

Moral Particularism and the Aesthetics Analogy.

Eastern Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Philadelphia, PA. April 2014.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Vancouver, BC. April 2009.

Music’s Value in Classical Confucian Thought: Lessons for Contemporary Aesthetics. *National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics*. St. Louis, MO. October 2012.

Relativism and Expressivism in Ethics and Aesthetics. *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics*. Pacific Grove, CA. April 2012.

Literature, Genre Fiction, and Standards of Criticism. *No Quarrels: Literature and Philosophy Today*. Boston University. Boston, MA. March 2011.

On the Idea that Music Shapes Moral Character.

Eastern Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Philadelphia, PA. April 2011.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. San Francisco, CA. April 2010.

Art on the Brain. South Hadley, MA. June 2010.

Alienation and Ritual. International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy. *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. Vancouver, BC. April 2009.

Autonomism Reconsidered. *Annual Meeting of the British Society of Aesthetics*. Oxford, UK. September 2009.

Can Expressivists Tell the Difference Between Beauty and Moral Goodness? Symposium session at the *Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. Philadelphia, PA. December 2008.

Without Taste: Psychopaths and the Appreciation of Art. With Heidi Maibom. *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics*. Pacific Grove, CA. April 2008.

The Value of Fictional Worlds. *National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics*. Los Angeles, CA. November 2007.

The Cognitive Link between Moral and Aesthetic Value. *Dartmouth College Philosophy Department Lecture Series*. Hanover, NH. June 2007.

Meta-metaethics: Moderate Skepticism about Some Concepts of Metaethical Inquiry. *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. San Francisco, CA. April 2007.

Aesthetic and Moral Judgments, Cognitivism and Non-Cognitivism. *Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association*. Toronto, ON. May/June 2006.

What Makes a Narrative Work of Art Morally Good or Bad? *The Ethics of Fiction in Contemporary Narrative in English*. Jaca, Spain. March/April 2006.

On Judging the Moral Value of Narrative Artworks.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Portland, OR. March 2006.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Pacific Grove, CA. April 2005.

Aesthetics Anarchy Conference. Indiana University. Bloomington, IN. May 2005.

Measuring the Moral Merit of Artworks. *University of Canterbury Philosophy Lecture Series*. Christchurch, NZ. July 2004.

Warrant in Aesthetics. *Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. Chicago, IL. April 2004.

Deception and Self-Conscious Narration in 'Atonement' and 'The Blind Assassin'.

American Society for Aesthetics National Meeting. San Francisco, CA. October 2003.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. San Francisco, CA. October 2003.

Coherent Criticism. *Knowing Art Conference*. University of British Columbia. Vancouver, BC. August 2003.

Sympathy with the Devil. *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics*. Pacific Grove, CA. April 2003.

Infected by Evil. *York University Lecture Series*. Toronto, ON. March 2003.

Imagining Evil. *University of Memphis Philosophy Lecture Series*. Memphis, TN. March 2002.

What Can Narratives Contribute to Bioethics? *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities*. Baltimore, MD. October 2002.

Simulation and Spillover. *Appalachian State University Philosophy and Religion Colloquia*. Boone, NC. November 2001.

Imagining Evil, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love “The Sopranos.” *Society for the Philosophic Study of the Contemporary Visual Arts*. In conjunction with the *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*. San Francisco, CA. March 2003.

Flexing the Imagination.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Minneapolis, MN. October 2001.

Eastern Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Philadelphia, PA. April 2001.

Moralism and Autonomism.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Pacific Grove, CA. April 2000.

Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL. April 2000.

Derivative and Inherited Value. *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. Albuquerque, NM. April 2000.

Utilitarianism as Foundationalism. *Utilitarianism 2000 Conference*. Winston-Salem, NC. March 2000.

Environmental Ethics and Environmental Aesthetics. *Environmental Aesthetics Conference*. Logan, UT. October 1999.

Two Kinds of Aesthetic Reasons. *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics*. Pacific Grove, CA. April 1999.

Giving Practical Reasons. *Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. Washington, D.C. December 1998.

Empathy for Fictions. *Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. Chicago, IL. May 1998.

Understanding the Value of Wilderness. *Conference on Value Inquiry*. Montevallo, AL. April 1998.

Empathy and Sympathy in Hume’s *Enquiry*. *Minnesota Philosophical Association*. Northfield, MN. October 1997.

Comments and Replies:

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Comments on Becca Rothfeld’s “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.” April 2019.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Comments on Alessandro Giovannelli’s “The Ethical Criticism of Artistic Production: A Defense of Means Moralism.” November 2017.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Comments on Moonyoung Song’s “The Notion of the Interaction between Ethical and Aesthetic Value.” November 2016.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Comments on Emine Hande Tuna’s “A Kantian Hybrid Theory of Art Criticism: A Particularist Appeal to the Generalists.” April 2016.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Comments on Vid Simoniti’s “Why Works of Art Don’t Matter (That Much).” October 2013.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Comments on Sarah Jansen’s “Plato and Movie Violence.” April 2012.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Comments on papers by Sarah Worth, Ira Newman, and Alessandro Giovannelli. Northampton, MA. November 2008.

Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Comments on Skolnik, Goodstein, and Bloom's "The Creation of Fictional Worlds." St. Louis, MO. June 2006.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Comments on Jenefer Robinson's "Deeper Than Reason: Emotion and Its Role in Music, Literature, and Art." Providence, RI. October 2005.

Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Comments on John Bender's "Exemplification and Expression in Painting: Goodman's Theories are Wrong." March 2005.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Comments on Susan Herrington's "Framed Again: The Contemporary Picturesque." Houston, TX. October 2004.

National Meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics. Comments on Alessandro Giovannelli's "In & Out: The Dynamics of Imagination in Narrative Participation." Coral Gables, FL. October 2002.

Society for the Philosophic Study of the Contemporary Visual Arts. In conjunction with the *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association.* "Film and Philosophical Arguments." Comments on two papers. Seattle, WA. March 2002.

Awards and Honors

Mount Holyoke College Faculty Award for Teaching. March 2020.

Visiting Scholar. City University of Hong Kong. February 2014.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar on Traditions into Dialogue: Confucianism and Contemporary Virtue Ethics. Wesleyan University. Participant. Summer 2008.

Mount Holyoke College Faculty Fellowship. Fall 2006 and again (separate award) in Fall 2009.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on Art, Mind, and Cognitive Science.

University of Maryland, College Park. Participant. Summer 2002.

University of Minnesota Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Academic Year 1999-2000.

Preparing Future Faculty Certificate. University of Minnesota. Spring 1999. Completed a program that includes coursework in pedagogy and a mentorship in college teaching.

Graduate Student Travel Stipend Award. American Philosophical Association Eastern Division. December 1998. For "Giving Practical Reasons."

Graduate Student Travel Stipend Award. American Philosophical Association Central Division. May 1998. For "Empathy for Fictions."

Philosophy Department Fellowship. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Winter 1998 and Spring 1998.

Memberships and Service

Posse Foundation Mentor. Mount Holyoke College. Starting June 2017.

Trustee. American Society for Aesthetics. 2013-16.

Director. Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts. Mount Holyoke College. July 2009 – June 2012.

Book Review Editor. *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism.* 2009-2018.

Program Chair. American Society for Aesthetics annual group meetings at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association meetings. 2006-2009.

Newsletter of the American Society for Aesthetics. Co-editor. 2000- 2005.

Program Committee Member. American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting 2005 and 2011.

Program Chair. Society for the Philosophic Study of the Contemporary Visual Arts annual group meetings at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association meetings. 2003-2007.

Referee. For the following publications and presses: *Oxford University Press; Ethics: An International Journal of Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy; Pacific Philosophical Quarterly; The Australasian Journal of Philosophy; Philosophical Quarterly; American Philosophical Quarterly; Ergo; Social Theory and Practice; Dao; British Journal of Aesthetics; Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism;* and various meetings of the American Society for Aesthetics.

Memberships: American Philosophical Association (since 1997); American Society for Aesthetics (since 1997)