

Robert Smithson

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Employment

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Fall 2018- Assistant Professor

Rollins College

Fall 2017- Visiting Assistant Professor
Spring 2018

Duke University

Spring 2017 Visiting Lecturer

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Fall 2016, Visiting Lecturer
Summer 2017

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2016 Ph.D. in Philosophy
Dissertation: "Paradise Regained: Naive Semantics and Regulative Metaphysics"
Committee: Thomas Hofweber (chair), Marc Lange, Ram Neta, Laurie Paul,
John Roberts

2012 M.A. in Philosophy
Thesis: "Apriority, Super-Rigidity, and Fregean Content"
Committee: Bill Lycan (chair), Keith Simmons, John Roberts

University of Virginia

2010 B.A. in Physics, Economics (Highest Honors)

Areas of specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind

Areas of competence

Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Early Modern Philosophy, Logic

Publications

- forthcoming “An Idealist Critique of Naturalism.” *Inquiry*. Forthcoming in special issue on “Idealism and the Metaphilosophy of Mind.”
- 2018 “A New Epistemic Argument for Idealism.” Forthcoming in Goldschmidt and Pearce (eds.), *Idealism: New Essays in Metaphysics*. Oxford University Press.
- 2016 “Newman’s Objection and the No Miracles Argument.” *Erkenntnis*. doi: 10.1007/s10670-016-9855-1.
- 2015 “The Principle of Indifference and Inductive Scepticism.” *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. doi: 10.1093/bjps/axv029

Under Review

- “Edenic Idealism”
- “A New Epistemic Argument for Humean Laws”
- “Metaphysical and Conceptual Grounding”
- “The Context Principle and Ontologese Gambits”
- “Water, Games, and Causes: A Decision Procedure for Essence Hunters”
- “Semantic Idealism and Scientific Representation”
- “Conceptual Cartography”
- “Idealism and Illusions”
- “Idealism and the Incompleteness Objection”

Works In Progress

- “In Defense of Macroidealism”
- “An Idealist Theory of Perception”

Teaching

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- Fall 2018 PAR 101: Invitation to Philosophical Thinking
- Fall 2018 PAR 110, Introduction to Logic
- Spring 2018 PHIL 399: History of Analytic Philosophy
- Spring 2018 PHIL 398: Advanced Logic and Metatheory
- Spring 2018 PHIL 311: Philosophy of Science
- Spring 2018 IMW 100: Knowledge and Democracy (feminist epistemology)
- Spring 2018 PHIL 223: Introduction to Formal Logic
- Fall 2017 PHIL 398: Philosophy of Language
- Fall 2017 PHIL 348: Philosophy of Mind
- Fall 2017 PHIL 231: History of Modern Philosophy
- Fall 2017 PHIL 103: Intro to Philosophy
- Summer 2017 PHIL 165: Bioethics
- Spring 2017 PHIL 411: Philosophy of Time and Space
- Spring 2017 PHIL 210: Knowledge and Certainty
- Fall 2016 PHIL 105: Critical Reasoning
- Summer 2016 PHIL 230: Experience and Reality (metaphysics)
- Spring 2016 PHIL 220: Early Modern Philosophy
- Spring 2014 PHIL 220: Early Modern Philosophy
- Summer 2013 PHIL 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic
- Fall 2012 PHIL 105: Introduction to Mathematical Logic
- Summer 2012 PHIL 220: Early Modern Philosophy

For course descriptions and syllabi, see www.robertsmithsonphilosophy.com/teaching.

Presentations

- 2018 “Logic and Ordinary Reasoning”
University of Central Oklahoma, Edmund, OK
- 2018 “Edenic Idealism”
St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI
- 2018 “Platonic Justice and the Well-Ordered Soul”
St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI
- 2018 “Edenic Idealism”
UNC-Wilmington, Wilmington, NC
- 2018 “Three Levels of Skepticism”
UNC-Wilmington, Wilmington, NC
- 2018 “Paradise Regained: An Argument for Idealism”
Symposium on Idealism at the Central APA, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018 “Water, Games, and Causes: A Decision Procedure for Essence Hunters”
Eastern APA, Savannah, GA
- 2017 “Paradise Regained: An Argument for Idealism”
Rollins Philosophy & Religion Club, Orlando, FL
- 2017 “Escaping the Cartesian Cricle”
Rollins College, Orlando, FL
- 2017 “Paradise Regained: An Argument for Idealism”
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2017 “Kantian Value and the Motive of Duty”
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2017 “Edenic Idealism”
North Carolina Philosophical Society, Wilmington, NC
- 2016 “An Idealist Critique of Naturalism”
Idealism and the Metaphilosophy of Mind Conference, London, England
- 2016 “Edenic Idealism”
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- 2016 “Three Levels of Skepticism”
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- 2016 “Edenic Idealism”
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
- 2016 “Three Levels of Skepticism”
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
- 2015 “Edenic Idealism”
Tübingen Masterclass in Theoretical Philosophy, Tübingen, Germany
- 2013 “An Alternative Picture of Concept-Driven Metaphysics”
Rudolf-Carnap Lectures, Bochum, Germany

Honors, Awards & Fellowships

- 2015 Mary Taylor Williams Fellowship, UNC-CH
- 2014-2015 Bertha Colton Williams Fellowship, UNC-CH
- 2014 Robert Rock Summer Research Fellowship, UNC-CH
- 2013 UNC Philosophy Travel Grant
- 2010-2011 Mary Taylor Williams Fellowship, UNC-CH
- 2006-2010 Ernest Ern Jefferson Scholarship, UVA

Professional Activities and Service

- 2017

Guest Coach, Rollins College Debate Team
 2017 Case Writer, National High School Ethics Bowl
 2017 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
 2016 Case Writer, National High School Ethics Bowl
 2016 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
 2016 Judge, North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl
 2015-2016 Graduate Student Committee, UNC-CH
 2015 Invited Panelist, Teaching Workshop on Student Evaluations, UNC-CH
 2015 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
 2015 Judge, North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl
 2015 Climate Survey Committee, UNC-CH
 2014-2015 Graduate Student Committee, UNC-CH
 2014 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
 2014 Invited Panelist, Teaching Workshop on Fostering Discussion, UNC-CH
 2010-2011 Coach, NC School of Science and Math Ethics Bowl Team (2nd place- NCHS Ethics Bowl)
 Referee—*Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*, *Ergo*
 Member, American Philosophical Association

References

Thomas Hofweber

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 (919) 843-4501
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Matthew Kotzen

Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Associate Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
 (919) 962-2486
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Ram Neta

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 (919) 962-3321
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Michael Pelczar

Associate Professor, National University of Singapore
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 phimwp@nus.edu.sg

John Roberts

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 (919) 962-4885
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Andrew Janiak (teaching reference)

Creed C. Black Professor of Philosophy, Duke University
 (919) 660-3057
 janiak@duke.edu

David Reeve (teaching reference)
Delta Kappa Epsilon Distinguished Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
(919) 962-3318
cdcreeve@email.unc.edu

Scott Rubarth (teaching reference)
Associate Professor, Rollins College
(407) 691-1062
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