

Curriculum Vitae

Thomas Metcalf
Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Spring Hill College
4000 Dauphin St
Mobile AL 36608
tmetcalf@shc.edu
(720) 470-3000

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2009

B.A. with Honors, Philosophy, University of Washington, 2004

Faculty Positions

Assistant Professor, Spring Hill College, 2016-present

Visiting Assistant-Professor, Spring Hill College, 2015-16

Faculty in Residence, University of Colorado, 2014-15

Instructor, University of Colorado, 2009-14

Areas of Specialization

Metaethics

Philosophy of Religion

Areas of Competence

Logic and Critical Thinking

Applied Ethics

Social and Political

Refereed Publications

1. "An Axiological-Trajectory Theodicy," *Sophia* (forthcoming).
2. "Gun Violence as Industrial Pollution," *Public Affairs Quarterly* 32, no. 2 (April 2018).
3. "Fine-Tuning the Multiverse," *Faith and Philosophy* 35, no. 1 (January 2018).
4. "An Epistemic-Virtue Solution to Some Peer-Disagreements in Philosophy," *Southwest Philosophy Review* 34, no. 1 (January 2018).
5. "On Gödel's Ontological Argument," *Inference* 3, no. 2 (2017).

6. "Ontological Parsimony, Erosion, and Conservatism," *Metaphilosophy* 47, no. 4-5 (2016), pp. 700-18.
7. "The Undetermined Objection to Bare-Difference Arguments," *Southwest Philosophy Review* 29, no. 1 (2013), pp. 107-19.
8. "Entailment and Ontological Arguments," *Philo* 8 (2006), pp. 131-33.
9. "An Argument from Non-Gratuitous Evil," in Michael Martin and Ricki Monnier (eds.), *The Improbability of God* (New York: Prometheus, 2006), pp. 328-37.
10. "Omniscience and Maximal Power," *Religious Studies* 40 (2004), pp. 289-306.

Refereed Chapters and Anthology-Contributions

1. "The Various Traits of God." In Noah Levin (ed.), *Philosophy of Western Religions* (N. G. E. Far Press, 2019).
2. "Can God Do the Impossible?" In Noah Levin (ed.), *Philosophy of Western Religions* (N. G. E. Far Press, 2019).
3. "Theodicies as a Response to the Problem of Evil." In Noah Levin (ed.), *Philosophy of Western Religions* (N. G. E. Far Press, 2019).
4. "Introduction to the Probability Calculus," *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*.
5. "Interpretations of Probability," *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*.
6. "The Fine-Tuning Argument for the Existence of God," *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*.
7. "Design Arguments for the Existence of God," *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*.
8. "Quantum Mechanics and Philosophy I-III," *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*.
9. "The Problem of Evil," *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*.
10. "Ethical Realism," *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*.
11. "Philosophy and its Contrast with Science," *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*.

Refereed Professional-Conference Presentations

1. "The Nomological Argument for the Existence of God," Alabama Philosophical Society, September 2019 (with Tyler Hildebrand).
2. "The Nomological Argument for the Existence of God," Main Program, New Directions in Theology and Philosophy of Science Workshop, September 2019 (with Tyler Hildebrand).
3. "The Axiological-Trajectory Theodicy," Main-Program Colloquium, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, February 2019.
4. "Why Anselmian Theists Should Reject Modal S5," Alabama Philosophical Society, September 2018.
5. "Do Educators Build Human Capital? Responding to the 'Mere Signaling' Critique of Higher Education," University of South Alabama Conference on Teaching and Learning, May 2018.
6. "An Epistemic-Virtue Solution to Some Peer-Disagreements in Philosophy," Southwest Philosophical Society Conference, November 2017.
7. "Rags-to-Riches Worlds: A New Theodicy and Argument for Theism," Alabama Philosophical Society, September 2017.
8. "Epistemic Responsibility and the Moral-Realist Majority," Philosophers' Cocoon Conference, October 2016.
9. "Gun Violence as a Negative Externality of Gun Production," Alabama Philosophical Society, September 2016.
10. "Condorcet's Jury-Theorem, Epistemic Virtue, and the Moral-Realist Majority," Main-Program Presentation, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2016.
11. "Epistemic Responsibility and the Moral-Realist Majority," Alabama Philosophical Society, October 2015.
12. "Fine-Tuning the Fine-Tuning Argument," Society of Christian Philosophers, Midwest Regional Conference, March 2015.
13. "Ontological Parsimony and the Erosion of Prior Ontologies," Alabama Philosophical Society, October 2014.
14. "Vote Weighting and Consent Expression: A Modest Proposal," Main-Program Colloquium, Pacific-Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2014.
15. "Induction in Applied Ethics Variant Case Arguments," Main-Program Colloquium, Eastern-Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, December 2013.

16. “Animal Rights Theory, Humane Omnivorism, and Bringing Happy Lives into Existence,” Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, October 2013.
17. “Ontological Parsimony and Erosion,” Main-Program Colloquium, Pacific-Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, March 2013.
18. “Does Maximal Greatness Require Ethical Powers?,” Society for Christian Philosophers Mountain-Pacific Region Conference, March 2013.
19. “The Underdetermination Objection to Deductive Bare-Difference Arguments,” Southwest Philosophical Association Conference, November 2012.
20. “Deontology Monsters, Particularism, and Counterpossible Counterexamples in Normative Ethics,” Main-Program Colloquium, Pacific-Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 2012.
21. “Against the Technique of Variant Cases: The Problem of Applied Ethics Induction,” Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, October 2011.
22. “Vote Attenuation: A Modest Proposal,” International Social Philosophy Conference, North American Society for Social Philosophy Conference, July 2011.
23. “Prospects for an Empirical Normative Realism,” Society for Exact Philosophy Conference, May 2011.
24. “Must Hypothetical Counterexamples be Possible?,” Northwest Philosophy Conference, October 2010.
25. “Must Hypothetical Counterexamples be Possible?,” Alabama Philosophical Society Conference, Pensacola, Florida, September 2010.
26. “Omnipotence, Moral Reasons, and the Logical Problem of Evil,” Northwest Philosophy Conference, October 2009.

Invited Chapters and Anthology Contributions

“[Respect in the Philosophy of Religion](http://PhilosophyOfReligion.org)” (PhilosophyOfReligion.org).

Invited Colloquium Presentations

“Synthetic Identificationism and Normative Epistemic Justification,” Colloquium at the University of Wyoming, Department of Philosophy, December 2009.

Public Lectures

1. “Understanding the Gun Debate,” Student Government Association series, Spring Hill College, March 2018.
2. “What is Our Responsibility to the Truth?”, Conversations about the Election series, Spring Hill College, March 2017.
3. “Empirical Ethical Intuitionism,” Center for Values and Social Policy, University of Colorado at Boulder, November 2009.

Dissertation

Rational Intuition: Intuition is the key to solving many persistent and difficult philosophical problems, such as skepticism about the external world, about induction, and about abstract objects. In addition, intuition is the principal source of evidence in ethics. I begin by defending a new theory of rational and ethical intuition, distinguishing, by subject matter, modal, normative (including ethical), and abstract intuitions. I develop an irreducibly normative, internalistic theory of epistemic justification, according to which epistemic justification arises from a subject’s internally accessible awareness. I defend a new theory of the metaphysics of rational intuition. Finally, I present new arguments to justify rational intuition, arguments that do not depend upon controversial assumptions concerning epistemic circularity, self-evidence, or epistemic conservatism, but instead go forward from the premise that epistemic agents are unjustified in accepting self-defeating positions.

Committee: Michael Huemer (chair), David Barnett, Chris Heathwood, Ben Hale, Michael Tooley

Journal Refereeing

Australasian Journal of Philosophy (Taylor and Francis)

Journal of Philosophical Research (University of Notre Dame Press)

Mind (Oxford University Press)

Philosophia (Springer Netherlands)

Philosophical Studies (Springer Netherlands)

Sophia (Springer Netherlands)

Southwest Philosophy Review (Southwestern Philosophical Society)

Synthese (Springer Netherlands)

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Upper Division

Biomedical Ethics (1 section total)

Business Ethics (16 sections)

The Election (1 section)

Ethics and the College Experience (1 section)

Philosophy of Religion (1 section, team-taught)

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (3 sections)

Science and Religion (1 section)

Special Topics: The Meaning of Life (1 section)

War and Morality (1 section)

Instructor, Lower Division

Environmental Justice (1 section)

Philosophy of Human Nature (3 standard sections + 5 Honors sections)

Introduction to Ethics (15 sections)

Introduction to Logic (4 sections)

Introduction to Philosophy (19 sections)

Philosophy and Religion (1 lecture, 150 students, team-taught)

Philosophy and the Sciences (3 sections)

Philosophy and Society (Applied-Ethics and Political Philosophy) (10 sections)

Thesis Supervision

“A Game of Human Chess,” Adamyia Sharma (Honors Undergraduate-Thesis)

Grants and Awards

Pathways to Purpose Course Proposal and Course Release (college-wide competition, 2017)

Enhancing Diversity through Outreach and Action Fellowship (university-wide competition, 2013)

Department Dissertation Fellowship (2009)

Selected Service

Standards and Terminology for Evaluation and Advancement According to the Manual (chair, 2018-present)

Curriculum Committee (2016-present)

Conversations on the Election Committee (2016-18)

Faculty in Residence (2014-15)

Professional Organizations

American Philosophical Association

References

Chris Dodsworth

Professor

Dept. of Philosophy

Spring Hill College

4000 Dauphin St.

Mobile AL 36608

cdodsworth@shc.edu

(734) 645-9114

Michael Ferry

Associate Professor

Dept. of Philosophy

Spring Hill College

4000 Dauphin St.

Mobile AL 36608

mferry@shc.edu

(251) 232-5978

Victor Di Fate

Associate Professor

Dept. of Philosophy

Spring Hill College

4000 Dauphin St.

Mobile AL 36608

vidifate@shc.edu

(845) 242-1873