

## Education

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|-------------------|--|-------------|
| Ph.D.             | <b>University of South Carolina</b><br>Department of Philosophy<br>Dissertation: <i>Descartes' World: An Interpretation of the Discourse on Method</i><br>Advisor: Matthew J. Kisner<br>Committee: Konstantin Pollok and Ann Johnson | 2006 - 2013 |
| M.A.              | <b>University of South Carolina</b><br>Department of Philosophy<br>Thesis: <i>The Status of the Early Regulae: A Vindication of the Cartesian Method of 1619</i><br>Advisor: Matthew J. Kisner                                       | 2003 - 2006 |
| B.A.<br>Cum Laude | <b>University of South Carolina</b><br>Philosophy  | 1997 - 2002 |

## Employment

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|---|----------------|
| Instructor, Department of Philosophy<br>University of South Carolina                                  | 2017 - present |
| Adjunct, Division of Humanities, Social Science, and Education<br>University of South Carolina Sumter | 2016 - 2017    |
| Adjunct, Department of History, Humanities, and Political Science<br>Trident Technical College        | 2015 - 2016    |
| Adjunct, College of Theology<br>Grand Canyon University   | Fall, 2015     |
| Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies<br>Coastal Carolina University               | 2013-2014      |

## Areas of Specialization

Modern Philosophy (esp. Descartes) and Philosophy of Religion

## Areas of Competence

History of Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Logic

## Peer-Reviewed Chapters and Articles

- Brissey, P. “Near-Death Experiencer’s Beliefs and Aftereffects: Problems for the Fischer and Mitchell-Yellin Explanation,” *Journal of Near-Death Studies*, 39, 2, pp. 103-122 2021
- Brissey, P. “Reasons for the Method in Descartes’ *Discours*,” *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, 10, 1. pp. 9-27. 2021
- Brissey, P. “Towards Descartes’ Scientific Method: *a posteriori* Evidence and The Rhetoric of *Les Météores*,” in James A.T. Lancaster and Richard Raiswell (eds.) *Evidence in the Age of the New Sciences*, Springer. 2018
- Brissey, P. “The Form of Descartes’ Method of Doubt,” *Southwest Philosophy Review*, 33, 2. pp. 233-249. 2017
- Brissey, P. “Reflections on Descartes’ Vocation as an Early Theory of Happiness,” *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, [Special issue on Care of the Self in Early Modern Philosophy and Science] 4, 2. pp. 69-91. 2015
- Brissey, P. “Rule VIII of Descartes’ *Regulae ad directionem ingenii*,” *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, 3, 2. pp. 9-31. 2014
- Brissey, P. “Descartes’ *Discours* as a Plan for a Universal Science,” *Studia UBB Philosophia*, [Special issue on Descartes' Scientific and Philosophical Disputes with his Contemporaries], 58, pp. 37-60. 2013
- Brissey, P. “Descartes and the Meteorology of the *World*,” *Society and Politics*, [Special issue on God and the Order of Nature in Early Modern Thought: Topics in Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Science], 6, pp. 88-100. 2012

## Book Reviews

- Ian Stoner and Jason Swartwood’s *Doing Practical Ethics*, in *Teaching Philosophy*, 45, 3. 2022
- Fischer, John Martin. *Death, Immortality, and Meaning in Life*, in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 56, 4, pp. 1130-1121. 2022

## Work in Progress

### DESCARTES

“Descartes’ *Provisional Morality*: 1619-20” (Under Review)

Book Review, Tarek Dika's *Descartes's Method: The Formation of the Subject of Science*

Descartes’ *Morale Par Provision*: Stoic or Pyrrhonian

Descartes’ Provisional Method of Doubt

### NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

“Recent Objections to the NDE Argument for a Transphysical Self”  
(Under Review)

### PEDAGOGY

Brissey, P. “Hume’s Problem of Induction” (Under Review)

Book Review, Meghan Sullivan and Paul Blaschko’s *The Good Life Method: Reasoning Through the Big Questions of Happiness, Faith, and Meaning* (in draft)

## Awards, Certificates, and Grants

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| <b>College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Teaching Award for Professional Faculty (\$2000)</b> This award is given annually by the college to professional faculty members who provide exceptional learning experiences to undergraduate students, both within and outside the classroom.  | 2023 |
| <b>Technology for Online Teaching and Learning Certificate of Completion</b><br>6-week course on integrating technology for online course delivery (September 9 to October 20), Center of Teaching Excellence  | 2020 |
| <b>Carolina Online Learning and Teaching (COLT) Certificate of Completion</b><br>6-week course to prepare faculty to teach exemplary online, blended or hybrid courses and to build their capacity in the areas of pedagogy, course design, course development, distributed delivery, and online course administration (June 1 to August 15 with an online capstone project) Center of Teaching Excellence, Office of Distributed Learning, and DoIT e-Learning Services | 2020 |

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| <b>New Faculty Academy Certificate of Completion</b>  | 2018 |
| Completion of professional development, networking and mentoring activities by new full-time faculty during their first year at USC (1 year)<br>Center of Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina |      |
| <b>International Education Week Faculty Mini-Grant (\$500)</b>  | 2018 |
| Implementation of globally-themed content into the PHIL 213 course<br>Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of the Provost<br>University of South Carolina  |      |
| <b>Certificate of Completion</b>  | 2015 |
| Online Faculty Training and Development (three weeks)<br>College of Theology, Grand Canyon University   |      |
| <b>University of South Carolina Philosophy Department Graduate Teaching Award</b>   | 2012 |
| Awarded for Sustained, Creative, and Dedicated Efforts in the Philosophy Classroom  |      |
| <b>University of South Carolina Graduate Student Travel Grant</b>   | 2012 |
| <b>SCSP Outstanding Graduate Essay Prize</b>  | 2012 |
| Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy and North Carolina Philosophical Society  |      |
| <b>SCSP Outstanding Graduate Essay Prize</b>  | 2008 |
| Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy and North Carolina Philosophical Society  |      |
| <b>Distinguished Graduate Paper Award</b>   | 2007 |
| Fifth Annual North Georgia Graduate Philosophy Conference.  |      |
| <b>SCSP Outstanding Graduate Essay Prize</b>  | 2006 |
| Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy and North Carolina Philosophical Society.   |      |

## Conference and Other Presentations

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| Author-Meets-Critics<br>Session (Invited) | Tarek Dika's <i>Descartes's Method: The Formation of the Subject of Science</i> | February 21-24, 2024<br>APA Central Division<br>Astor Crown Plaza Hotel<br>New Orleans, LA |
| Prolife Faculty Panel                     | Advocates for Life  | April 25, 2022   |

UofSC

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| “Why did Descartes Think His Method was Veracious at its Inception?”   | Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy                                 | April 15-17, 2021<br>Virtual  |
| “Why Are Distributed Learning Strategies Helpful in Face-to-Face Courses: Blackboard and the Communicating Moral Issues Course?” | Octoberbest Symposium:<br>A Celebration of Teaching                                 | October 18, 2019<br>Russell House<br>UofSC                                      |
| “The Structural Intellectualist Theology of Descartes’ <i>Discours de la Méthode</i> ”   | <i>Scientiae Minnesota 2018</i><br>Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World | May 16-19, 2018<br>University of Minnesota                                      |
| “Towards Descartes’ Scientific Method of Doubt: The Rhetoric of <i>Les Météores</i> ”  | Descartes Society Session<br>APA Central Division                                   | February 21-24, 2018<br>Palmer House Hilton<br>Chicago, Illinois                |
| “Towards Descartes’ Scientific Method of Doubt: The Rhetoric of <i>Les Météores</i> ”  | Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy                                 | February 24-25, 2017<br>Coastal Carolina<br>Conway, SC                          |
| “The Form of Descartes’ Method of Doubt”   | Descartes Society Session<br>APA Central Division                                   | March 2-5, 2016<br>Palmer House Hilton<br>Chicago, Illinois                     |
| “Towards Descartes’ Scientific Method of Doubt: The Rhetoric of <i>Les Météores</i> ”  | <i>Scientiae Toronto 2015:</i><br>Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World  | May 27-29, 2015<br>Victoria College<br>University of Toronto<br>Toronto, Canada |
| “The Form of Descartes’ Method of Doubt”   | Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society                                 | February 27-28, 2015<br>NC State University                                     |
| “Descartes’ Brain”   | CCU Philosophy Club<br>Presentation   | April 20, 2014<br>Coastal Carolina  |
| “What is Problem-Based Learning in the Philosophy Classroom?”  | Celebration of Inquiry  | April 2, 2014<br>Coastal Carolina   |
| “Descartes on How to Distinguish Automaton, Animals, and Persons”  | Spring Brown Bag Series   | February 11, 2014<br>Coastal Carolina   |

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| “What is Problem-Based Learning?”  | Innovative Teaching and Technology Fair                                     | October 21, 2013<br>Coastal Carolina                            |
| “Descartes and the Meteorology of the <i>World</i> ”   | Meeting of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy                        | March 8-9, 2013<br>College of Charleston                        |
| “What to Expect as a Teaching Assistant?”  | Expert TA Panel   | August 21-22, 2012<br>UofSC                                     |
| “The Adam and Tannery Edition of Descartes’ <i>World</i> or a Lost Draft?”   | 6 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Margaret Dauler Wilson Conference                  | June 22-24, 2012<br>Dartmouth College<br>Hanover, New Hampshire |
| “The Adam and Tannery Edition of Descartes’ <i>World</i> or a Lost Draft?”   | Joint Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy and NC Philosophical Society | February 24-25, 2012<br>Elon University<br>North Carolina       |
| “The Problem of Descartes’ <i>Discourse</i> ”  | Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy                                    | February 25-27, 2011<br>USC Upstate                             |
| “Descartes’ Occult Faculty”  | Joint Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy and NC Philosophical Society | February 26-27, 2010<br>Queens University<br>North Carolina     |
| “Could Unger’s ‘Voice’ Deceive Descartes’ Cogito?”   | Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy                                    | February 27-28, 2009<br>Winthrop University                     |
| “Garber’s Developmental Reading of Descartes’ <i>Regulae ad directionem ingenii</i> : Rule 8 as a Coherent Title and Commentary” | Joint Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy and NC Philosophical Society | Feb. 29 – Mar. 1, 2008<br>UNC Chapel Hill                       |
| “Did Rule 8 Evolve?”   | Fifth Annual North Georgia Philosophy Conference                            | April 6-7, 2007<br>Kennesaw State, GA                           |
| “The Failure of Noe’s Theory of Perception to Constrain Direct Pickup of Sensorimotor Contingencies”                             | Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy                                    | February 23-24, 2007<br>Coastal Carolina                        |
| “A Stalnakarrian Response to Abbott’s Rejection of the Principle of Accommodation”   | Joint Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy and NC Philosophical Society | February 18-19, 2006<br>UofSC                                   |

## **Courses Taught**

Introduction to Philosophy  
Introduction to Deductive Logic  
Introduction to Inductive Logic  
Ethical Thinking in the Liberal Arts  
Contemporary Moral Issues  
Communicating Moral Issues (Honors)  
Independent Study: Philosophy of Religion  
Business Ethics  
Ethics  
Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century Philosophy  
Special Topic: Can I Survive My Death?  
Special Topic: Can I be Good Without God?

## **Service**

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| Book Referee  | Routledge   | 2023 |
| Textbook Review                                       | <i>Doing Practical Ethics</i> , Oxford University Press, four chapters  | 2023 |
| Search Committee Member                               | Instructor of Philosophy, USC   | 2023 |
| Referee   | <i>Journal of Near-Death Studies</i>  | 2023 |
| Book Referee  | University of Notre Dame Press  | 2023 |
| Honors Senior Thesis<br>Philosophy Thesis<br>Director | Ana Kelly<br><i>Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Aesthetics in the Traditional Latin Mass and its Effect on Faith</i>                                  | 2023 |
| Referee   | <i>Teaching Philosophy</i>  | 2023 |
| Honors Senior Thesis<br>Second Reader                 | Dylan Ta<br>“Language Barriers in Healthcare: Consequences And Impact on Cultural Competency, with focus on Vietnamese-American Patient Population” | 2023 |
| Honors Senior Thesis<br>Director                      | Tatum Greene<br>“A Comparison of Emotional Intelligence in  | 2023 |

University Students Across Subjects and  
Oceans”

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| Referee   | <i>History of Philosophy Quarterly</i>  | 2022 |
| Referee   | <i>Southwest Philosophy Review</i>  | 2021 |
| Referee   | <i>History of Philosophy Quarterly</i>  | 2021 |
| Honors Senior Thesis<br>Second Reader             | Julius Neubig<br>“Free Hong Kong: Societal Upheaval in<br>Xi’s China as a Result of Economic Stressors”   | 2021 |
| Honors Senior Thesis<br>Second Reader             | Reid Darby<br>“Ethical Consideration of Increased Education<br>and Implementation of the Mature Minor Rule<br>in Treating Mental Health in Adolescents” | 2020 |
| Philosophy Thesis<br>Director/Advisor             | Mackenzie Kopczyński<br>“What is Feminism?”   | 2020 |
| Referee   | <i>Southwest Philosophy Review</i>  | 2019 |
| Textbook Review<br>(Applied Ethics)               | Mark Timmons, <i>Disputed Moral Issues</i><br>OUP, Fourth Edition   | 2017 |
| Referee   | <i>Journal of Early Modern Studies</i>  | 2015 |
| Textbook Review<br>(Chapter on Symbolic<br>Logic) | David Kelly, <i>The Art of Reasoning</i> , W.W.<br>Norton & Co., Fourth edition   | 2014 |
| Textbook Review<br>(Chapter on Informal<br>Logic) | Bergmann, More, and Nelson, Ch. 1,<br><i>The Logic Book</i> , McGraw-Hill, Fourth Edition   | 2014 |