

NICOLAS BOMMARITO

Curriculum Vitae

nic.bommarito@gmail.com

www.nicbommarito.com

EMPLOYMENT

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 2023-present | Simon Fraser University Burnaby, British Columbia | Associate Professor |
| 2020-2023 | Simon Fraser University Burnaby, British Columbia | Assistant Professor |
| 2014-2020 | SUNY University at Buffalo Buffalo, NY | Assistant Professor |
| 2014-2016 | New York University New York, NY | Bersoff Assistant Professor |

Areas of Specialization: Normative Ethics, Moral Psychology, Buddhist Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Asian Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy

EDUCATION

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2007-2014 | Brown University Providence, RI | Ph.D. |
| 2005-2007 | Tibet University (西藏大学) Lhasa, Tibet | Tibetan language certification |
| 2001-2005 | University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI | B.A. w/ High Honors in philosophy |

PUBLICATIONS

Authored Monographs

Seeing Clearly: A Buddhist Guide to Life (2020) Oxford University Press

Abstract: This book presents the practical and theoretical claims of Buddhist thought in a clear and accessible way. It focuses on two strands in Buddhist theory: A philosophical view of the nature of reality and a collection of practical techniques aimed at coming to experience life in that way. These aspects are often discussed separately, especially in popular literature, with works on meditation ignoring the philosophical aspects of Buddhist thought and philosophical work ignoring the practical goals that motivate it.

Inner Virtue (2018) Oxford University Press

Abstract: What does it mean to be a morally good person? It can be tempting to think that it is simply a matter of performing certain actions and avoiding others. And yet, there is much more to moral character than our outward actions. We expect a good person to not only behave in certain ways, but also to experience the world in certain ways within. Pleasure, emotion, and attention are important parts of our moral character despite being involuntary inner states. *Inner Virtue* defends a theory of why and how such states are relevant to moral character: These states say something about what kind of person one is by manifesting our deepest cares and concerns.

Edited Books

Dharma and Detachment, Simone Weil (2025) Routledge

Abstract: Edited from Simone Weil's vast notebooks, this book presents her engagement with Indian and Tibetan philosophical texts. Containing thematic chapters interspersed with relevant excerpts from Sanskrit and Tibetan primary texts, it includes an extensive introduction explaining the relevant context and concepts for readers new to both Simone Weil's thought and Indo-Tibetan philosophy.

Journal Articles

"How to Read Śāntideva: A Guide for Philosophers" (2025)

Journal of Buddhist Ethics 32: 213-234

"Virtuous and Vicious Anger" (2017)

Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy 11(3): 1-28.

"Imaginative Moral Development" (2017)

The Journal of Value Inquiry 52(2): 251-262.

"*The Khache Phalr*: A Translation and Interpretation" (2017)

Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines 39: 60-132.

"Private Solidarity" (2016)

Ethical Theory and Moral Practice 19(2): 445-455.

"Patience and Perspective" (2014)

Philosophy East and West 64(2): 269-286.

"Modesty as a Virtue of Attention" (2013)

Philosophical Review 122(1): 93-117.

"Bile & Bodhisattvas: Śāntideva on Justified Anger" (2011)

Journal of Buddhist Ethics 18: 357-381.

"Rationally Self-Ascribed Anti-Expertise" (2010)

Philosophical Studies 151(3): 413-419.

Papers in Edited Volumes

"Selfless Receptivity: Attention as an Epistemic Virtue" (2023)

with Jonardon Ganeri in *Oxford Studies in Epistemology* (Oxford)

- “Buddhist Humility” (2020)
 in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Humility* (Routledge)
- “Matilal’s Metaethics” (2019)
 with Alex King in *Comparative Metaethics* (Routledge)
- “Mixed Drinks and Mixed Motives” (2012)
 in *The Catcher in the Rye and Philosophy* (Open Court)
- “Lucretius’ Symmetry Argument” (2011)
 in *Just the Arguments* (Wiley-Blackwell)

Encyclopedia Articles

- “Modesty and Humility” (2018)
The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/modesty-humility/>
- “Tibetan Philosophy” (2010)
The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/tibetan/>

Book Reviews

- Comments on Myisha Cherry’s *The Case for Rage* (2023)
Southern Journal of Philosophy 61(2): 356-361.
- Review of Daniel Star’s *Knowing Better* (2016)
Australasian Journal of Philosophy 95(1): 199-202.
- Review of Robert Roberts’ *Emotions in the Moral Life* (2014)
International Journal of Philosophical Studies 22(5): 780-783.

PRESENTATIONS

- “The Background Virtues”
 Jawaharlal Nehru University (1/28/2025)
 Ashoka University (1/22/2025)
 UBC workshop: Attention: nature, impact, and norms (6/25/2025)
 University of North Carolina (11/10/2023)
- “Simone Weil and Indian Philosophy” (2023)
 Worldly Weil Workshop at Washington University, St. Louis
- “*Anekānta* Ethics” (2023)
 American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference
 Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy: Perspectives on Perspectivalism
 Arihanta Academy: Perspectives on Perspectivalism Conference
- “Attention as Ethical Tool in Gyaltsé Tokmé” (2022)
 American Academy of Religion: Norms of Attention in South Asian Buddhism
- “Moral Martyrdom” (2022)

- Rightness, Ignorance, Uncertainty and Praise workshop at USC
- “Buddhist Action Theory, Buddhist Ethics” (2021)
Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy (10/18/2025)
Cosmopolitan Philosophy at UC Berkeley (2021)
- “Author Meets Critics: *Seeing Clearly*” (2021)
American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Conference
- “Inner Virtue” (2020)
Symposium: American Philosophical Association Central Division Conference
- “Matilal’s Metaethics” (2018)
Lost Voices at the Foundations of Ethics, University of Washington
- “*Lojong*, Gratitude, and Moral Development” (2018)
Kathmandu University Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute
- “Buddhism, Jainism, and the Ethics of Arguing”
Notre Dame University (11/16/2018)
Jawaharlal Nehru University (10/1/2018)
University of California Irvine (11/30/2017)
- “On Understanding Evil”
University of Pennsylvania (2/12/2019)
Kyoto University (11/28/2018)
University of Guelph (9/23/2016)
Australia National University (8/9/2016)
- “The Attention of Bodhisattvas” (2017)
Virtues of Attention: Global Philosophical Perspectives, NYU Abu Dhabi
- “Inner Virtue” (2017)
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- “Religious ambiguity in *The Khache Phalu*” (2016)
International Association of Tibetan Studies, Bergen
- “Life of a Paper: Patience and Perspective” (2016)
Minorities and Philosophy, Columbia University
- “Virtuous and Vicious Mindfulness” (2016)
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference
Group: International Society for Buddhist Philosophy
- “Virtuous and Vicious Anger” (2015)
National University of Singapore
- “Training Tigers and Playing Harps” (2015)
Australian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Conference
- “Mindfulness as a Moral Virtue” (2015)
Five College Buddhist Studies Faculty Seminar
- “Private Solidarity” (2015)
NYU Lunchtime Talk
- “Patience and Perspective” (2012)
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference
Colloquium: Buddhism and Confucianism
- “Modesty as a Virtue of Attention” (2011)
American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Conference
Colloquium: Contingency, Reasons, and Modesty
- “Rationally Self-Ascribed Anti-Expertise” (2009)
American Philosophical Association Central Division Conference
Colloquium: Delusion, Anti-Expertise, and Transmission Failure

Comments

- On Myisha Cherry's *The Case for Rage*
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference (2022)
- On Anna Brinkerhoff's "Good Friend: Bad Believer?"
American Philosophical Association Central Division Conference (2018)
- On Eric Hutton's "On Trust, Politics, and Justice in Early Confucianism and Plato"
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference (2017)
- On Bronwyn Finnigan's "Should we be Pluralists about Buddhist Ethics?"
Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy (2015)
- On Regina Rini's "Morality and Psychological Self-Understanding"
Naturalistic Approaches to Ethics and Meta-ethics, New York University (2014)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Seminars

- ProSeminar (SFU 2023)
- Gyalse Tokme: 37 Practices (SFU 2023)
- Buddhist Ethics (SFU 2021)
- Moral Psychology (UB 2019 / SFU 2020 / SFU 2024)
- Modesty and Humility (UB 2017)
- Virtue Ethics (UB 2017)
- Understanding Evil (NYU 2015)

Undergraduate Courses

- Important Mental States (SFU 2023)
- Great Works in History of Philosophy (SFU 2021, 2022)
- Buddhist Ethics (SFU 2021, 2022, 2023)
- Eastern Philosophy (UB, 2017 & 2018, SFU 2020)
- Buddhist Philosophy (UB 2018 & 2019, SFU 2021)
- Living Well (UB 2016, 2017, 2019)
- Ethics (NYU, 2014 / UB, 2016)
- Life and Death (NYU, 2014 & 2015)

AWARDS

- Joukowsky Outstanding Dissertation Prize (2014)
The Joukowsky Family Foundation
- John Cargill MacMillan Graduate Fellowship (2013-2014)
Cogut Center for the Humanities
- Fulbright Institute of International Education Fellowship (2011)
Kathmandu, Nepal (for research on Tibetan philosophy)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Graduate Chair (SFU Fall 2022 & 2023-2024)

Referee for *Mind*, *Ethics*, *Ergo*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Philosophy East and West*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophers Imprint*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, Routledge, *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*, and Oxford University Press.