

Mark Boespflug

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Department of Philosophy and Political Science
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Areas of Specialization:

Epistemology; Early Modern

Areas of Competence:

Philosophy of Religion; Philosophy of Science; Metaethics

Employment:

Fort Lewis College

Assistant Professor of Philosophy (8/2022-)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy (8/2021-8/2022)

University of Otago, New Zealand (2/2020-1/2021)

Lecturer I in Philosophy (associated with the Baier Chair in Early Modern Philosophy)

Education:

Ph.D. Philosophy (2020), University of Colorado at Boulder

M.A. Philosophy (2013), Biola University (Summa Cum Laude, Kappa Tau Epsilon)

B.A. Philosophy (2005), Geneva College (Cum Laude)

Books:

Locke's Twilight of Probability: An Epistemology of Rational Assent. New York: Routledge, 2023.

Peer-Review Articles:

* = Invited

*"Why Every Belief is a Choice: Descartes' Doxastic Voluntarism Reconsidered," *The International Journal of Philosophical Studies* (forthcoming)

"Only Light and Evidence: Locke on the Will to Believe," *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 38 (2021): 1-22.

"Why Reid was no Dogmatist," *Synthese* 196 (2019): 4511-4525.

- “Locke on Testimony,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 27 (2019): 1135-1150.
- “Locke’s Principle of Proportionality,” *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 101 (2019): 237-257.
- *“The Legacy of Reid’s Common Sense in Analytic Epistemology,” *The Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 17 (2019): 23-37.
- “Robert Holcot on Doxastic Voluntarism and the Ethics of Belief,” *Res Philosophica* 95 (2018): 617-636.
- *“Faith in Experts: What the Social Epistemology of Science and Religion Reveals about their Conflict,” *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion* (forthcoming)
- “Thomistic Faith Naturalized? The Epistemic Significance of Aquinas’ Appeal to Doxastic Instinct,” *Faith and Philosophy* 38 (2021): 245-261.
- *“Locke on Enthusiasm,” (with Robert Pasnau) *The Lockean Mind*. (Editors Gordon-Roth and Weinberg) New York: Routledge, 2021.
- “Is Augustinian Faith Rational?” *Religious Studies* 52 (2016): 63-79.

Articles Under Review:

- “The Epistemic Modesty of Mary Astell and its Implications for her Epistemology of Testimony,” *Journal of Modern Philosophy* (Invited R&R)

Academic Presentations:

* = Invited

- August 2022: “The Science of Ethics: A Defense of Moral Expertise,” (w/ Jonathan Spelman) Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado Boulder
- July 2022 Faith in Experts? What the Social Epistemology of Science and Religion Reveals about their Conflict,” Oxford Conference on Alister McGrath, Oxford University
- June 2022: “The Science of Ethics: A Defense of Moral Expertise,” History and Philosophy of Science, University of Lisbon
- June 2022: “The Science of Ethics: A Defense of Moral Expertise,” (w/ Jonathan Spelman) The Ethics of Trust and Expertise, American University of Armenia
- October 2021: “Faith in Experts? What the Social Epistemology of Science and Religion Reveals about their Conflict,” Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion, Princeton University
- July 2021: “Faith in Science? Belief and Skepticism in Climate Change Reconsidered,” British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

- February 2021: “Faith in Experts? What the Social Epistemology of Science and Religion Reveals about their Conflict,” Iranian Institute of Philosophy, Tehran, Iran
- October 2020: “Locke’s Pioneering Case for the Rationality of Faith and Hume’s Critique,” Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland
- May 2020: “Faith in Science: Science without *Scientia* and the Social Epistemology of Scientific Belief,” University of Otago Philosophy Seminar, Dunedin, New Zealand
- *September 2019: “Faith as Trust, Doxastic Instinct and Assessing Faith’s Rationality,” Perspectives on Belief and the Will: A Comparative Workshop on the History of Doxastic Voluntarism, Paris-Sorbonne University
- May 2019: “Mary Astell’s Intellectual Modesty and its Consequences for Testimony, Faith and Doxastic Responsibility,” St. Louis Early Modern Philosophy Conference
- *March 2019: “Locke on Religious Enthusiasm” (with Robert Pasnau) Center for Western Civilization, Thought and Policy, University of Colorado at Boulder
- *February 2019: “Voluntary Belief Reconsidered,” Workshop on Voluntary Belief, Pragmatism and Medieval Philosophy, University of Helsinki
- April 2018: “Voluntary Belief from Aquinas to Robert Holcot to Peter of Ailly,” Morris Conference in Medieval Philosophy, Boulder, Colorado
- *March 2018: “Locke and the Rationality of Faith,” Davenant Institute Regional Conference, Lakewood, Colorado
- March 2018: “The Legacy of Scottish Common Sense in Analytic Philosophy,” The Scottish Tradition, Princeton University
(Winner of “Best Paper by a Graduate Student” Prize)
- October 2017: “Locke on Testimony,” Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Weber State University
- September 2017: “The Rejection of the Medieval Conception of Voluntary Belief,” EGSAMP Summer School: “A Path Through the Ages,” Akademie Berlin-Schmoeckwitz, Berlin, Germany
- April 2017: “Locke on Testimony,” Testimony and Authority in Early Modern Philosophy, St. Norbert College
- April 2017: “Robert Holcot on Doxastic Voluntarism and the Ethics of Belief,” Forgotten Philosophers and Why We Should Remember Them, Marquette University
- May 2015: “Locke’s Principle of Proportionality,” Scientiae 2015, University of Toronto

August 2013: “Doxastic Control, Doxastic Practices, and Virtue,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado at Boulder

March 2013: “Doxastic Voluntarism,” Talbot Philosophical Society Colloquium, Biola University

Comments:

August 2021: Comments on “Knowing Wellbeing,” by Eric Wiland, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado at Boulder

August 2019: Comments on “Answerability, Attributability, and Responsibility for Believing,” by Minji Jang, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado at Boulder

*February 2019: Comments on “A New Dilemma for the Thomist Theist: On Grace and Divine Hiddenness,” by Katherine Sweet, Central APA, Denver

March 2018: Comments on “Liberal Neutrality and Fake News,” by David Black, Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, University of Colorado at Boulder

August 2017: Comments on “Loving Distrust,” by Meena Krishnamurthy, Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference, University of Colorado at Boulder

April 2017: Comments on “The Aim of Belief,” by Christopher Adkins, Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, University of Colorado at Boulder

April 2016: Comments on “Because I Said So,” by Juan Pinerros, Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference, University of Colorado at Boulder

*August 2014: Comments on “Grief and Recovery” by Ryan Preston-Roedder, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado at Boulder

Academic Awards and Grants:

Fort Lewis College:

~**Psychology and Theology of Faith Subgrant** (a grant to support training in cognitive psychology and philosophical inquiry into voluntary belief) (\$74,244)

~**Empower Pedagogy Ignite Change Grant** (a grant to support non-traditional assignment development and alternative forms of assessment) (\$500)

~**Open Education Resources Grant** (a grant to support transitioning to free materials for Introduction to Philosophy) (\$250)

~**SCP Scientifically Engaged Lecture Grant** (a grant to provide funding to bring a distinguished visiting speaker to campus) (\$2,000)

~**Marc Sanders Prize in Philosophy of Religion: Finalist 2021**

University of Colorado-Boulder:

- ~**Graduate School Summer Fellowship** (2019): Departments nominate a single candidate for this university wide competition among all graduate programs for summer support for dissertation completion.
- ~**Best Paper by a Graduate Student** (2018): For “The Legacy of Common Sense in the Analytic Tradition,” in *The Scottish Tradition: Understanding its Rise, Explaining its Legacy*, Princeton University
- ~**Stahl Prize** (2017): The prize recognizes a graduate student who has made a significant contribution toward bringing the discipline of philosophy to bear on some demanding and crucial human problem.
- ~**Graduate Research Award** (2017-2018): Center for the Study of Origins
- ~**Ogilvy Travel Fellowship** (2018): Center for British and Irish Studies: Used to study unpublished works by John Locke at in the Lovelace Collection at Oxford’s Bodleian Library.
- ~**Language Study Grant** (2017): Center for Western Civilization, Thought and Policy
- ~**Language Study Grant** (2016): Center for Western Civilization, Thought and Policy

Biola University:

- ~**Talbot Graduate Grant** (2012-2013)
- ~**Fieldstead Grant** (2013)
- ~**Kappa Tau Epsilon Honor Society** (2013)

Teaching:

PHIL 379 Enlightenment Philosophy (Spring 2023; Fort Lewis College)

PHIL 372 Advanced Logic (Spring 2023; Fort Lewis College)

PHIL 328 Philosophy of Science (Fall 2022; Fort Lewis College)

PHIL 270 Ancient Greek Philosophy (Fall 2022; Fort Lewis College)

PHIL 386 Knowledge and Skepticism (Fall 2021; Fort Lewis College)

PHIL 271 Logic (Spring 2022; Fort Lewis College)

PHIL 272 God, Faith, and Reason (Fall 2021; Fort Lewis College)

PHIL 3010 History of Modern Philosophy (Spring 2021; University of Colorado)

PHIL 3140/ENVS 3140 Environmental Ethics (May Semester 2021; University of Colorado)

PHIL 231/331 Modern Philosophy A: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz (Spring 2020; University of Otago)

PHIL 1020 Introduction to Modern Philosophy (Fall 2018; University of Colorado)

PHIL 1020 Introduction to Modern Philosophy (Spring 2019; University of Colorado)

PHIL 105 Critical Thinking (Spring 2020; Fall 2020; University of Otago)

PHIL 1000 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2019; University of Colorado)

Academic Service:

Editorial Assistant:

Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy
(2018-2020)

Referee:

Australasian Journal of Philosophy
Philosophical Studies
Synthese
Journal of Modern Philosophy
Acta Analytica
Ethical Theory and Moral Practice
British Journal for the History of Philosophy
Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress

University of Otago Graduate Student Seminars:

Publishing Workshop
Ph.D. Application Workshop

Conference Organizer:

Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference 2018

University of Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy:

Graduate Presenter

Undergraduate Philosophy Club:

Graduate Presenter

Research Languages:

Latin

References:

Robert Pasnau
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
University of Colorado at Boulder
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Mitzi Lee
Professor of Philosophy
University of Colorado at Boulder
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Michael LeBuffe
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University of Otago, New Zealand
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