

## **RYAN PRESTON-ROEDDER, *curriculum vitae***

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Department of Philosophy  
Occidental College  
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<https://www.oxy.edu/faculty/ryan-preston-roedder>

### **Education**

Ph.D., New York University, Department of Philosophy, 2007  
Dissertation: *Civic Trust: On the Foundations of Moral Rights*  
Committee: Thomas Nagel (chair), Derek Parfit, Sharon Street  
B.A., Rice University, Department of Philosophy, 2000 (*summa cum laude*)

### **Professional Positions**

Professor, Department of Philosophy, Occidental College, 2024-present  
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Occidental College, 2016-2024  
Chair, Department of Philosophy, 2019-2024  
Affiliated Faculty, Black Studies, Occidental College, 2020-present  
Faculty Director, Barack Obama Scholars Program, Occidental College, 2018-present  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2016-2017  
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill, 2008-2016

### **Research Interests**

Moral and Political Philosophy, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Religion, Africana  
Philosophy, Philosophy and Literature

### **Academic Honors**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Assistant Professorship, MIT, 2016-2017  
APA Article Prize Honorable Mention, 2014  
Prize for the “best article published by a younger scholar in the previous two years”  
Awarded for “Faith in Humanity”  
Research Award, Templeton Foundation Project on the Nature and Value of Faith, 2014  
Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC Chapel Hill Office of the Provost, 2010  
Faculty Fellowship, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University,  
2007–2008

## **Publications**

- “Divine and Mortal Loves,” *Religious Studies* 59 (3): 533-548 (2023)
- “Living with Absurdity: A Nobleman’s Guide,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 106 (3): 612-633 (2023)
- “Sources of Shame, Images of Home,” in *Reconciliation and Repair: NOMOS LXV*, eds. Melissa Schwartzberg and Eric Beerbohm. New York: NYU Press (2023)
- “Three Varieties of Faith,” *Philosophical Topics* 46 (1): 173-199 (2018)
- “Grief and Recovery” (with Erica Preston-Roedder), in *The Moral Psychology of Sadness*, ed. Anna Gotlib. London: Rowman & Littlefield International (2018)
- “Civic Trust,” *Philosophers’ Imprint* 17 (4): 1-22 (2017)
- “A Better World,” *Philosophical Studies* 168 (3): 629-644 (2014)
- “Faith in Humanity,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 87 (3): 664-687 (2013)
- Awarded 2014 APA Article Prize Honorable Mention

## **Public Philosophy**

- Interview with Kieran Setiya  
*Five Questions* podcast, May 2022

## **Presentations**

- “Baldwin and the Religious Outlook”  
Claremont McKenna College, James Baldwin at 100 Symposium, November 2025
- “Rebellion”  
Boston University, Department of Philosophy, September 2024  
Princeton University, Conference on Philosophy, Religion, and Love, May 2024  
Georgetown University, Moral Community Workshop, April 2024  
Wake Forest University, Theistic Ethics Workshop, September 2023
- “Love and Social Justice” (title has varied)  
University of Virginia, Department of Philosophy, January 2024  
Scripps College, Department of Philosophy, April 2023  
Cornell University, Department of Philosophy, March 2023  
Emotions & Society Lab, Works-in-Progress Series, March 2023  
Brown University, Democratic Faith Working Group, December 2022  
UC San Diego, Department of Philosophy, April 2022  
Chapman University, Department of Philosophy, March 2022  
Tulane University, Department of Philosophy, December 2021  
Northwestern University, Department of Philosophy, October 2021  
Pacific APA, Invited Symposium, April 2021  
University of Victoria, Department of Philosophy, March 2021  
CSU Sacramento, Department of Philosophy, October 2019  
CSU Bakersfield, Department of Philosophy and Religion, April 2019
- “Divine and Mortal Loves”

Scripps College, Department of Philosophy, April 2023  
 Mount Holyoke College, Department of Philosophy, October 2022  
 Colorado College, Department of Philosophy, October 2022  
 Chapman University, Department of Philosophy, March 2022  
 “Living with Absurdity: A Nobleman’s Guide” (title has varied)  
 CSU Bakersfield, Keynote for Kegley Institute of Ethics Undergraduate Conference,  
 April 2019  
 University of Kansas, Keynote for Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, April 2019  
 Cal Poly Pomona, Department of Philosophy, November 2018  
 USC, Department of Philosophy, October 2018  
 “Three Varieties of Faith”  
 University of Vermont, Department of Philosophy, May 2017  
 MIT, Department of Philosophy, Work in Progress Seminar, April 2017  
 UCLA, Department of Philosophy, April 2017  
 Rice University, Humanistic Ethics Workshop, March 2017  
 Bellingham Lecture in Philosophy and Religion, February 2017  
 Pacific APA, Invited Symposium, April 2015  
 Project on the Nature and Value of Faith, Fall Conference, November 2014  
 “Grief and Recovery”  
 UCLA, Ethics Workshop, April 2017  
 MIT, MLK Visiting Scholars Program Luncheon, November 2016  
 Brandeis University, Department of Philosophy, February 2016  
 Ohio State University, Department of Philosophy, February 2016  
 Occidental College, Department of Philosophy, January 2016  
 Lafayette College, Minds and Morals Colloquium Series, April 2015  
 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2014  
 “Love, Scorn, and the Assertion of Black Humanity”  
 University of Portland, Department of Philosophy, April 2016  
 “Faith in Humanity”  
 UNC, Africana Philosophy: Breaking New Ground, February 2013  
 UNC, UNC-Hebrew University Workshop, February 2012  
 Duke University, Kenan Institute for Ethics, September, 2011  
 University of Washington, Seattle, Department of Philosophy, November 2010  
 British Society for Ethical Theory, July 2010  
 University of Texas, Austin, Just Ethics Workshop, May 2010  
 Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Philosophy, November 2009  
 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2009  
 International Social Philosophy Conference, July 2009  
 Pacific APA, Invited Symposium, April 2009  
 Harvard, Safra Center for Ethics, Faculty Fellows Seminar, May 2008  
 “Moral Education and Moral Demands or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and

Pass the Buck”

International Social Philosophy Conference, July 2010

“Personal Projects and the Greater Good”

Harvard, Safra Center for Ethics, Fellows Seminar, December 2007

“Civic Trust and the Problem of Self-Defense”

UNC Chapel Hill, Department of Philosophy, February 2007

Cornell University, Department of Philosophy, February 2007

University of Notre Dame, Department of Philosophy, February 2007

UCLA, Department of Philosophy, February 2007

UC San Diego, Department of Philosophy, January 2007

University of Utah, Department of Philosophy, January 2007

Harvard University, Department of Philosophy, January 2007

MIT, Department of Philosophy, January 2007

### **Commentaries**

Comments on Meena Krishnamurthy, *The Emotions of Nonviolence*

Pacific APA, Author-Meets-Critics Session, April 2025

Comments on Michael Cholbi, *Grief: A Philosophical Guide*

Pacific APA, Author-Meets-Critics Session, April 2022

Comments on Jonathan Lear, “Transience and Hope: A Return to Freud in a Time of Pandemic”

UNC Philosophy and Psychiatry Conference, April 2021

Comments on Catherine Lu, “Reconciliation as Non-Alienation: The Politics of Being at Home in the World” Cardozo School of Law, The American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy Conference on Reconciliation and Repair, September 2020

Comments on Linda Zagzebski, *Exemplarist Moral Theory*

Eastern APA, Author-Meets-Critics Session, January 2019

Comments on Lara Buchak, “Faith, Commitment, and Disagreement”

Pacific APA, March 2016

Comments on Justin Weinberg, “Wishing Some Things Were Different”

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2013

### **Teaching**

*Department of Philosophy, Occidental College*

Barack Obama Scholars Program Seminar; *The Brothers Karamazov*; Death; Faith, Hope, and Trust; Happiness, Meaning, and the Good Life (experiential learning course); Introduction to Philosophy; Knowledge and Power; Love in Personal and Political Life; Philosophy and the Black Church; Philosophy Department Senior Seminar; The Philosophy of James Baldwin; Philosophy of Religion

*Department of Philosophy, MIT*

*Graduate*

Partiality (with Kieran Setiya)

*Department of Philosophy, UNC Chapel Hill*

*Graduate*

Applied Ethics (with Thomas E. Hill); Contemporary Normative Ethics; Death; Faith, Hope, and Trust (with Thomas E. Hill); Partiality; Protoseminar (with Thomas Hofweber; with Matthew Kotzen)

*Undergraduate*

*The Brothers Karamazov*; Death as a Problem for Philosophy; Medical Ethics; Philosophical Perspectives on Social Justice; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Capstone Seminar (with Geoffrey Brennan); Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Gateway Course; Philosophy of Religion

## **Advising**

*Ph.D.*

Larisa Svirsky, "Responsibility and Relationship," defended April 2019

Joshua Blanchard, "Angsty Metaethics," defended May 2018

Kiran Bhardwaj, "Reason, Emotion, and Consequence: Kantian Ideals and Moral Psychology," defended 2017

Vida Yao, "Loving the Bad & Not Giving a Damn: A Defense of Psychic Disharmony," defended 2016

Benjamin Bagley, "Improvisational agency," defended 2013

Dana Falkenberg, "Practical Reason, Character, and Morality," defended 2013

Yujia Song, "Empathy, Understanding, and Judgment," defended 2013

Kristen Bell, "Mercy and criminal justice," defended 2010

*M.A.*

Joshua Blanchard, Eva Hoffman, Jordan MacKenzie, Megan Mitchell (chair), Sam Reisdennis, Macy Salzberger, Anthony Tiberio

*Undergraduate*

Patrick Walsh, Occidental College Summer Research Program, 2021

Alexander Borges, Capstone Project, Barack Obama Scholars Program, April 2021

Jonathan Edelman, UNC Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, 2013

## **Professional Service**

*To Occidental College*

Director, Barack Obama Scholars Program, Occidental College, 2018-present

Elected Member, Occidental Faculty Council, 2021-2024

Member, Advisory Committee on the Use of Historical Names on Campus, 2021-2022

Member, Marianne Ruuth Comprehensive Prize Award Committee, 2021-2022

*To the Profession*

Co-founder (with Melvin Rogers), Democratic Faith Working Group, 2022-present