

Zachary Adam Akin

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

AOS: Ethics, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Action

AOC: Logic, History of Philosophy (Modern), Philosophy of Religion

EMPLOYMENT

Teaching Assistant Professor of Business Ethics, West Virginia University (January 2026 – present)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Florida State University, Philosophy (May 2026)*

Dissertation: *Essays on Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Alternative Possibilities*

Committee: Randolph Clarke (chair), Alfred Mele, Stephen Kearns, Philip Bowers

M.A., Houston Christian University, Philosophy (2018)

B.A., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Philosophy (2016)

**Entered Fall 2019; one-year leave of absence during COVID-19 pandemic*

PUBLICATIONS

1. “Dead Men Do No Deeds: Moral Responsibility Without (Robust) Alternative Possibilities,” *Philosophical Studies* 182 (5), 2025: 1201-1220.
2. “Causal Preemption and Moral Responsibility for Unavoidable Omissions: A Reply to Metz,” *Philosophia* 53 (5), 2025: 2019-2031.
3. “Flickers of Freedom, Action Individuation, and the Transfer of Moral Responsibility,” *The Journal of Ethics* 28, 2024: 577-598.
4. “Ralph Cudworth’s Divine Conceptualism and the Bootstrapping Objection,” *Philosophia Christi* 23 (2), 2021: 367-376.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. A paper on event-causal libertarianism – *under review*
2. A paper on moral responsibility for unavoidable omissions – *under review*
3. A paper arguing that it is (probably) wrong to purchase goods produced in sweatshops even if sweatshop employment benefits workers – *in preparation*
4. Another paper on moral responsibility for unavoidable omissions – *in preparation*

PRESENTATIONS & COMMENTS

“Nuclear Deterrence for Pacifists,” 2025 Weatherford College Annual Conference on Philosophy of Religion and War (peer-reviewed)

“Comments on ‘A Valuable Incompatibilism: Rethinking the Rollback Argument’,” 2023 FSU Conference on Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency

“Comments on ‘A New Role for Rollbacks: How Objective Probabilities Undermine the Ability to Act Otherwise’,” 2022 FSU Conference on Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency

“Epistemic Suspiciousness and Conspiracy Theories,” 2019 University of Oklahoma Philosophy Graduate Conference (peer-reviewed)

“The Reformed Agnosticism of David Hume,” 2019 Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Annual Meeting (peer-reviewed)

TEACHING

AS SOLE INSTRUCTOR

West Virginia University

Business Ethics (four sections) — Spring 2026

Florida State University

Reasoning and Critical Thinking — Summer 2025

Symbolic Logic (upper level) — Spring 2025

Introduction to Philosophy — Fall 2022, Summer 2024

Pensacola State College

Introduction to Philosophy (online, asynchronous) — Spring 2021, Summer 2021

Ethics (online, synchronous) — Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Summer 2023

Houston Community College

Symbolic Logic — Spring 2019

Introduction to Philosophy — Spring 2019

Introduction to Ethics — Spring 2019

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

Florida State University

Symbolic Logic (upper level) — Spring 2024, Fall 2024

Reasoning and Critical Thinking — Spring 2020, Fall 2023

Ethical Issues and Life Choices (Applied Ethics) — Summer 2020, Summer 2022

Introduction to Philosophy — Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2025

AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

HCU Master of Philosophy Scholarship	2016–2018
Adelaide D. Wilson Graduate Fellowship Endowment Fund	2019
Graduate Endowed Fund for Excellence in the Humanities Award	2020
William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Endowment Award	2020–2025
FSU Graduate Grant	2022
FSU Foundation Scholarship	2022–2024
Research and Creative Activity Travel Grant	2025
Congress of Graduate Students Travel Grant	2025

SERVICE

Referee – FSU Conference on Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency, 2022–2024
Organizer and Host – Free Will and Divine Foreknowledge Reading Group, 2023
Volunteer – FSU Werkmeister Conference in Honor of Alfred Mele, 2024
Organizer – New Perspectives in Free Will Reading Group, 2024

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Metaphysics and Epistemology

Core Course in Epistemology (Green)	Fall 2016
Metaphysics: Time and Persistence (Green)	Spring 2017
Religious Epistemology (McNabb)	Fall 2017
Free Will (Mele)	Fall 2019
Proseminar in Metaphysics & Epistemology (Schwenkler)	Fall 2019
Philosophy of Action (Mele)	Fall 2020
DIS Philosophy of Mind (Clarke)	Fall 2020
DIS Neuroscience and the Philosophy of Mind (Clarke)	Spring 2022
Supervised Research: Libertarian Theories of Free Will (Clarke)	Spring 2022
DIS Free Will and Luck (Mele)	Summer 2022
DIS Free Will and Moral Responsibility (Clarke)	Fall 2022

Moral and Political Philosophy

Core Course in Ethics (McNabb)	Spring 2017
Proseminar in Ethics (Lebar)	Spring 2020
DIS Political Philosophy: Theories of Justice (May)	Summer 2022
DIS The Ethics of Blame (Clarke)	Fall 2022

History of Philosophy

Thomism, Personhood, and Human Nature (Hittinger)	Fall 2016
Modern Philosophy (Walls)	Spring 2018
Early Modern Philosophy (Roberts)	Fall 2019
Ancient Greek Philosophy: Plato (Stein)	Spring 2022

Logic

Symbolic Logic (Gordon)
Modern Logic I (Rawling)
DIS Mathematical Logic (Rawling)
DIS Philosophy of Mathematics (Rawling)

Fall 2017
Spring 2020
Summer 2020
Summer 2020

Other

Philosophy of Religion: Science and Faith (Gordon)
Philosophy of Religion: Problem of Evil (Walls)
The Normativity of Meaning (Hinchman)
Teaching Philosophy (Bishop)

Fall 2016
Spring 2017
Spring 2020
Fall 2020

LANGUAGES

Japanese – Proficient (JLPT N2 Certified)

REFERENCES

Randolph Clarke

Professor of Philosophy & Department Chair
Florida State University
rkclarke@fsu.edu

Alfred Mele

William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy
Florida State University
amele@fsu.edu

John Martin Fischer

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Riverside
fischer@ucr.edu

Stephen Kearns

Professor of Philosophy
Florida State University
skearns@fsu.edu

J. Piers Rawling (teaching reference)

Stillwell Professor of Philosophy & Director of Graduate Studies
Florida State University
prawling@fsu.edu