

# Curriculum Vitae

**Bryan R. S. Frances**

[bryan.frances@yahoo.com](mailto:bryan.frances@yahoo.com)

[bryanfrances.weebly.com](http://bryanfrances.weebly.com)

## **Primary Employment**

United Arab Emirates University, the UAE (2021-2023)  
University of Tartu, Estonia (2018-2020)  
Lingnan University, Hong Kong (2016-2017)  
Fordham University, New York (2005-2015)  
University of Leeds, England (2000-2005)

## **Education**

PhD in Philosophy, University of Minnesota (1999)  
MA in Philosophy, University of Minnesota (1993)  
MA in Theoretical Physics, University of Southern California (1990)  
BS in Engineering Physics, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (1987)

## **Proficiencies**

Areas of Research Competence:

Epistemology of Disagreement and Controversy, Epistemology of Philosophy and Religion, Skepticism, Material Composition, Philosophy of Time, Vagueness, Content Externalism, Problem of Evil, Philosophy of Color

Primary Areas of Teaching Competence:

Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Logic (through Gödel's theorems), Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Language, Ethics

## **Major Research Grant**

I was awarded a €512,660 grant to head a research project on "[Expertise and Fundamental Controversy in Philosophy and Science](#)" at the University of Tartu, in Estonia. I had the highest ranking grant application, out of 27 total.

## **Major Professional Publications**

2023: "The Unfortunate Consequences of Progress in Philosophy", in Maria Baghramian, J. Adam Carter and Richard Rowland (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Disagreement*, Routledge.

2023: Co-authored with Michael Huemer, *Can We Know Anything?* Tyron Goldschmidt (ed.), Routledge.

- 2022: [\*The Epistemic Consequences of Paradox\*](#), Cambridge University Press.
- 2021f: "[Metaphysics, Bullshit, and the Analysis of Philosophical Problems](#)", *Synthese* 199, 11541–11554.
- 2021e: "[Epistemically Different Epistemic Peers](#)", co-authored with Mariangela Zoe Cocchario, *Topoi* 40 (5), 1063-73.
- 2021d: "[How to Fit Ordinary Objects into Reality](#)", in Tyron Goldschmidt and Sara Bernstein (eds.) *Non-Being: New Essays on the Metaphysics of Nonexistence*, Oxford University Press.
- 2021c: "[Religious Disagreement](#)", in Stewart Goetz and Charles Taliaferro (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2021b: [\*An Agnostic Defends God\*](#), Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2021a: "[Philosophical Proofs Against Common Sense](#)", *Analysis* 81, 18-26.
- 2020c: "[The Epistemology of Theistic Philosophers' Reactions to the Problem of Evil](#)", *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 94 (4), 547-72.
- 2020b: "[Is It Rational to Reject Expert Consensus?](#)" *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 10, 325-45
- 2020a: "[The Epistemology of Disagreement](#)", in *Encyclopaedia of Educational Theory and Philosophy*, Gerry Dunne (ed.) Springer.
- 2019: "[The Philosopher's Doom: Unreliable at Truth or Unreliable at Logic](#)", in Ted Poston and Kevin McCain (eds.) *The Mystery of Skepticism*, Leiden: Brill, 187-199.
- 2018d: "[Philosophical Expertise](#)", in James Chase and David Cody (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Applied Epistemology*, Routledge, 297-306.
- 2018c: "[The Epistemology of Real-World Religious Disagreement Without Peers](#)", *Philosophia Christi* 20 (1), 291-99.
- 2018b: "[Disagreement](#)", co-authored with Jonathan Matheson, in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Edward Zalta, ed.
- 2018a: "[Skepticism and Disagreement](#)", in Diego Machuca and Baron Reed (eds.), *Skepticism: From Antiquity to the Present*, Continuum Press.
- 2017b: "[The Ontology of Some Afterimages](#)", in Manuel Curado and Steven Gouveia (eds.) *Philosophy of Mind: Contemporary Perspectives*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 118-144.
- 2017a: "[Extensive Philosophical Progress and Agreement](#)", *Metaphilosophy* 48 (1-2), 47-57.
- 2016e: "[Worrisome Skepticism about Philosophy](#)", *Episteme* 13, 289-303.
- 2016d: "[Presentism: Foreigner-Friendly or Xenophobic?](#)", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 94, 479-488.
- 2016c: "[Ontology, Composition, Quantification, and Action](#)", *Analysis* 76, 137-142.
- 2016b: "[The Dual Concepts Objection to Content Externalism](#)", *American Philosophical Quarterly* 53, 123-138.

- 2016a: "[Rationally Held 'P, but I Fully Believe ~P and I am Not Equivocating'](#)", *Philosophical Studies* 173, 309-313.
- 2015: "[Religious Disagreement](#)", in Graham Oppy (ed.) *Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy of Religion*, Acumen Press, 180-192.
- 2014: [Disagreement](#), Polity Press.
- 2013d: [Gratuitous Suffering and the Problem of Evil](#), Routledge Press.
- 2013c: "[Knowledge](#)" (with Allan Hazlett), in Howard Robinson and Barry Dainton (eds.), *The Bloomsbury Companion to Analytic Philosophy*, Bloomsbury Press, 432-52.
- 2013b: [Review of Robert Audi](#), *Rationality and Religious Commitment*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- 2013a: "[Philosophical Renegades](#)" in Jennifer Lackey and David Christensen (eds.) *The Epistemology of Disagreement: New Essays*, Oxford University Press, 121-66.
- 2012: "[Discovering Disagreeing Epistemic Peers and Superiors](#)", *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 20, 1-21.
- 2011: "[Kripke](#)" in *Key Thinkers in the Philosophy of Language*, Barry Lee, ed., Continuum, 249-67.
- 2010b: "[Disagreement](#)", in Duncan Pritchard and Sven Bernecker (eds.) *Routledge Companion to Epistemology*, 68-74.
- 2010a: "[The Reflective Epistemic Renegade](#)" *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 8, 419-63.
- 2008b: "[Live Skeptical Hypotheses](#)," John Greco (ed.) *Oxford Handbook of Skepticism*, 225-245.
- 2008a: "[Spirituality, Expertise, and Philosophers](#)," in Jon Kvanvig (ed.) *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion*, v. 1, Oxford University Press, 44-81.
- 2007b: "[Externalism, Physicalism, Statues, and Hunks](#)," *Philosophical Studies* 133, 199-232.
- 2007a: [Review](#) of Cynthia MacDonald's *Varieties of Things: Foundations of Contemporary Metaphysics*, *Philosophical Quarterly* 47, 380-382.
- 2006: "[The New Leibniz's Law Arguments for Pluralism](#)," *Mind* 115, 1007-1022.
- 2005b: "[When a Skeptical Hypothesis is Live](#)," *Noûs* 39, 559-95.
- 2005a: [Scepticism Comes Alive](#), Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2002: "[A Test for Theories of Belief Ascription](#)," *Analysis* 62, 116-25.
- 2000: "[Disquotation and Substitutivity](#)," *Mind* 109, 519-25.
- 1999c: "[Defending the Defense](#)," *Mind* 108, 563-566.
- 1999b: "[On the Explanatory Deficiencies of Linguistic Content](#)," *Philosophical Studies* 93, 45-75.
- 1999a: "[Contradictory Belief and Epistemic Closure Principles](#)," *Mind and Language* 14, 203-226.
- 1998c: "[The Twin-Earth Thought Experiments](#)," in *A Field Guide to the Philosophy of Mind*, an official electronic publication of the University of Rome III.

1998b: “[Defending Millian Theories](#),” *Mind* 107, 703-727. Reprinted in *The General Philosophy of John Stuart Mill*, Victor Sanchez Valencia, ed., Ashgate Publishers, 2002.

1998a: “[Arguing for Frege’s Fundamental Principle](#),” *Mind and Language* 13, 341-346.

1996: “[Plato’s Response to the Third Man Argument in the Paradoxical Exercise of the \*Parmenides\*](#),” *Ancient Philosophy* 16, 47-64.

### **Publications for a General Audience**

2019: “[Justifying a Large Part of Philosophy](#)”, *Think* 18 (51), 93-99.

2018: “[Why the Vagueness Paradox is Amazing](#)”, *Think* 17 (50), 27-38.

2018: “[Why Afterimages Are Metaphysically Mysterious](#)”, *Think* 17 (49), 33-44.

2018: “[The Atheistic Argument from Outrageousness](#)”, *Think* 17 (48), 107-116.

2016: “[The Irrationality of Religious Belief](#)”, *Think* 15 (42), 15-33.

2015: “[The Rationality of Religious Belief](#)”, *Think* 14 (40), 109-117.

### **Teaching Experience**

All courses listed below are undergraduate unless otherwise specified. Courses designed by myself.

Critical Thinking: 9x

Introduction to Ethics: 4x

Introduction to Philosophy: about 30x

Symbolic Logic: about 7x, once at graduate level

Philosophy of Language: about 6x

Philosophy of Mind: about 10x, 5 at graduate level

Cognitive Science: 4x

Epistemology: about 10x, 2 at graduate level, 2 for MBA students

Metaphysics: about 9x, 3 at graduate level

Philosophy of Religion: 3x

Medical Ethics: about 3x (team-taught with a physician for students in medical school)

I have been the official advisor for dozens of undergraduates. I have mentored or co-mentored students through completion of the PhD at both Fordham and Leeds. I have served on perhaps 20 PhD committees at Fordham University, the University of Leeds, Lingnan University, and the University of Tartu.

### **Primary Administrative Duties in the Philosophy Department at Fordham University**

Executive Committees (10 years)

Merit Committee (about 5 years)

Hiring Committees (many times)

Associate Chair of Philosophy for Fordham College at Lincoln Center (3 years)  
Program Review Committee

### **Primary Administrative Duties in the School of Philosophy at the University of Leeds**

Finance Officer (5 years; for a department with its own budget & about 30 full-time faculty)  
Health and Safety Officer (5 years)  
Speaker Seminar Organizer (4 years)  
Standing Committee Member (5 years; the most powerful committee in the department)  
Learning and Teaching Committee Member

### **Research Initiative**

Recent research grant: [philexpertise.weebly.com](http://philexpertise.weebly.com)

My colleague Andrew McGonigal and I founded and ran a research center, [\*Centre for Metaphysics and Mind\*](#), located at the University of Leeds.

### **Activity in the Profession**

Refereeing/manuscript evaluation for OUP, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ancient Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophers Imprint*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Inquiry*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Sophia*, and others I have forgotten.

Member of American Philosophical Association (APA) since about 1993, off and on. I have presented numerous sole-authored papers at APA conferences. Have also served as chair of meetings. Member of Aristotelian Society 2000-2005.

Editor of the [Epistemology of Disagreement](#) section on [PhilPapers.org](#), the world's primary philosophy database.

I have served on tenure committees for outside universities but do not have records of them.

### **Major Presentations**

"Baseball and the Problem of Evil", University of Birmingham, August 2020.

"Philosophical Expertise and Philosophical Progress", Bled Epistemology Conference 2019, June 2019.

"The Epistemology of Minority Belief" University of Haifa, April 2019.

"The Epistemology of Theistic Philosophers' Reactions to the Problem of Evil", Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion, April 2019.

"The Epistemology of Controversy", Seton Hall University, March 2019.

"The Philosopher's Doom: Unreliable at Truth or Unreliable at Logic", talk at a workshop of a DFG-funded project "Disagreement in Philosophy: Semantic and Epistemic Foundations." (<http://dissens.uni-koeln.de/#>), University of Bonn (International Centre for Philosophy), 10-12 October 2018.

"The Philosopher's Doom: Unreliable at Truth or Unreliable at Logic", University of Helsinki, September 2018.

“The Philosopher’s Doom: Unreliable at Truth or Unreliable at Logic”, **Keynote Address** at the European Epistemology Network conference 28-30 June 2018 at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.

“The Philosopher’s Doom: Unreliable at Truth or Unreliable at Logic”, Analytic Summer Camp, University of Tartu, 8 June 2018.

“Unreliable about Truth or Unreliable about Validity”, Lingnan University, 2016.

“Unreliable about Truth or Unreliable about Validity”, Hong Kong University, 2016.

“The Islamic and Cumulative Versions of the ‘Mad, Bad, or God’ Argument”, Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Messiah College, 2015.

“Religious Disagreement amongst Philosophers”, Invited Speaker at the “Disagreement: Epistemology and Applications” workshop at the University of Osnabrueck, Germany, 2015.

“The Epistemically Troubling Philosophical Survey”, Invited Speaker at the “Philosophy in the Face of Peer Disagreement” session at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the German Society for Analytic Philosophy, Osnabrueck, Germany, 2015.

“Worrisome Skepticism about Philosophy”, **Keynote Address** at a conference on skepticism organized by the Dutch-Flemish Society for Analytic Philosophy, Erasmus University, 2015.

“Why Philosophers Take Religion Seriously Even Without Evidence”, **Keynote Address**, Seton Hall University, 2015.

“Religious Disagreement”, **Keynote Address** at Tennessee Philosophical Association, 2014.

Comments on Linda Zagzebski, College of William and Mary conference on “The Authority of Tradition”, 2014.

“Philosophical Renegades”, University of Minnesota, 2013.

“Philosophical Progress”, Knowledge and Disagreement Conference, New University of Lisbon, 2012.

“The Relation of Existence to Time”, Eastern Division Group APA meeting, 2009.

“The Inevitability of Sharp Cutoffs”, Russell III Conference, California 2007.

“Who Am I to Disagree with David Lewis?”, Bled Conference on Epistemology, Slovenia 2007.

“Existence, Time, and Relations”, CMM workshop on Existence and Time, 2005.

“Quantification, Ontology, and Time”, Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, on Time and Identity, 2005.

“Why You Are So Ignorant”, Eastern Division APA colloquium, 2004.

“Presentist Ontology with Eternalist Relations”, University of St. Andrews, 2004.

“Presentist Ontology with Eternalist Relations”, University of Glasgow, 2004.

“Why You Are So Ignorant”, Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, on Skepticism and Knowledge, 2004.

“Universal Skepticism”, Pacific Division APA colloquium, 2004.

“When a Skeptical Hypothesis Becomes Live”, University of Liverpool, 2002.

“Afterimages and Lollipops”, University of Nottingham, 2001.

“Afterimages and Lollipops”, University of Birmingham, 2001.

“Afterimages and Lollipops”, University of York, 2001.

“Afterimages and Lollipops”, University of Durham, 2001.

“Substitutivity, Rationality, and Assent”, Oxford University, 2000 (with Tom Stoneham).

“Content, Causation, and Physicalism”, Central Division APA colloquium, 1999.

“Externalism Versus Anti-Individualism”, Pacific Division APA colloquium, 1999.

“Externalism and the Tenacity of Skepticism”, Eastern Division APA colloquium, 1998.

“A New Puzzle about Belief”, Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1998.

“Did Plato Solve the Problem of the Third Man in the *Parmenides*?”, Minnesota Ancient Greek Philosophy Conference, 1998.

“Explanatory Properties and Psychological Explanation”, Pacific Division APA colloquium, 1996 and Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1995.

“Explanatory Properties and Psychological Explanation”, Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1995.

“Explanatory Properties and Psychological Explanation”, Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1995.

“Propositional Attitudes and Physicalism”, Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1996.

“Return of the Third Man”, Minnesota Ancient Greek Philosophy Conference, 1993.