

RYAN PRESTON-ROEDDER, *curriculum vitae*

Department of Philosophy
Occidental College
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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

External Grant (Principal Investigator)

John Templeton Foundation. “Loving Attention: Generosity, Solidarity, and Racial Justice” (July 2026 – April 2030). \$150,000 for research projects, course development, and community events. Administered through the Institute for Ethics and the Common Good at the University of Notre Dame.

Publications

- “Love in Personal and Political Life,” *Philosophers’ Imprint* (forthcoming)
- “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)
Reprinted in *Understanding Faith: Historical and Contemporary Readings*, eds. Daniel J. McKaughan and Daniel Howard-Snyder. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing (forthcoming)
- “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

- “Some Uses of Irony”
Northwestern University, Keynote for Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP), May 2025
Claremont McKenna College, James Baldwin at 100 Symposium, November 2024
- “Rebellion”
UC Santa Barbara, Department of Philosophy, April 2025
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 in Personal and Political Life” (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 Barrett Emerick, TBD

Central APA, Book Manuscript Symposium, February 2027

Comments on Meena Krishnamurthy, *The Emotions of Nonviolence*

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

Comments on Oded Na’aman, TBD

UCLA, Workshop in Humanistic Ethics, March 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 Svirskey, “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
Member, Faculty Student Affairs Committee
Member, International Programs Committee, 2025-2026
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

Representative to the Board of Officers, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, 2026-present