

Education

Ph.D.	University of South Carolina Department of Philosophy Dissertation: <i>Descartes' World: An Interpretation of the Discourse on Method</i> Advisor: Matthew J. Kisner Committee: Konstantin Pollok and Ann Johnson	2006 - 2013
M.A.	University of South Carolina Department of Philosophy Advisor: Matthew J. Kisner	2003 - 2006
B.A. Cum Laude	University of South Carolina Philosophy	1997 - 2002

Employment

Senior Instructor, Department of Philosophy University of South Carolina	2025 - present
Instructor, Department of Philosophy University of South Carolina	2017 - 2025
Adjunct, Division of Humanities, Social Science, and Education University of South Carolina Sumter	2016 - 2017
Adjunct, Department of History, Humanities, and Political Science Trident Technical College	2015 - 2016
Adjunct, College of Theology Grand Canyon University	Fall 2015
Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Coastal Carolina University	2013-2014

Areas of Specialization

Modern Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion

Areas of Competence

Public Speaking, Applied Ethics, History of Philosophy, and Logic

Peer-Reviewed Chapters and Articles

- Brissey, P. "Descartes's Provisional Morality." *Review of Metaphysics*. 77, 4, 615-636. 2024
- Brissey, P. "Analysis of Recent Objections to the Argument for a Transphysical Self from Near-Death Experiences." *Journal of Near-Death Studies*. 41, 3, 202-238. 2023
- Brissey, P. "Near-Death Experiencer's Beliefs and Aftereffects: Problems for the Fischer and Mitchell-Yellin Explanation." *Journal of Near-Death Studies*. 39, 2, 103-122. 2021
- Brissey, P. "Reasons for the Method in Descartes' *Discours*." *Journal of Early Modern Studies*. 10, 1, 9-27. 2021
- Brissey, P. "Towards Descartes' Scientific Method: *a posteriori* Evidence and The Rhetoric of *Les Météores*." in James A.T. Lancaster and Richard Raiswell (eds.) *Evidence in the Age of the New Sciences*, Springer. 2018
- Brissey, P. "The Form of Descartes' Method of Doubt." *Southwest Philosophy Review*. 33, 2, 233-249. 2017
- Brissey, P. "Reflections on Descartes' Vocation as an Early Theory of Happiness." *Journal of Early Modern Studies*. [Special issue on Care of the Self in Early Modern Philosophy and Science] 4, 2, 69-91. 2015
- Brissey, P. "Rule VIII of Descartes' *Regulae ad directionem ingenii*." *Journal of Early Modern Studies*. 3, 2, 9-31. 2014
- Brissey, P. "Descartes' *Discours* as a Plan for a Universal Science." *Studia UBB Philosophia*. [Special issue on Descartes' Scientific and Philosophical Disputes with his Contemporaries], 58, 37-60. 2013
- Brissey, P. "Descartes and the Meteorology of the *World*." *Society and Politics*. [Special issue on God and the Order of Nature in Early Modern Thought: Topics in Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Science], 6, 2, 88-100. 2012

Non-Peer Reviewed Articles

Brissey, P. “Hume’s Problem of Induction.” *Philosophy Now*. 160, 34-35. 2024

Book Reviews

Brissey, P. “The Habitus Interpretation of Descartes’s Method.” 2024
Review of *Descartes’s Method*, by Tarek Dika. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. September 3, 2024. <https://ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/descartess-method-the-formation-of-the-subject-of-science/>

Brissey, P. “God and the Good Life.” Review of *The Good Life Method*, by Meghan Sullivan and Paul Blaschko, *Teaching Philosophy*, 47, 4. 595-599. <https://doi.org/10.5840/teachphil2024474225> 2024

Brissey, P. Review of *Doing Practical Ethics*, by Ian Stoner and Jason Swartwood, *Teaching Philosophy*, 45, 3. 372-373. <https://doi.org/10.5840/teachphil2022453168>. 2022

Brissey, P. Review of *Death, Immortality, and Meaning in Life*, by John Martin Fischer, *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 56, 4. 1130-1121. <https://doi.org/10.1111/zygo.12735>. 2022

Work in Progress

Brissey, P. “Alvin Plantinga’s Evolutionary Argument Against Naturalism”, under review.

Brissey, P. *Philosophy Speaks: Speech-Based Learning in the Age of A.I.*

Brissey, P. *Descartes’s First Philosophy: 1619-1622*

Awards, Certificates, and Grants

College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Teaching Award for Professional Faculty (\$2000) 2023
This award is given annually by the college to professional faculty members who provide exceptional learning experiences to undergraduate students, both within and outside the classroom.

Technology for Online Teaching and Learning Certificate of Completion 6-week course on integrating technology for online course delivery (September 9 to October 20), Center of Teaching Excellence	2020
Carolina Online Learning and Teaching (COLT) Certificate of Completion 6-week course to prepare faculty to teach exemplary online, blended or hybrid courses and to build their capacity in the areas of pedagogy, course design, course development, distributed delivery, and online course administration (June 1 to August 15 with an online capstone project) Center of Teaching Excellence, Office of Distributed Learning, and DoIT e-Learning Services	2020
New Faculty Academy Certificate of Completion Completion of professional development, networking and mentoring activities by new full-time faculty during their first year at USC (1 year)Center of Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina	2018
International Education Week Faculty Mini-Grant (\$500) Implementation of globally-themed content into the PHIL 213 course Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of the Provost University of South Carolina	2018
Certificate of Completion Online Faculty Training and Development (three weeks) College of Theology, Grand Canyon University	2015
University of South Carolina Philosophy Department Graduate Teaching Award Awarded for Sustained, Creative, and Dedicated Efforts in the Philosophy Classroom	2012
University of South Carolina Graduate Student Travel Grant	2012
SCSP Outstanding Graduate Essay Prize Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy and North Carolina Philosophical Society	2012
SCSP Outstanding Graduate Essay Prize Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy and North Carolina Philosophical Society	2008
Distinguished Graduate Paper Award Fifth Annual North Georgia Graduate Philosophy Conference.	2007
SCSP Outstanding Graduate Essay Prize Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy and North Carolina Philosophical Society.	2006

Conference and Other Presentations

“Descartes’s Provisional Philosophy”	Joint Meeting of the SC Society of Philosophy and the NC Philosophical Society	March 28-29, 2025 UofSC
Author-Meets-Critics Session (Invited)	Tarek Dika's <i>Descartes's Method: The Formation of the Subject of Science</i>	February 21-24, 2024 APA Central Division Astor Crown Plaza Hotel New Orleans, LA
The Inner Workings of Christian Mind: Reason, Truth, and God	Hungry4More St. Thomas More Church [On Campus]	February 29, 2023 UofSC
Prolife Faculty Panel	Advocates for Life	April 25, 2022 UofSC
“Why did Descartes Think His Method was Veracious at its Inception?”	Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy	April 15-17, 2021 Virtual
“Why Are Distributed Learning Strategies Helpful in Face-to-Face Courses: Blackboard and the Communicating Moral Issues Course?”	Octoberbest Symposium: A Celebration of Teaching	October 18, 2019 Russell House UofSC
“The Structural Intellectualist Theology of Descartes’ <i>Discours de la Méthode</i> ”	<i>Scientiae Minnesota 2018</i> Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World	May 16-19, 2018 University of Minnesota
“Towards Descartes’ Scientific Method of Doubt: The Rhetoric of <i>Les Météores</i> ”	Descartes Society Session APA Central Division	February 21-24, 2018 Palmer House Hilton Chicago, Illinois
“Towards Descartes’ Scientific Method of Doubt: The Rhetoric of <i>Les Météores</i> ”	Meeting of the South Carolina Society of Philosophy	February 24-25, 2017 Coastal Carolina Conway, SC
“The Form of Descartes’ Method of Doubt”	Descartes Society Session APA Central Division	March 2-5, 2016 Palmer House Hilton Chicago, Illinois

“Towards Descartes’ Scientific Method of Doubt: The Rhetoric of <i>Les Météores</i> ”	<i>Scientiae Toronto 2015: Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World</i>	May 27-29, 2015 Victoria College University of Toronto Toronto, Canada
“The Form of Descartes’ Method of Doubt”	Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society	February 27-28, 2015 NC State University
“Descartes’ Brain”	CCU Philosophy Club Presentation	April 20, 2014 Coastal Carolina
“What is Problem-Based Learning in the Philosophy Classroom?”	Celebration of Inquiry	April 2, 2014 Coastal Carolina
“Descartes on How to Distinguish Automaton, Animals, and Persons”	Spring Brown Bag Series	February 11, 2014 Coastal Carolina
“What is Problem-Based Learning?”	Innovative Teaching and Technology Fair	October 21, 2013 Coastal Carolina
“Descartes and the Meteorology of the <i>World</i> ”	Meeting of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy	March 8-9, 2013 College of Charleston
“What to Expect as a Teaching Assistant?”	Expert TA Panel	August 21-22, 2012 UofSC
“The Adam and Tannery Edition of Descartes’ <i>World</i> or a Lost Draft?”	6 th Biennial Margaret Dauler Wilson Conference	June 22-24, 2012 Dartmouth College Hanover, New Hampshire
“The Adam and Tannery Edition of Descartes’ <i>World</i> or a Lost Draft?”	Joint Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy and NC Philosophical Society	February 24-25, 2012 Elon University North Carolina
“The Problem of Descartes’ <i>Discourse</i> ”	Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy	February 25-27, 2011 USC Upstate
“Descartes’ Occult Faculty”	Joint Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy and NC Philosophical Society	February 26-27, 2010 Queens University
“Could Unger’s ‘Voice’ Deceive	Meeting of the SC Society	February 27-28, 2009

Descartes' Cogito?"	for Philosophy	Winthrop University
"Garber's Developmental Reading of Descartes' <i>Regulae ad directionem ingenii</i> : Rule 8 as a Coherent Title and Commentary"	Joint Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy and NC Philosophical Society	Feb. 29 – Mar. 1, 2008 UNC Chapel Hill
"Did Rule 8 Evolve?"	Fifth Annual North Georgia Philosophy Conference	April 6-7, 2007 Kennesaw State, GA
"The Failure of Noe's Theory of Perception to Constrain Direct Pickup of Sensorimotor Contingencies"	Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy	February 23-24, 2007 Coastal Carolina
"A Stalnakararian Response to Abbott's Rejection of the Principle of Accom0modation"	Joint Meeting of the SC Society for Philosophy and NC Philosophical Society	February 18-19, 2006 UofSC

Courses Taught

Introduction to Philosophy	Independent Study: Philosophy of Religion
Introduction to Deductive Logic	Business Ethics
Introduction to Inductive Logic	Ethics
Ethical Thinking in the Liberal Arts	Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century Philosophy
Contemporary Moral Issues	Special Topic: Can I Survive My Death?
Communicating Moral Issues (Honors)	Special Topic: Can I be Good Without God?

Referee Work

Teaching Philosophy, 2025
Routledge, Book Referee, Philosophy of Religion, 2025
Epoché: A Journal for the History of Philosophy, 2023
Routledge, Book Referee, Modern Philosophy, 2023
Journal of Near-Death Studies, 2023
University of Notre Dame Press, Book Referee, Modern Philosophy, 2023
Teaching Philosophy, 2023
History of Philosophy Quarterly, 2022
Southwest Philosophy Review, 2021
History of Philosophy Quarterly, 2021
Southwest Philosophy Review, 2019
Journal of Early Modern Studies, 2015

Supervision

Honors Thesis Second Reader	Eric Kim	2027
Honors Thesis Director	Jimmy Dettmer Business Plan: International Referral Fees	2026
Honors Thesis Director	Ben Deaton Neuroscience and Religion	2026
Honors Thesis Philosophy Thesis Director	Anna Kelly <i>Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Aesthetics in the Traditional Latin Mass and its Effect on Faith</i>	2023
Honors Senior Thesis Second Reader	Dylan Ta “Language Barriers in Healthcare: Consequences And Impact on Cultural Competency, with focus on Vietnamese-American Patient Population”	2023
Honors Senior Thesis Director	Tatum Greene “A Comparison of Emotional Intelligence in University Students Across Subjects and Oceans”	2023
Honors Senior Thesis Second Reader	Julius Neubig “Free Hong Kong: Societal Upheaval in Xi’s China as a Result of Economic Stressors”	2021
Honors Senior Thesis Second Reader	Reid Darby “Ethical Consideration of Increased Education and Implementation of the Mature Minor Rule in Treating Mental Health in Adolescents”	2020
Philosophy Thesis Director/Advisor	Mackenzie Kopczyński “What is Feminism?”	2020

Service

Invited Symposium Chair	2026 Eastern APA Conference Patrick Cronin, “The Collapse of Hume’s Everlasting Check.” Commentators: Kenny Pearce and Nate Rockwood.	2026 Baltimore, MD
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Rater	Carolina Core Rater, USC	2024
Award Selection Committee	Professional Track Faculty Teaching Award Selection Committee, USC	2024
Textbook Review	<i>Doing Practical Ethics</i> , Oxford University Press, four chapters	2023
Job Search Committee Member	Instructor of Philosophy, USC	2023
Textbook Review (Applied Ethics)	Mark Timmons, <i>Disputed Moral Issues</i> OUP, Fourth Edition	2017
Textbook Review (Chapter on Symbolic Logic)	David Kelly, <i>The Art of Reasoning</i> , W.W. Norton & Co., Fourth edition	2014
Textbook Review (Chapter on Informal Logic)	Bergmann, More, and Nelson, Ch. 1, <i>The Logic Book</i> , McGraw-Hill, Fourth Edition	2014