

Curriculum Vitae

Steven Winterfeldt

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Education

- June 2025** **Ph.D., Philosophy. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY**
Dissertation: Internalism, Externalism, and the Phenomenology of Epistemic Justification
Committee: Bob Sandmeyer (Chair), Chris Willard-Kyle (Co-Chair), Clare Batty, Walter Hopp (Philosophy – Boston University), Frederick Schmitt (Neurology – UK)
Abstract: This dissertation applies a phenomenological method to one of the most dogged disputes in contemporary analytic epistemology, namely that between *internalists* and *externalists* regarding the justification condition on knowledge. The notion of justification has traditionally been interpreted as an internal condition on knowledge. However, the development and subsequent popularity of externalist alternatives has placed internalism on the defensive. Nevertheless, the dispute between internalists and externalists appears to have fallen into an impasse. I identify a set of four arguments that, when taken individually, may be deployed in support of either internalism or externalism. When taken together, however, these four arguments prompt us to adopt a set of explicitly contradictory conclusions about the necessary and sufficient conditions on justified belief. Critically, neither internalism nor externalism seems capable of providing a plausible and consistent response to all four arguments. The entrenchment of this impasse suggests the need and opportunity for an alternative method of analyzing the question of epistemic justification. I then suggest that Husserlian phenomenology can provide us with the resources we need to not only carve a way through the impasse but also resuscitate internalist theories of justification. Following this suggestion, I outline a phenomenological theory of epistemic justification called *phenomenological evidentialism*. I then show how phenomenological evidentialism can provide a plausible and consistent account of each of the four arguments mentioned. I conclude the project by anticipating a critical objection.
- Aug. 2016** **M.A., Philosophy. Kent State University, Kent, OH**
Thesis: The Indispensability of Conscious Access
Committee: Deborah Smith (Chair), Michael Byron, Polycarp Ikuenobe
- Aug. 2012** **B.S., Philosophy. Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN**
History and Religious Studies Double Minor

Areas of Specialty

Specialization: Husserlian Phenomenology, Epistemology
Competence: Philosophy of Mind, History of Modern Philosophy
Teaching Competence: Metaphysics, Applied Ethics

Papers in Progress

“Towards a Phenomenology of Evidence” (Under Review)
This paper responds directly to George Heffernan’s (2015) plea for a phenomenology of evidence. Building on the insights offered by Heffernan and Philipp Berghofer, I take the first steps towards a systematic, phenomenological study of the nature of evidence and its connection to epistemic justification.

Presentations and Commentaries

- Fall 2024** **Presentation, “Towards a Phenomenology of Evidence”**
Third Austrian Summer School in Phenomenology, University of Graz
- Spring 2024** **Presentation, “The Indispensable Role of Consciousness in Epistemic Justification”**
45th Annual UIUC Graduate Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Fall 2023** **Commentary, “Perceptually Justifying Ordinary Object Beliefs” by Evan Welchance**
Tennessee Philosophical Association, Vanderbilt University
- Spring 2022** **Presentation, “The Content of Perception: Inadequacy and Transcendence”**
May 4th Philosophy Graduate Conference, Kent State University
- Fall 2021** **Presentation, “A World for You and Me”**
First Austrian Summer School in Phenomenology, University of Graz
- Spring 2015** **Presentation, “The Sophist, Socrates, and the Philosopher”**
2nd Annual Chicagoland Graduate Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Spring 2015** **Presentation, “Attachment and Suffering in Buddhism and Stoicism”**
Kent State University Graduate Symposium, Kent State University
- Fall 2014** **Commentary, “Objective Probabilities of Free Choice” by Leigh C. Vicens**
Indiana Philosophical Association, Indiana-Purdue University Fort Wayne

Teaching Experience

Syllabi Available Upon Request

Courses listed are those for which I was the sole instructor, unless otherwise noted (TA). Courses marked with an asterisk () were taught online. Courses marked with a dagger (†) were taught for honors credit.*

University of Kentucky

PHI 100: Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge & Reality	F20*, S21 (x2)*, S22, F22, F24
PHI 120: Introduction to Logic	S20 (TA), F20*, S23
PHI 130: Introduction to Philosophy: Morality & Society	F21
PHI 205: Food Ethics	F23
PHI 305: Health Care Ethics	F21, Sum 22*
PHI 310: Philosophy of Human Nature	S22
PHI 315: Philosophy and Science Fiction	S23, Sum 23*, Sum 24*
PHI 337: Introduction to Legal Philosophy	F19 (TA)
PHI 350: Metaphysics and Epistemology	F22
PHI 380: Death, Dying, & Quality of Life	F23, F24†, S25

University of Akron

PHI 101: Introduction to Philosophy	F17 (x2), S18, F18, S19
PHI 120: Introduction to Ethics	F17, S18 (x2), F18, S19
PHI 170: Introduction to Logic	F18, S19

Kent State University

PHI 11001: Introduction to Philosophy	F14 (TA), F15 (TA), F16, F18, S19
PHI 21001: Introduction to Ethics	S15 (TA), S16 (TA), S17 (x2), F17, S18 (x2), F18, S19 (x2)

Academic Awards

Summer 2024	Graduate Student Essay Contest Award , University of Kentucky “The Impasse Between Internalism and Externalism”
Spring 2024	Spring Dissertation Fellowship , University of Kentucky
Fall 2019 – Spring 2020	Ron Bruzina Fellowship , University of Kentucky

Academic Service

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025	Incoming Student Mentor , University of Kentucky
Fall 2022 – Spring 2023	UK Philosophy Speaker Series , University of Kentucky Graduate Student Representative to the Selection Committee

Summer 2022 – Fall 2022	Phenomenology Reading Group , University of Kentucky Organizer Edmund Husserl, <i>Ideas I</i>
June 2016	Inquiring Minds Summer Debate Camp , International Institute of Akron Debate Coach (Volunteer)
Fall 2015 – Spring 2016	May 4th Philosophy Graduate Conference , Kent State University Program Coordinator
Fall 2015 – Spring 2016	Department of Philosophy , Kent State University Representative to the Graduate Studies Committee
Fall 2014 – Spring 2015	May 4th Philosophy Graduate Conference , Kent State University Program Coordinator

Graduate Coursework

Univ. of Kentucky	Phi 744: Placement and Professionalization Seminar (Chambers) Phi 715: Seminar on Edmund Husserl’s <i>Ideas</i> Project (Sandmeyer) [Audit] Phi 650: Seminar on Virtual Reality (Batty) [Audit] Phi 650: Seminar in M&E: Philosophy of Perception (Batty) Phi 680: Seminar in Philosophy of Language (Sundell) Phi 790: Research in Philosophy (Sandmeyer) Ger 011: German for Reading Knowledge (O’neal) Phi 680: Seminar in Metaphysics: Unity (Wallace) Phi 755: Husserl Independent Study (Sandmeyer) Phi 630: Seminar in Value Theory: Bodily Autonomy (Superson) Phi 710: Seminar in Modern Philosophy: Schopenhauer (Look) Phi 715: Seminar in Recent Philosophy: Science & Value (Bursten) Phi 509: Western Marxism (Farr) Phi 520: Symbolic Logic II (Wallce) [Audit] Phi 550: Knowledge and Reality (Sundell) Phi 742: Value Theory Proseminar (Bradshaw/Nenadic/Superson) Phi 575: Philosophy of Mind (Batty) Phi 680: Philosophy, History, and Context (Nenadic) Phi 740: Teaching Practicum (Bursten) Phi 741: Metaphysics & Epistemology Proseminar (Sanday/Bird-Pollen/Wallce)
Kent State Univ.	Phil 51030: Ethical Theory (Byron) Phil 51042: Metaphysics (Smith) Phil 69199: Thesis I (Smith) Phil 60191: Graduate Seminar in Philosophy of Science (Pereplyotchik) Phil 69194: College Teaching of Philosophy (Garchar)

Phil 51040: Epistemology (Smith)
Phil 51076: Continental Philosophy (Pendleton)
Phil 60191: Graduate Seminar in Ethics and Personhood (Garchar)
Phi 51038: Intermediate Logic (Smith)
Phil 51065: Plato (Zavota)
Phil 69194: College Teaching of Philosophy (Ryan)
Phil 69198: First Year Paper (Kim/Pereploytchik)
Phil 69997: Colloquium (Ryan)

References

Bob Sandmeyer	Associate Professor Dissertation Chair University of Kentucky bob.sandmeyer@uky.edu
Chris Willard-Kyle	Assistant Professor Dissertation Co-Chair University of Kentucky c.willard-kyle@uky.edu
Walter Hopp	Professor & Department Chair External Committee Member Boston University hopp@bu.edu
Meg Wallace	Associate Professor & Department Chair Teaching Reference University of Kentucky meg.wallace@uky.edu