

**Paul Rezkalla**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

Department of Philosophy  
Kendall Hall 415  
Hillsdale College

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**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Ethics, Moral Psychology, & Philosophy of Science

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Bioethics, Philosophy of Religion, Evolutionary Biology/Anthropology, & Cognitive Science

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.**, Philosophy, Florida State University, 2021  
Committee: Michael Ruse (advisor), Jack Justus, John Kelsay, and John Schwenkler  
Dissertation: “*Survival of the Ethicist: A Neo-Aristotelian Solution to Evolutionary Debunking Arguments*”

**Graduate Certificate** in Bioethics, Florida State University, 2021

**M.Sc.**, Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology (*with merit*), University of Oxford, 2019

**M.A.**, Theology, St. John's University, 2015

**M.A.**, Philosophy and Ethics (*with merit*), University of Birmingham, 2013

**B.A.**, Pre-Medicine, History, and Religious Studies, New York University, 2012

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD**

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Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Baylor University	2022-present
Arete Professorial Fellow, Hillsdale College	2021-present
Associate, Ian Ramsey Centre for Science & Religion—University of Oxford	2018-present
Graduate Assistant & Philosophy Instructor, Florida State University	2015-2021
Adjunct Philosophy Instructor, Florida A&M University	2018-2020
Templeton Graduate Cross-Training Fellow	2018-2019
Adjunct Philosophy Instructor, Tallahassee Community College	2018 (Spring)
Adjunct Philosophy Instructor, College of New Rochelle	2014-2015
Adjunct Arabic Instructor, Wagner College	2014-2015
Research Assistant, St. John's University	2013-2015

## PUBLICATIONS

### Articles

“Empirical Challenges to the Evidential Problem of Evil” (with Ian Church, Blake McAllister, & Justin Barrett) *Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy* (*forthcoming*)

“Why Moral Enhancement is Unavoidably Normative” *American Journal of Bioethics-Neuroscience*, 12:2-3, 105-106. 2021

“Theism & Evolutionary Debunking Arguments Against Moral Realism” *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*. 12 (3): 41. 2020

“Does Cognitive Science of Religion Undermine Religious Belief?” *Philosophy and Cosmology* 12, no. 1 (2015)

### Book Chapters

“Aren’t right and wrong just matters of opinion? On moral relativism and subjectivism.” In *Introduction to Philosophy*, edited by Christina Hendricks. Rebus Press (2019)

### Book Reviews

*The Emotional Mind: The Affective Roots of Culture and Cognition* by Stephen T. Asmi & Rami Gabriel, *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 95, no. 4 (December 2020): 324.

*Neurotheology: How Science Can Enlighten Us About Spirituality* by Andrew Newberg, *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 94, no. 1 (March 2019): 77.

### In Progress

“Is Evolutionary Contingency a Problem for Moral Realism?” (*Under Review*)

“Anscombe on Brain Death” (*In Preparation*)

“The Intention/Foresight Distinction in DCD Protocol” (*In Preparation*)

“A New Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Special Obligations to Kin” (*In Preparation*)

“Why Evolutionary Debunking Also Debunks Biology” (*In Preparation*)

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

### Invited

“Who’s Owed What? Kin-Based Partiality and Evolutionary Psychology”

Young Philosophers Lecture Series, DePauw University, 2022

“Procreation and Climate Change”

Wayne State University Philosophy Colloquium, 2022

“What’s Wrong with the Scientific Study of Morality?”

Humane Philosophy Seminar Series, University of Oxford, May 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

“Clarifying the Target of the Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Moral Realism”

Philosophy of Religion Workshop, University of Birmingham, October 2018

“Embracing Teleology and Salvaging Moral Realism”

Templeton Philosophy, Religion, and Science Workshop, University of Madaba, July 2017

### Refereed

“A Psychological Case Against Kin-Based Partiality”

4<sup>th</sup> CNY Moral Psychology Workshop, Le Moyne College, December 2022

“Is Partiality to Kin Justified?”

*Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association*, University of St. Andrews, July 2022

“Elizabeth Anscombe on Brain Death”

*Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, April 2022

“The Libertarian Dilemma”

*Southeastern Evangelical Philosophical Society*, Charleston Southern University, March 2021

*Southeastern Evangelical Philosophical Society*, Anderson University, March 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

“In Defense of the Erasure Model of Forgiveness”

*Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, April 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

“What’s Wrong with the Scientific Study of Morality?”

*North/South Carolina Philosophical Society*, NC-Asheville, March 2020 (Cancelled due to Covid-19)

*New Directions in Philosophy of Science*, Concordia University in Edmonton, September 2019

*Long Island Philosophical Society*, April 2019

“Is it Really the Evolution of Religion?”

*Religion, Evolution, and Social Bonding*, University of Oxford, July 2019

“Retroactive Causation, Evolution, and Evil”

*Ian Ramsey Annual Science and Religion Conference*, University of Oxford, July 2019

“Clarifying the Target of the Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Moral Realism”

*Evolutionary Research on Morality Conference*, University of Urbino, October 2018

“Meeting the Challenge of Folk Belief: A Response to Daniel Korman”

*Long Island Philosophical Society*, Molloy College, April 2018

“Eliminating Eliminativism: What, the Folk?!”

*North Carolina Philosophical Society*, Winthrop University, March 2018

“Evolution’s Contingency and Morality’s Immutability”

*Religion, Society, and the Science of Life*, University of Oxford, July 2017

“Survival of the Ethicist: In Defense of the Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Moral Realism”

*Philosophical, Social, and Moral Issues of War*, KU Leuven, May 2017

“Compatibilist Options in Light of Mele’s Zygote Argument”

*Long Island Philosophical Society*, NYC, March 2017

“Theistic Compatibilism and Bullet-Biting”

*North Carolina Philosophical Society*, February 2017

“Pre-Augustinian Patristic Views on Military Involvement”

*FSU Religion Symposium*, February 2017

“The Querulous Problem of Evil”

*Evangelical Philosophical Society Southeastern Meeting*, March 2016

“The failure of evolutionary ethics”

*Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, November 2015

“Some problems with moral realism and evolutionary ethics”

*The Human Difference Conference*, University of Oxford, July 2015

“Outta My Head: Cognitive Science of Religion and Arguments Against Theism”

*Evolution and Historical Explanation Conference*, University of Oxford, July 2014

## TEACHING

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### Hillsdale College

Western Philosophical Tradition (5x)  
Bioethics  
Philosophy of Mind  
Collegiate Scholars Program Seminar: What is Scientific Progress?

### Florida State University:

#### ***Primary Instructor***

Free Will (Summer 2021)  
Philosophy of Mind (Fall 2020; online/synchronous)  
Introduction to Philosophy (Summer 2020; online/asynchronous)  
Metaphysics (Spring 2020)  
Ethical Theory (Summer 2018)  
Ethical Issues (Spring 2018)

#### ***Teaching Assistant***

Contemporary Political Thought (Spring 2021)  
Environmental Ethics (Fall 2019)  
Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2017)  
Modern Philosophy (Fall 2016)  
Philosophy of Law (Spring 2016)

### Florida A&M University:

Logic (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020)  
Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2018, Fall 2019)

### Tallahassee Community College:

World Ethics (Spring 2018)

### College of New Rochelle:

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2014)  
Ethics (Spring 2015)

### Wagner College:

Elementary Arabic I (Fall 2014, Spring 2015)  
Elementary Arabic II (Spring 2015)

### Saint John's University:

Church History [Teaching Assistant] (Spring 2014)  
Mystery of God (The Trinity) [Teaching Assistant] (Fall 2013)

## **GRADUATE COURSEWORK**

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### ***Florida State University***

Kant in the History of Western Thought—Michael Ruse  
The Ethics of Hume & Kant—Michael Ruse  
Evolutionary Ethics—Michael Ruse  
American Philosophy—Michael Ruse  
Philosophy & Darwinism—Michael Ruse  
War: Philosophical, Religious, and Historical Dimensions—Michael Ruse & John Kelsay  
Manipulation, Moral Responsibility, & Self Control—Alfred Mele  
Philosophy of Science—Jack Justus  
Metaphysics: World Without God?—David McNaughton  
Theistic Ethics—David McNaughton  
Modern Philosophy—John Roberts  
Modern Logic—John Piers Rawling  
Ethics: Core Course—Mark LeBar  
Bioethics—Tracie Mahaffey  
Bioethics Capstone—Tracie Mahaffey  
Methods of Inquiry in Aristotle—Nathaniel Stein  
Metaphysics & Epistemology—Stephen Kearns  
Classical Islamic Thought—John Kelsey  
Philosophy of Photography—Randolph Clarke  
Teaching Philosophy—Michael Bishop  
World Music I—Danielle Davis  
World Music II—Danielle Davis  
Special Topics in Bioethics: Brain Death—Michael Nair-Collins

### ***University of Birmingham***

God, Freedom, and the Meaning of Life—Yujin Nagasawa  
Global Ethics—Jussi Suikkannen  
Classic Problems in Philosophy—David Cheetham  
Research Skills & Methods—David Hunter

### ***University of Oxford***

Principles of Evolutionary Biology—Caroline Philips  
Quantitative Modeling—Arran Davis  
Mind & Culture—Bronwyn Tarr  
Evolution of Human Behaviour—Laura Fortunato

### ***Saint John's University***

Greek I—Tenny Thomas  
Greek II—Tenny Thomas

Mystery of God—Paul Molnar  
Bioethics—Meghan Clarke  
Counseling—Joann Heaney-Hunter  
Synoptics & Modern Criticism—Frank Conolly-Weinert  
The First Six Centuries—Christopher Denny  
Theological Anthropology—Michael Dempsey  
Hebrew I—Ilbar  
Medieval Thought—Christopher Denny  
The Thought of Karl Barth—Paul Molnar

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Service

2021 Series Editor APA Blog: Undergraduate Philosophy Club Series  
2021 Director of Research, Service, and Leadership for the FSU *MAP* Mentoring Program  
2020-21 Mentor for *Minorities in Philosophy*

### Conferences Organized

2021 Society for Christian Philosophers Annual Eastern Conference, FSU/Virtual  
2019 ISSR Evolution, Religion, and Social Bonding Conference, University of Oxford  
2019 Ian Ramsey Annual Conference on Science and Religion, University of Oxford  
2016 FSU Free Will, Agency, and Moral Responsibility Conference, FSU  
2016 Minds Conference: Conference [Co-Organizer], FSU/Virtual

### Ad Hoc Referee

*Philosophia*  
*Religious Studies*  
*European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*  
*The New Bioethics: A multidisciplinary journal of biotechnology and the body*

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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2021-present	American Society for Bioethics & Humanities
2018-present	Ian Ramsey Centre for Science & Religion (University of Oxford)
2018-2021	Florida State University Fellows Society
2016-2021	American Philosophical Association
2016-present	Long Island Philosophical Society
2015-present	Society of Christian Philosophers
2015-present	Florida Philosophical Association
2014-present	International Society for the Cognitive Science of Religion

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

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- 2022 Young Philosophers Lecture Series Award, DePauw University
- 2022 University of St. Andrew's NViTA Follow-On Funding (£22,000)
- 2022 [University of St. Andrew's Science-Engaged Theology Fellowship](#)
- 2021 [Marc Sanders Media Fellowship](#)
- 2020 IHS Research Grant (\$600)  
FSU Philosophy Department Travel Grant (\$300)
- 2019 Templeton Travel Bursary, Concordia University at Edmonton (\$700 CAD)  
Congress of Graduate Students Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2018 Florida State University Fellows Society  
IHS Research Grant (\$550)  
Barbinder Watson Research Grant (£150)
- 2018 Graduate Student Cross-Training Fellowship (\$34,000)  
Templeton Foundation/Society of Christian Philosophers
- 2017 International Society for Science and Religion Bursary (£650)  
John Templeton Foundation Grant for Invited Presentation (\$1250)  
Lucy Werkmeister Scholarship, Florida State University (\$500)  
Travel Grant, Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University (\$400)  
FSU Philosophy Department Travel Grant (\$300)
- 2016 Lucy Werkmeister Scholarship, Florida State University (\$500)  
Travel Grant, Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University (\$400)
- 2015 Florida State University Teaching Assistantship (awarded 2015-present)  
Lucy Werkmeister Scholarship, Florida State University (\$1,000)  
Travel Grant, Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University (\$200)
- 2014 Templeton Foundation and the Center for the History of European Discourse  
Research in Cognitive Science of Religion (\$1,000)
- 2014 St. John's University Graduate Assistantship in Theology (awarded twice: 2013, 2014)
- 2013 NYU President's Service Award (awarded twice: 2011, 2013)  
This is the highest awarded student honor at NYU
- 2011 Social Impact Business Challenge Winner (\$20,000)  
Grant awarded to start up a Medical Ethics curriculum software
- 2008 New York City Comptroller's Special Recognition Award: for volunteerism and exemplary citizenship.

## MEDIA & OUTREACH

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2021 Series Editor APA Blog: [Undergraduate Philosophy Club Series](#)

[Interview with Randal Rauser \(2019\)](#)

Contributor at:

[The Olive Press](#)

## LANGUAGES

Arabic: Fluent

Koine Greek: Limited reading knowledge

Ancient Hebrew: Limited reading knowledge

## REFERENCES

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### **Michael Ruse**

Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy  
Director, History and Philosophy of Science  
Program

Florida State University

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### **John Schwenkler**

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### **Andrew Pinsent**

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Religion

University of Oxford

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### **Yujin Nagasawa**

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Co-Director, John Hick Centre for the Philosophy  
of Religion

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### **Emma Cohen**

Associate Professor, Institute of Cognitive and  
Evolutionary Anthropology

Fellow in Human Sciences, Wadham College

University of Oxford

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### **John Fitzgerald**

Associate Professor of Theology

Saint John’s University

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### **Ard Louis**

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