

JANNAI SHIELDS

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EMPLOYMENT

Western Kentucky University, Visiting Instructor of Philosophy, 2018-Present

EDUCATION

Philosophy, Ph.D., January 2019, University of Rochester

Dissertation: *I'll Level with You: Emergent Levels Are the Only True Levels*

Committee: Paul Audi (chair), Alyssa Ney, Hayley Clatterbuck

Philosophy, M.A., October 2016, University of Rochester

Philosophy, M.A., May 2012, Texas A&M University

Thesis: *Kitcher's Problem with Asymmetry*

Committee: Roger Sansom (adviser), Hugh McCann, Kirk Winemiller

B.A. in Philosophy and History, 2009, *summa cum laude*, Mount Vernon Nazarene University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Logic, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology, Ancient Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

With Roger Sansom (2018). Asymmetry in the Unificationist Theory of Causal Explanation.
Synthese 195 (2): 765-783.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Terminating Fundamental Determinables and Denying Determinable-Based Metaphysical Indeterminacy.
On Tropical Theories of Property Individuation.
There Must Be a Fundamental Level.

PRESENTATIONS

Avoiding the Collapse Problem for Substance Emergentism
Mountain Pacific Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers,
College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas 04/2019
Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis Tennessee 03/2019
Teaching Argument across the Curriculum
Student Success Summit, Western Kentucky University 01/2019
Terminating Fundamental Determinables and Denying Determinable-Based Metaphysical Indeterminacy
APA Eastern Divisional Meeting, New York 01/2019
Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers,
Asbury University, Wilmore Kentucky 09/2017
There Must Be a Fundamental Level
Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN 03/2017
No Fundamental Determinables
APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL 03/2016
Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL 10/2015
Clearing the Way: Against Hofweber's Objections to Substantive Metaphysics
With Kyle Blanchette at the First Annual Conference of the Society of the
Metaphysics of Science, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ 09/2015
The Failure of the Ineliminability Argument for Causal Role Functions
APA Central Division Meeting, St. Louis, MO 02/2015
Improving the Parent Analogy
Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers,
Niagara University, Lewiston, NY 11/2014

COMMENTARY

Comments on Meghan Mastro's "Knowing-What and Knowing-What-It's-Like"
Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis TN 03/2019

Comments on Robert Kowalenko's "Manipulationism, "Scientific Possibility", and the Bugbear of Scientific Knowledge in Explanation"
 Society for the Metaphysics of Science Third Annual Conference,
 Fordham University, New York 10/2017

Comments on Matthew Donnelly's "Children Grow, Water Runs Dry, and Time Runs By: A Defense of A-Series Time"
 Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN 4/2017

Comments on Ryan Felder's "Moral Responsibility and Liability to Defensive Harm"
 24th Annual Kent State Philosophy Graduate Student Conference 3/2017

Comments on Brandon Carey's "Knowledge Requires Counterfactual Evidence"
 9th Biennial University of Rochester Graduate Epistemology Conference,
 University of Rochester, Rochester NY 10/2016

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dudley Doust Writing Associate Fellowship 2017-2018
 Dudley Doust Writing Associates teach one writing course in the fall and the same course in the spring and serve as informal mentors to less experienced instructors.

2016 Outstanding Essay Award
 Awarded to the best essay in the Department of Philosophy at U. of Rochester. 11/2016

University of Rochester Three Minute Thesis Finalist 5/2016
 University-wide competition in which graduate students have three minutes to explain their dissertation.

Twice nominated by students for the E.P. Curtis Award 2018 and 2016
 This is an award in undergraduate teaching excellence, given to one faculty or graduate student instructor per year.

APA Central Division Graduate Stipend Award 3/2016 and 2/2015

Graduate Student Association Conference Travel Fund Award 9/2015
 Competitive travel grant awarded to University of Rochester graduate students.

Payne 1st Year Outstanding Essay Prize 5/2013
 Competitive award chosen by the U. of R. Dept. of Philosophy faculty, given to the best essay written by a first-year student.

University of Rochester University Fellowship 8/2012 – present

Texas A&M University Regents Fellowship 8/2010 – 5/2011
 Competitive fellowship awarded by Texas A&M University to graduate students.

TEACHING

As Instructor:

Philosophy of Mind, Western Kentucky University PHIL 332, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

In this course, we study theories of the mind and especially focus on the classic mind-body problem, the so-called hard problem of consciousness, and whether AI could have minds.

Philosophy of Science, Western Kentucky University PHIL 330, Spring 2019

This is a survey course in general philosophy of science, focusing on crucial questions within the history of the philosophy of science.

Truth and Relativism, Western Kentucky University PHIL 101, Fall 2018

This class begins with classical discussions of truth, including Aristotle, Anselm, Aquinas and Locke. From there we will leap to the turn to pragmatism and relativism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and finish with more contemporary theories. The class ties the topic of truth to “fake news”, and aims to address how we can be truth detectors in an age of mass media.

Philosophical Inquiry, Nazareth College PHL.Q 101, Fall 2017

This is Nazareth College’s introductory philosophy course, which introduces students to Aristotelian and Stoic logic with a view to understanding the role of logic in philosophical inquiry. Using Plato’s *Five Dialogues*, this section acquaints students with philosophy and logic by thinking about the nature of the universe, morality, and knowledge.

Science and Belief, Fall 2017

Thomas Huxley, known as Darwin’s Bulldog, said, “The man of science has learned to believe in justification, not by faith, but by verification.” Many today agree, adding that assessing claims scientifically precludes faith. Others, however, think they are compatible, or that science is evidence for religious belief. How might we articulate such views? What are their strengths and weaknesses? And, how should we understand science and religious belief in the first place? Interacting with the writings of Darwin, atheist Richard Dawkins, as well as great Christian, Islamic, and Chinese scholars, we will engage these questions with an eye toward developing the skills of argument and writing.

Science and Theism, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017

This is a freshman level class that I designed especially to teach writing and argument via the examination of philosophical literature about the relationship between science and theism. Students should have a basic understanding of academic writing upon completion of the course.

Science and Religious Faith: WRT 105A, Fall 2016, Fall 2017

This is a freshman level class that that I designed, targeting international students and domestic students who are not confident academic writers, teaching argumentative

GRADUATE COURSES

Courses in Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind:

Seminar, Properties and Predications, Paul Audi and Alison Peterman
Seminar, Fundamentality, Alyssa Ney
Seminar, Properties and Personal Identity, Earl Conee
Metaphysics, Alyssa Ney
Seminar, Trope Theory, Robert Garcia (at Texas A&M)
Seminar, The Free Will Problem, Hugh McCann (at Texas A&M)

Courses in Philosophy of Science:

Writing Seminar, On Science Monism and Pluralism, Alyssa Ney
Seminar, Social Knowledge, Richard Boyd (at Cornell)
Seminar, Causation, Brad Weslake
Directed Readings in Philosophy of Science, Brad Weslake
Philosophy of Science, Brad Weslake
Philosophy of Science, Roger Sansom (at Texas A&M)

Courses in Philosophy of Biology:

Philosophy of Biology, Brad Weslake
Philosophy of Biology, Roger Sansom (at Texas A&M)

Courses in Epistemology:

Epistemic Encroachment and Knowledge, Earl Conee
Seminar, Formal Epistemology (audited), Hayley Clatterbuck
Theory of Knowledge, Earl Conee

Courses in Ancient Philosophy:

Seminar, Plato: From Elenchus to Division (audited), Deborah Modrak
Seminar, Aristotle's Theory of Definition and Explanation, Deborah Modrak
Selected Topics in Ancient Greek Philosophy: Foundations, Deborah Modrak
Ancient Philosophy, Robin Smith (at Texas A&M)
Reading from the Ancient to the Medievals, Scott Austin (at Texas A&M)

Courses in Logic:

Logical Methods in Philosophy: Nonclassical Logic, Alyssa Ney
Mathematical Logic I, Chris Menzel (at Texas A&M)

Other courses:

Contemporary Debates in the Philosophy of Religion, Ed Wierenga

British Empiricism, Ralf Meerbote

Seminar in Ethics and Value Theory—Metaethics, Linda Radzik (at Texas A&M)

Phil. of Language—Speech Acts and Communication, Ben McMyler at Texas A&M)

Reading Group in Medieval Philosophy, Ed Wierenga

Writing Pedagogy, Dan Helm and Stefanie Sydelnik

Practicum in Teaching Writing, Dan Helm and Stefanie Sydelnik

REFERENCES

Paul Audi

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Deborah F. Rossen-Knill

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Richard Boyd

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and Humane Letters Emeritus
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