

Benjamin Vilhauer, Ph.D. (January 2015)

Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
CUNY City College
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Areas of Specialization

Ethics, History of Modern Philosophy, Free Will Theory.

Areas of Competence

Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Asian & Western Comparative Philosophy, Aesthetics.

Academic Positions

CUNY City College, New York, NY

Chair, 7/2014-present.

Associate Professor, 9/2013-present.

William Paterson University of New Jersey, Wayne, NJ

Associate Professor, 9/2012-8/2013.

Director, Liberal Studies in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Major, 7/2009-8/2013.

Assistant Professor with Tenure, 9/2010-8/2012

Assistant Professor, 9/2005-8/2010.

Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA

Visiting Assistant Professor, 9/2003-8/2005.

Education

University of Chicago, Ph.D., Philosophy, 2002.

Harvard University, A.B. *magna cum laude*, Philosophy, 1996.

Refereed Journal Articles

"**On the Asymmetrical Justifiability of Holding Morally Responsible**", forthcoming in *The Philosophical Quarterly*.

"**Persons, Punishment, and Free Will Skepticism**", *Philosophical Studies*, January 2013, Vol. 162, No. 2, pp. 143-163.

"**Taking Free Will Skepticism Seriously**", *The Philosophical Quarterly*, October 2012, Vol. 62, No. 249, pp. 833–852.

"**The Scope of Responsibility in Kant's Theory of Free Will**", *The British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 2010, Vol. 18. No. 1, pp. 45-71.

"**Free Will Skepticism and Personhood as a Desert Base**", *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 2009, Vol. 39, No. 3, pp. 489-511.

"**Free Will and Reasonable Doubt**", *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 2009, Vol. 46., No. 2, pp. 131-140.

Refereed Journal Articles, Continued

"**The Theme of Time in Thoreau's *Cape Cod***", *Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies* (the journal of the Thoreau Society), 2008, New Series, Vol. 16, pp. 33-44.

"**Hard Determinism, Humeanism, and Virtue Ethics**", *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 2008, Vol. 46, No. 1, pp. 121-144.

"**Hard Determinism, Remorse, and Virtue Ethics**", *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 2004, Vol. 42, No. 4, pp. 547-564.

"**Can We Interpret Kant as a Compatibilist about Determinism and Moral Responsibility?**", *The British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 2004, Vol. 12, No. 4, pp. 719-730.

"**On a Tension in Diamond's Account of Tractarian Nonsense**", *Philosophical Investigations*, 2003, Vol. 26, No. 3, pp. 230-238.

Invited Journal Articles

"**Free Will Skepticism and Human Rights**", *Southwest Philosophy Review*, Vol. 30, No. 1, January 2014, pp. 19-25.

Book Chapters

"**Kant's Theory of Free Will**", forthcoming in *The Routledge Companion to Free Will*, ed. Kevin Timpe, Meghan Griffith, and Neil Levy. New York: Routledge.

"**Kant and the Possibility of Transcendental Freedom**", in *Palgrave Handbook of German Idealism*, ed. Matthew C. Altman. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, pp. 105-125.

"**The People Problem**", in *Exploring the Illusion of Free Will and Moral Responsibility*, ed. Gregg Caruso. New York: Lexington Books, 2013, pp. 141-60.

"**Kant and Santaraksita on the Infinite Divisibility and Insubstantiality of Matter**", in *Studies on Santaraksita's Yogacara Madhyamaka*, ed. Marie-Louise Fricquegnon and Noé Dinnerstein. New York: Global Scholarly Publications, 2012, pp. 239-247.

"**Incompatibilism and Ontological Priority in Kant's Theory of Free Will**", in *Rethinking Kant: Current Trends in North American Kantian Scholarship*, ed. Pablo Muchnik. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008, pp. 28-47.

Reviews

Review of Graham Bird's *The Revolutionary Kant*, *Kantian Review*, 2007, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 158-164.

Refereed Presentations

"**Kantian Ethics and the Mere Possibility of Transcendental Freedom**", Kantian Freedom Conference, Simon Fraser University, 2014.

"**Kantian Free Will Skepticism**"

- 2012 Northwest Conference on Philosophy.
- 2012 Conference on Value Inquiry.

"**Taking Free Will Skepticism Seriously**", 2011 Felician College Ethics Conference.

"**Free Will and the Asymmetrical Justifiability of Holding Morally Responsible**", Fall 2009 Conference of the New Jersey Regional Philosophical Association.

Refereed Presentations, Continued

"Free Will and Reasonable Doubt"

- 2008 Pacific Conference of the American Philosophical Association.
- 2007 Northwest Conference on Philosophy.

"The Scope of Responsibility in Kant's Theory of Free Will", 2007 Eastern Study Group, North American Kant Society.

"Moral Responsibility and Personhood as a Desert Base"

- 2006 Eastern Conference of the American Philosophical Association.
- 2006 Northwest Conference on Philosophy.
- Fall 2006 Conference of the New Jersey Regional Philosophical Association.

"Consciousness, Desire, and Enlightenment", 2006 Eastern Conference of the American Philosophical Association.

"Hume, Hard Determinism, and 'Ought Implies Can' ", 2006 Central States Philosophical Assoc.

"Kant and Santaraksita on the Infinite Divisibility and Insubstantiality of Matter", 2006 Central Conference of the American Philosophical Association.

"Humean Strategies for Hard Determinism"

- 2006 Conference of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology.
- Fall 2005 Conference of the New Jersey Regional Philosophical Association.

"Hard Determinism, Remorse, and Virtue Ethics", 2004 Conference of the Mountain-Plains Philosophical Association.

"Kant on Timeless Agency and Causation", 1999 Midwest Study Group, North American Kant Society.

"Kuhn and Davidson on Conceptual Schemes", 1998 Illinois Philosophical Association Conference.

Invited Presentations

"Free Will Skepticism and Non-Retributive Desert", Justice without Retribution Conference, University of Aberdeen, upcoming in 2015.

"Free Will Skepticism and Human Rights", Southwest Philosophy Conference, 2013.

"Michael Smith's Moral Realism", CUNY City College, 2012.

"Consciousness, Desire, and Enlightenment", Asia Society Manhattan, 2006.

"Kant's Theory of Free Will", Long Island University Free Will Seminar, 2006.

"Kant and Santaraksita on the Infinite Divisibility and Insubstantiality of Matter", Fordham University Ancient Philosophy Conference, 2005.

"Remorse and Empathy", Empathy Program at Scripps College Humanities Institute, 2005.

Other Conference Activity

Comments on Joseph Keim Campbell's paper "Problems for Classical Incompatibilism", Northwest Philosophy Conference, 2012.

Comments on Kevin Timpe's paper "Revising Revisionism", Pacific Conference of the American Philosophical Association, 2010.

Comments on Joseph Keim Campbell's "Incompatibilism and Free Will Skepticism", Northwest Conference, 2007.

Chair of a session on Agency at the 2007 Pacific Conference of the American Philosophical Association.

Other Conference Activity, Continued

Comments on Linda Palmer's "Kantian 'Common Sense': A Testable Hypothesis?", Northwest Conference, 2006.

Awards and Grants

Summer Writing Stipend, Research Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences, WPUNJ, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Research Mini-Grant, Asia Society, 2008.

Shaw Dissertation-Year Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago, 2001-2002.

Century Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago, 1996-2001.

Manley Thompson Memorial Prize for best pre-doctoral essay, Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago, 1999.

Courses Taught

17th and 18th C. Philosophy

Aesthetics

Asian & Western Comparative Ethics and Political Philosophy

Asian & Western Comparative Metaphysics and Epistemology

Ethics

Free Will and Action Theory

Introduction to Philosophy

Philosophy of Law

Liberal Studies Colloquium (interdisciplinary Humanities course)

Liberal Studies Senior Capstone Seminar (collaborative long-form research writing workshop)

Political Philosophy

The Rational Animal (Honors Introduction to Philosophy)

Administration and Service at City College of New York

Chair, Department of Philosophy, 7/2014-present. Thus far my duties have consisted primarily of scheduling, hiring adjuncts, and preparing reappointment materials for junior faculty.

Selected Administration and Service at William Paterson (WPUNJ)

Director, Liberal Studies Major, 7/2009-8/2013. Became director at beginning of this new major program. The number of majors grew from 0 to ~200. Liberal Studies majors choose two tracks of study from among 27 track options which are hosted by 14 different departments in two different colleges (Humanities and Social Sciences, and Arts and Communications). Some of my duties in this role included:

- **Program and Curriculum Development:** I initiated 3 program changes and 3 course changes to update the program.
- **Hiring and Scheduling:** I hired a number of adjuncts to teach in this program. I am also responsible for course scheduling.
- **Advising:** For the first year of the program I was the sole advisor. By 2013 there were 3 other faculty members assisting with advisement.
- **Major Recruitment:** I have represented the major at many recruitment events.

Selected Service at WPUNJ, Continued

Director, Liberal Studies Major, Continued

- **Support for Mercer County Community College (MCCC) Satellite Program:** Liberal Studies is one of 4 majors offered through a WPUNJ satellite B.A. program at MCCC in West Windsor, NJ, which began in the Fall of 2009. About 80 Liberal Studies majors are at MCCC.
- **Development of released-time-bearing faculty administrator roles:** I proposed 3 new released-time-bearing roles to support Liberal Studies at MCCC, all of which were established and funded, including a Coordinator, and MCCC Liaisons in the Departments of History and English.

Interim Director, Cluster Program, Spring and Summer 2009. The Cluster Program offers students a set of 3 coordinated courses in different disciplines, taught back to back. Professors choose a theme shared by all 3 courses. I recruited professors to teach and selected students for the program.

Cluster Program Instructor: I taught 5 cluster courses from 2006-09.

Member, Philosophical and Historical Perspectives Curriculum Review Panel for the Core Curriculum. 2009-present. Interdisciplinary review panel for courses developed for the Core Curriculum.

Member, Senate Admissions & Enrollment Management Committee, Fall 2011-Fall 2012.

Member, Institutional Review Board, Fall 2008-Spring 2010.

Member, Humanities and Social Sciences College Council, Fall 2009-present. Council is composed of Department Chairs and Major Program Directors.

Humanities and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee: Co-Chair, Fall 2008-2009; Philosophy Representative, Fall 2006- Spring 2007, and Fall 2008-2009.

Member, Asian Studies Program, Fall 2005-Fall 2010.

Member, “Integrating Asian Studies into the Curriculum” program, William Paterson University College of Humanities & Social Sciences/Asia Society Manhattan, Fall 2005-Spring 2008.

Advisor, Department of Philosophy, William Paterson University, 9/2006-8/2013. From 2006-2010 I was the only departmental advisor.

Union Representative, Department of Philosophy, William Paterson University, Fall 2011-present.

Major Recruitment, 2006-present. I have represented the major at numerous recruitment events.

Philosophy Club Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, William Paterson University, Fall 2005-Fall 2008.

Philosophy Department Film Series Coordinator, Fall 2005-Fall 2008.

Service to the Discipline

Book Manuscript Referee

- Cambridge University Press
- Westview Press

Journal Article Referee

- *The Philosophical Quarterly*
- *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*
- *Ethical Perspectives*
- *Journal of Social Philosophy*
- *Law and Philosophy*
- *Mind*
- *Nous*
- *Philosophia*
- *Southwest Philosophy Review*