

D. Gene Witmer

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
P.O. Box 118545
330 Griffin-Floyd Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville FL 32611-8545
Email: gwitmer@phil.ufl.edu
Office: (352) 392-2084 ext. 209

Education

Ph.D. Rutgers University — New Brunswick. Received October, 1997.
B.A. in Philosophy. New College of the University of South Florida. Received May, 1990.

Employment

Assistant Professor, University of Florida. 1997-2004
Associate Professor, University of Florida. 2004-present.

Areas of specialization

Metaphysics and philosophy of mind.

Areas of teaching competence

Epistemology, philosophy of religion, philosophy of language, ethics and meta-ethics

Dissertation

Title: *Demanding Physicalism: The Formulation and Justification of a Reductive Materialism.*
Director: Brian McLaughlin.

Publications - Articles

"Modality, Identity, and A Priori Access."
Forthcoming in *Philosophical Topics*.

"How To Be A (Sort of) A Priori Physicalist."
Philosophical Studies 131 (1): 185-225. October 2006.

"Intrinsicity without Naturalness." Co-authored with William Butchard and Kelly Trogdon.
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 70 (2): 326-350. March 2005.

"Multiple Realizability and Psychological Laws: Evaluating Kim's Challenge."
In *Physicalism and Mental Causation: The Metaphysics of Mind and Action*. Sven Walter and Heinz-Dieter Heckmann. Imprint Academic Publishers, UK. 2003.
Pages 59-84.

"Functionalism and Causal Exclusion."
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly 84 (2): 198-214. June 2003.

"Dupré's Anti-Essentialist Objection to Reductionism."
The Philosophical Quarterly 53 (211): 181-200. April 2003.

"Sufficiency Claims and Physicalism: A Formulation."
In Carl Gillett and Barry Loewer, eds., *Physicalism and Its Discontents*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2001. Pages 57-73.

"A 'Physical' Need? Physicalism and the Via Negativa." Co-authored with Carl Gillett.
Analysis 61: 302-308. October 2001.

"Conceptual Analysis, Circularity, and the Commitments of Physicalism."
Acta Analytica 16: 119-133. April 2001.

"Experience, Appearance, and Hidden Features."
PSYCHE 7(09), July 2001. <http://psyche.cs.monash.edu.au/v7/psyche-7-09-witmer.html>

"Locating the Overdetermination Problem."
The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science 51: 273-286. June 2000.

"Supervenience Physicalism and the Problem of Extras."
The Southern Journal of Philosophy 37: 315-331. Summer 1999.

"What is Wrong with the Manifestability Argument for Supervenience."
Australasian Journal of Philosophy 76 (1), 84-89. March 1998.

"Is Natural Kindness a Natural Kind?" Co-authored with John Sarnecki.
Philosophical Studies, 90 (3), 245-264. June 1998.

Publications - Encyclopedia and Dictionary Entries

"Philosophy of Mind."
Encyclopedia entry in Daniel Borchert, General Editor, *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Volume 7), 2nd Edition. Detroit: Macmillan Reference 2006, pp. 467-473.

"Physicalism."
Encyclopedia entry in Jessica Pfeifer and Sahotra Sarkar, eds., *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group), 2006, pp. 558-568.

"Supervenience."
Encyclopedia entry in Jessica Pfeifer and Sahotra Sarkar, eds., *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group), 2006, pp. 815-820.

"Ontology."
Dictionary entry in the online *Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind*. Web address:
<http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~philos/MindDict/>. January 1998.

"Identity Theories."
Dictionary entry in the online *Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind*. Web address:
<http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~philos/MindDict/>. January 1998.

Publications - Book Reviews

Review of Jaegwon Kim, *Physicalism, or Something Near Enough*. Princeton University Press, 2005.
Mind 115 (460): 1136-1141. October 2006.

Review of Andrew Melnyk, *A Physicalist Manifesto: Thoroughly Modern Materialism*. Cambridge University Press 2003.
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews 2004.06.04. At:
<http://ndpr.icaap.org/content/archives/2004/6/witmer-melnyk.html>

Review of Christopher S. Hill, *Thought and World: An Austere Portrayal of Truth, Reference, and Semantic Correspondence*. Cambridge University Press 2002.

Philosophical Inquiry: 26 (4) 142-145. Fall 2004.

Review of Michael Rea, *World Without Design: The Consequences of Naturalism*. Oxford Univ. Press 2002.

Australasian Journal of Philosophy 81: 605-607. July 2003.

Review of Brad Hooker and Margaret Little, eds., *Moral Particularism*. Oxford Univ. Press 2000.
Co-authored with Crystal Thorpe.

Utilitas 13: 369-371. November 2001.

Review of Frank Jackson, *From Metaphysics to Ethics: A Defence of Conceptual Analysis*. Oxford Univ. Press 1998.

The Philosophical Review (109): 147-150. July 2000.

Review of Tim Crane, ed. *The Contents of Experience* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992). Co-authored with Brian McLaughlin.

Canadian Philosophical Reviews 13: 9-14. February 1993.

Scholarly Presentations

"Realization and the Promise of Explanatory Import."

- April 6, 2007. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Atlanta, Georgia.

"Realization, Higher Order Properties, and Explanatory Import."

- October 14, 2006. At the conference on *Mind, Body and Realization*, held at Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania.

Comments on Alyssa Ney: "Physicalism as an Attitude."

- April 14, 2006. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Charleston, South Carolina.

Comments on William Rottschaefer: "The Many Places of Knowledge in Nature: Reflections on Hilary Kornblith's *Knowledge and Its Place in Nature*."

- March 25, 2006. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. Portland, Oregon.

"How To Be A (Sort of) A Priori Physicalist."

- April 1-3, 2005. The Bowling Green State University conference on physicalism. Bowling Green, Ohio.
- April 23-25, 2005. Conference/workshop sponsored by Rutgers University and Columbia University on "Descrying the World in Physics." Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Comments on Barry Loewer: "Why Is There Anything Except Physics?"

- October 2004. Kline Colloquium on Physicalism. University of Missouri at Columbia.

Comments on Andrew Melnyk: "Rea on Naturalism."

- April 9, 2004. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.

"The Shortcut Argument Against Coincident Objects."

- November 14 2003. Florida Philosophical Association, St. Petersburg, Florida.

"Functionalism, Causation, and the Bait and Switch Problem."

- October 16-17, 2003. Central States Philosophical Association. Chicago, Illinois.

"Intrinsicity without Naturalness." Co-authored with Bill Butchard and Kelly Trogon.

- November 22, 2002. Florida Philosophical Association. Gainesville, Florida.

"The Epistemic Conceivability Argument Against Physicalism."

- April 2002. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, Illinois.
- November 10, 2000. Florida Philosophical Association. Sarasota, Florida.

"Functionalism, Causation, and the Bait and Switch Problem."

- November 9, 2001. Florida Philosophical Association. Deland, Florida.

"Conceptual Analysis, Circularity, and the Commitments of Physicalism."

- March 2001. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. San Francisco, California.
- October 6-7, 2000. Central States Philosophical Association. Lincoln, Nebraska.
- June 5-10, 2000. Invited talk at the Bled 2000 Conference on Philosophical Analysis. Bled, Slovenia.

"From Supervenience to Law Entailment: An Argument for Reductionism."

- March 10, 2000. Society for Exact Philosophy. Gainesville, Florida.
- November 5, 1999. Invited talk at Florida State University. Tallahassee, Florida.

Comments on Barbara Montero: "Post-Physicalism."

- April 8, 2000. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"The Explanatory Replacement Objection to Reductionism."

- November 12-13, 1999. Florida Philosophical Association. Miami, Florida.

"How to Use Causal Considerations to Argue for Physicalism."

- April 1-3, 1999. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Louisville, Kentucky.
- November 13, 1998. Florida Philosophical Association. Tallahassee, Florida.

"Comments on Siewert's *The Significance of Consciousness*."

- November 13, 1998. Florida Philosophical Association. Tallahassee, Florida.

"The Cluster Theory of the Causal Relevance of Functional Properties."

- October 16-17, 1998. Central States Philosophy Association. Clive, Iowa.

"Functionalism and Causal Relevance: The Incompatibility Problem."

- September 1998. European Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Lisbon, Portugal.

"Logical Connections and Causal Relevance."

- November 1997. Florida Philosophical Association. Orlando, Florida.

"What's Wrong with the Manifestability Argument for Supervenience."

- April 1996. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, Illinois.

Grants and Awards

Teacher of the Year Award, awarded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Nominated by CLAS for the University-wide competition. Awarded 2003-2004.

2002 Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund award.

1998 Fine Arts and Scholarship Enhancement Fund award.