

D. Gene Witmer

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
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Education

Ph.D. Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Received October 1997.

Dissertation: *Demanding Physicalism: The Formulation and Justification of a Reductive Materialism*. Directed by Brian McLaughlin.

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.

Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Florida. 2009-present.

Areas of specialization

Metaphysics and philosophy of mind.

Areas of competence

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

Publications - Articles

"Necessity, 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 Sven Walter and Heinz-Dieter Heckmann, eds., *Physicalism and Mental Causation: The Metaphysics of Mind*. 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. Critical commentary on Charles Siewert's *The Significance of Consciousness*. <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

"Naturalism/Physicalism." Encyclopedia entry for *A Companion to Metaphysics*, Continuum Publishing, edited by Robert Barnard and Neil Manson. Forthcoming.

"Philosophy of Mind." Encyclopedia entry in Daniel Borcherdt, 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://philosophy.uwaterloo.ca/MindDict/ontology.html>. January 1998.

"Identity Theory." Dictionary entry in the online *Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind*. Web address: <http://philosophy.uwaterloo.ca/MindDict/identitytheory.html>. January 1998.

Publications - Book Reviews

Review of Timothy Williamson, *The Philosophy of Philosophy*. Blackwell, 2007. *Metaphilosophy*, forthcoming.

- Review of Christopher Peacocke, *Truly Understood*. Oxford University Press, 2008.
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, June 1, 2009. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=16266>
- Review of Steven Horst, *Beyond Reduction: Philosophy of Mind and Post-Reductionist Philosophy of Science*. Oxford University Press, 2007.
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, April 10, 2008. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=12863>
- 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, June 4, 2004. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=1442>
- 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 University Press, 2002.
Australasian Journal of Philosophy 81: 605-607. July 2003.
- Review of Brad Hooker and Margaret Little, eds., *Moral Particularism*. Oxford University 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 University Press, 1998.
The Philosophical Review 109: 147-150. July 2000.
- Review of Tim Crane, ed. *The Contents of Experience*. Cambridge University Press, 1992. Co-authored with Brian McLaughlin.
Canadian Philosophical Reviews 13: 9-14. February 1993.

Scholarly Presentations

- Comments on Gary Bartlett: "A Neglected Argument Against Functional Theories of Experience."
 April 10, 2009. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Savannah, Georgia.
- "Remarks on *Every Thing Must Go*."
 •February 20, 2009. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Author Meets Critics session of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science. Chicago, Illinois.
- Comments on Timothy Pickavance: "Trivializing Naturalness."
 •February 19, 2009. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, Illinois.
- "Semantic Rationalism: A Brief Exposition and Defense."
 • November 16, 2008. Florida Philosophical Association. Daytona Beach, Florida.
- Comments on Thomas Polger and Lawrence Shapiro: "Understanding the Dimensions of Realization."
 •March 20, 2008. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- "Realization and the Promise of Explanatory Import."
 • April 6, 2007. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Atlanta, Georgia.
 • November 11, 2007. Florida Philosophical Association. Tallahassee, Florida.

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

- October 14, 2006. At the conference *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. *Descrying the World in Physics* conference sponsored by Rutgers University and Columbia University. 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. 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. 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 Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund award.

Service for the University of Florida

Department Chair, July 2009-present

Department Committees and Positions

- Executive Committee (Fall 2008-Summer 2009)
- Undergraduate Coordinator (Summer 2008-Summer 2009)
- Undergraduate Committee (2005-2008)
- Acting Undergraduate Coordinator (2004-2005)
- Graduate Committee (1999-2002)
- Placement Director (2000-2002, 2007-2008)
- Search Committees (1997-1999, 2002-2005)
- Colloquium Committee (2002-2005, 2006-2007)
- Ad Hoc Constitution Committee (2007-2008)

College Committees

- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (2007-2008)
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Awards Committee (2004-2005)

University Committees

- Student Conduct Court Committee (2006-2009)

Student Advising:

- Faculty Advisor for Gator Freethought (2007-present)
- Faculty Advisor for the Atheist, Agnostic and Freethinker Student Association (2005-2007)
- Worked as an advisor in the Preview orientation program for incoming students during the summer of 1999 and the summer of 2003

Service to the Profession

Philosophy Program Chair, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2007-2008)

Vice President of the Florida Philosophical Association (2009).

Referee for:

Acta Analytica
Australasian Journal of Philosophy
British Journal for Philosophy of Science
Canadian Journal of Philosophy
Erkenntnis
International Studies in Philosophy of Science
Journal of Consciousness Studies
Journal of Philosophical Research
Mind
Mind and Language
Nous
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly
Philosophy Compass
Philosophical Psychology
Philosophy Compass
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research
The Philosophical Quarterly
Philosophical Studies
Philosophy of Science
Synthese
Theoria

Tenure review letters (confidential)

2000, 2006, 2007 (2)

Book manuscript review:

2009: Oxford UP

2009: Routledge

1999: MIT Press

Reviews for publishers of educational materials in philosophy

Wadsworth (2005), McGraw-Hill (2002), Wadsworth (2001), Mayfield (1998-9)

Educational Publication

Instructor's Manual for introduction to philosophy anthology (*Philosophical Questions*, edited by William Lawhead) published by McGraw-Hill (2002)

Other Presentations

Presentations for the UF community in general at the Department's annual "Food and Talk" event:

2004: Is Philosophy Still the Love of Wisdom?

2000: Philosophy in Popular Culture vs. Academia

1998: Is Life Worth Living?

Various presentations for the UF Undergraduate Philosophy Society (1997-present), Gator Freethought (2007), and the Atheists, Agnostics, and Freethinkers Student Association at UF (2006).

Presentations at Central Florida Community College, invited by the student group PANTS (Pantheists, Agnostics, and Non-Theists Society):

2008: Godless Morality

2005: How to Think About (the Lack of a) God

Last Revised: August 14, 2009