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# Employment

2006-Present Associate Professor, University of Richmond

2000-2006 Assistant Professor, University of Richmond

1999-2000 Visiting Assistant Professor, Grinnell College

Spring, 1999 Instructor, McGill University

Summer, 1996-1997 Instructor, McGill University

1993-1999 Teaching Assistant, McGill University

# Education

Ph.D (1999) McGill University, Dean’s Honor list, *The Nature and Value of Scepticism*

B.A (1991) First Class Honors, Philosophy, McGill University

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| **Areas of Specialization:**  Epistemology  Early modern philosophy | **Areas of Competence**  Ethics  Philosophy of Mind  Ancient philosophy  Philosophy of Action  Moral Psychology  Philosophy of Religion |

# Book

Believing Against the Evidence: *Agency and the Ethics of Belief* (New York: Routledge, 2015)

**Reviewed In:**

* *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*<http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/believing-against-the-evidence-agency-and-the-ethics-of-belief/>
* *Mind* <https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzw017>
* *Philosophical Review* <http://philreview.dukejournals.org/content/126/4/551.full>

# Papers

“No Kind of Reason is the Wrong Kind of Reason” In ed. McCain *Believing in Accordance with the Evidence: New Essays on Evidentialism.* (Springer) Forthcoming.

“Can Beliefs Be Based on Practical Reasons?” In eds. Adam Carter and Pat Bondy, *Well Founded Belief: New Essays on the Epistemic Basing Relation* (Routledge). Forthcomng

“Responding to Skepticism about Doxastic Agency,” *Erkenntnis*, DOI: 10.1007/s10670-017-9906-2 (June, 2017)

“Rational Hope,” *Philosophical Explorations*, Vol 20, supplemental issue on False but Useful Beliefs. (2017) <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13869795.2017.1287298>

“Hume’s Skeptical Politics” *Hume Studies* 39 (1): 77-102 (2014)

“Taking Control of Belief.” Philosophical Explorations 14 (2):169-183 (2011)

“Responsible Belief.” In eds. Talwar, Harris & Schleifer. *Children’s Understanding of Death: From Biological to Supernatural Conceptions*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

“Compelled Belief,” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 42 (3):157-169 (2005)

“Why Should We Be Wise?” *Hume Studies* 31 (1) 3-19 (2005)

“Hume, Wittgenstein and the Impact of Skepticism,” *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 21 (4): 417-434 (2004)

“A Change in Manner: Hume’s Scepticism in the *Treatise* and the first *Enquiry*,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 29 (3): 431-447 (1999)

“Hume on Natural Belief and Original Principles,” *Hume Studies* 19 (1): 103-116 (1993)

# Other Publications

“Replies to Commentaries on *Believing Against the Evidence*” in *Syndicate, Philosophy:* <https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/believing-against-the-evidence/>

“Review of Ernest Sosa’s *Judgment and Agency*” *Mind* 126 (501): 309-317 (2017)

“Review of Donald Ainslie’s *Hume’s True Scepticism*” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 55 (1: 167-168 (2017)

“Review of Annalisa Coliva’s *Moore and Wittgenstein: Scepticism, Certainty and Common Sense*” *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism.* (2015), 1-6

“Ethics of Belief” The International Encyclopedia of Ethics, ed. Hugh LaFollette (February 2013, Wiley-Blackwell) <http://www.hughlafollette.com/IEE.htm>

Comments on Ott’s “What Can Causal Claims Mean?” *Philosophia* 37:471-473 (2009).

“Review of *Feminist Interpretations of David Hume (ed. Anne Jaap Jacobson*)” *Philosophy In Review,* 21, (2): 130-132(2001)

“Review of Oliver Johnson, *The Mind of David Hume*” *The Review of Metaphysics* 51 (1):.160-162 (1997)

**In Progress**

“Are Constitutive Norms Normative?” In eds. Baron Reed and Amy Floweree,Towards an Expansive Epistemology: Norms, Action, and the Social Sphere (Routledge)

“Belief as Emotion” (under review)

“Credible Messages of Hope”

“Placing a Limit on the Ethics of Mind”

“Value Beyond Truth-Value”

“Doxastic Duties are not Epistemic Duties.”

# Presentations

“No Kind of Reason is the Wrong Kind of Reason” Ethics of Belief Workshop, Harvard University, March 2-3, 2018

“No Kind of Reason is the Wrong Kind of Reason” Canadian Society for Epistemology, Montreal, November 17-18, 2017

“No Kind of Reason is the Wrong Kind of Reason” Centre of the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, October 12, 2017.

“Belief as Emotion,” Northern New England Workshop on Ethics and Epistemology, University of Vermont, August 18-19, 2017

“The Value of a Free and Wandering Mind,” Workshop on *The Ethics of Mind*, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, August 1, 2017

“Kinds of Belief and Kinds of Reasons:” Comments on Berislav Marušić’s *Evidence and Agency*, Author- author-meets-critics session, CPA Toronto, May 29, 2017

“Restoring Hope with Kindness” Nature and Norms of Hope Conference, Cornell University, April 29. 2017

“Hopeless Fantasy,” University of Birmingham, October 24, 2016

“Hopeless Fantasy,” University of Reading, October 18, 2016

“Are Constitutive Norms Normative?” Southwest Epistemology Workshop, New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, 25th and 26th March, 2016

“Rational Hope” Workshop on Optimism — Its Nature, Causes, and Effects, London February 25-26, 2016

“The Contingency of Transparency” Workshop on Transparency in Belief and Self-Knowledge, Oviedo, Spain, November 9-10, 2015

“Are Constitutive Norms Normative?” GRIN (Research group on Normativity), McGill University, September 25, 2015

“Are Constitutive Norms Normative?” East Carolina University, September 18, 2015

“Excusing False Beliefs,” Workshop on Responsibility: The Epistemic Dimension, VU University, Amsterdam, May 11-13, 2015

“Are Constitutive Norms Normative?” Norms of Belief Workshop, University of Luxembourg, Institute of Philosophy, April 24-25, 2015

“The Affective Component of Belief”, University of Southampton, March 9, 2015

“What do Beliefs Feel Like?” Workshop on Belief, Ideas and Impressions, Ghent University, February 23, 2015; Ruhr-Univerität Bochum, November 4, 2014; University of Southern Denmark, October 31, 2014

“Toward a Unified Conception of Agency”, Eidyn Epistemology Research Group, University of Edinburgh, October 1, 2014

“Toward a Unified Conception of Agency” Workshop on Doxastic Agency and Epistemic Responsibility, Ruhr-Universität Bochum.June 2-3, 2014

“Virtuous Belief and Eudaimonia” Conference on Eudaimonia and Virtue: Reconsidering the Good Life, The University of Miami, February 25-27, 2011

The Limits of Evidentialism,” 5th Biennial Margaret Dauler Wilson Conference, Boulder, Colorado, June 28-30, 2010.

“The Limits of Evidentialism: The Practical Purpose of Belief,” Conference on “Responsible Belief in the Face of Disagreement.” August 18 – 20, 2009 VU University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

“Hume’s Skeptical Politics” 36th International Hume Conference, Dalhousie University and The University of King’s College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 2-6, 2009

“Hume’s Skeptical Politics,” North Sea Early Modern Workshop, Leiden University, February 13-14, 2009.

“Hume’s Ethics of Belief,” 35th Hume Society Conference, August 6-10, 2008 University of Akureyri, Iceland.

“What Should We Believe When the Evidence is Silent?,” Symposium on Children’s Questions About Death and Legitimate Answers: Science and Religion, U.Q.A.M., Montreal, May 7-8, 2008

“The Practical Purpose of Belief,” Department of Philosophy and Religion, James Madison University, March 28, 2008.

“Hume’s Sceptical Politics” Hume Society Session, Eastern APA, December 28, 2007.

“Hume’s Sceptical Politics,” Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Halifax, July 11, 2007

“Wittgenstein on Necessary Beliefs” Regional Working Conference on Wittgenstein, Virginia Tech Philosophy Department Spring Conference, April 12-15, 2007

“Doxastic control and Responsibility” 66th annual Virginia Philosophical Society Meeting, Virginia Wesleyan University, October 28th, 2005

“Doxastic control and Responsibility,” Department of Philosophy, University of Virginia, April 22, 2005

“Hume’s True Scepticism,” Department of Philosophy, University of Western Ontario, January 24, 2005

Participant in the Liberty Fund’s Seminar, “Francis Hutcheson on Character, Virtue and Public Morality” Montreal, October 7-10 2004

“Compelled Belief,” Department of Philosophy, Virginia Commonwealth University, March 5, 2004

“Compelled Belief,” College of William and Mary, 2003

“Hume’s Sceptical Metaphilosophy,” 29th Hume Society Conference, Helsinki, Finland August, 2002

“Hume on Resisting Belief,” Southeastern Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Wake Forest University, 2001

“Hume on the Purpose of Philosophical Inquiry,” Southeastern Seminar on Early Modern Philosophy, Duke University, 1999

“Hume on Preserving One’s Scepticism,” Grinnell College, 1999

“Wittgenstein and Scepticism,” York University, Department of Philosophy, 1998

“A Change in Manner: Hume’s Scepticism in the Treatise and the first Enquiry,” Twenty-second International Hume Conference, Park City, Utah, July 1995

# Conference Comments

On Pedro Faria’s “Moral differences, language and context in the second *Enquiry*: Hume’s mature moral philosophy and its relation to social theory” 44th Annual Human Society Conference, Providence, RI, July 17-21, 2017

On Jaako Hirvela’s “Is it safe to disagree”?, Faces of Disagreement Conference, Montreal, Quebec, May 26, 2016.

On Michael Hatcher’s “Regress for Accessibilism?,” Pacific APA, San Francisco, March 31, 2016

On Max Barkhausen’s “Hume’s Doctrine of The Correction of the Sentiments: A Conventionalist Account.”“Sentiment and Reason in Early Modern Ethics”the University at Buffalo, SUNY, March 21st-22nd, 2014

On Kinnaman’s ““Kant and McDowell on Phenomena and Noumena,” 72nd annual Virginia Philosophical Society Meeting, College of William & Mary, October 21-22, 2011..

On Walter Ott’s “What Can Causal Claims Mean?” Meaning and Modern Empiricism Conference, Virginia Tech April 11-13, 2008.

On Tim Costelloe’s "The Canvas of the Mind: Hume on Imagination and Poetry,” Colloquium in Early Modern Philosophy, College of William and Mary, October 14-15, 2005

On Ryu Susato ““Refinement and Democracy: The significance of Hume’s Perfect Commonwealth,” 32nd Hume Society Conference, Toronto, Canada, July 2005.

On “Boyle, Classification and the Workmanship of the Understanding Thesis” Virginia Philosophical Association, Mary Baldwin College, October 17, 2003

On Meyers’ ‘Hume: Old and New,’” Twenty-eighth International Hume Conference, Victoria, B.C., 2001

On Long’s ‘The Logical Mistake of Racism,’” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, Tennessee, 2001

On Vargas’s ‘The Aim of Theory; Reflections on the Stawsonian Legacy’,” The Inland Northern Pacific Conference, Moscow Idaho, 2001

On Campbell’s ‘Is Sexism Irrational? A Paradox for Feminist Contractarianism’,” University of Montreal, Conference on Philosophical Perspectives on Irrationality, 1997

# Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Philosophy of Hope and Optimism Templeton Fellowship http://hopeoptimism.com/pages/funding-initiatives/philosophy-hope-optimism

Arts & Sciences Faculty Research Committee Summer Fellowship (Summers 2015- 2013, 2011,-2009, 2007, 2004, 2001)

A&S Faculty Research Grant, 2012

Participant in the Teagle Working Group’s course and professional development project entitled, “The Pedagogy of Belief and Doubt.” 2007-08.

Participant in the Faculty Seminar on China, Tibet and Taiwan, Spring 2007

PETE (teaching-related) Grant, 2006, 2004-2003, 2001

Guy Desautels Memorial Prize for History of Philosophy, December 1998

Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship, 1995-1998

FCAR Masters Fellowship, 1993-1995

James McGill Scholar Entrance Award, September 1988

# Professional Service

Executive Committee of the Hume Society, 2008-2011

Co-chair of the program committee for the 38th Hume Society Conference, Edinburgh, July, 2011.

Organizer of the Eastern Division Meeting Hume Society sessions, 2003-2006

Referee for *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Inquiry, Hume Studies, Philosophical Studies, Synthese, Erkenntnis, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Quarterly, Dialectica, Hypatia, Australasian Journal of Philosophy.* Reviewer for Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science

# University and Departmental Service

Sustainability and Environmental Awareness Committee 2015- present, Chair of Academics subcommittee, 2016-present

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee 2015-present

Faculty Research Committee 2009-2011

University Scholars Selection Committee 2001- 2004

Library Committee, 2004

Cultural Affairs Committee, 2004

Organizer of Philosophy Department’s Speakers Series, 2005-2009, 2017