

# DR. MIRIAM SCHLEIFER MCCORMICK

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## EMPLOYMENT

2020-	Professor, University of Richmond
2006-2020	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

## Affiliated Positions

Researcher in the normativity and affectivity axis of [GRIN](#) and collaborating member of the ethical foundation axis at [CRÉ](#)

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## 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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## BOOKS

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

### Reviewed In:

- [Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews](#)
- [Mind](#)
- [Philosophical Review](#)

Belief as Emotion (Under Contract with OUP)

## PAPERS

- “Engaging with Fringe Beliefs: Why, When, and How.” (2023) *Episteme*, 1-16. doi:10.1017/epi.2023.33
- “Trusting is Believing” (2023). In M. Alfano, D. Collins, and I. Vidmar Jovanovic (Eds.), *The Moral Psychology of Trust*. Lexington Books.
- “Belief as Emotion” (2022) *Philosophical Issues, Vol. 32*. DOI: 10.1111/phis.12232

- “Are constitutive norms normative?” forthcoming in *Towards an Expansive Epistemology: Norms, Action, and the Social Sphere*, B. Reed & A. K. Flowerree (eds.), Routledge.
- “Value Beyond Truth-Value: A Practical Response to Skepticism” *Synthese* 198, 8601–8619 (2021)
- “Believing Badly: Doxastic Duties are not Epistemic Duties” In eds. McCain and Stapleford *Epistemic Duties: New Arguments, New Angles* (Routledge 2021)
- “The Value of a Free and Wandering Mind” In eds. Schmidt and Ernst. *The Ethics of Belief and Beyond*, (Routledge, 2020), Blog version at [The Junkyard of the Mind](#)
- “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, 2019)
- “No Kind of Reason is the Wrong Kind of Reason.” In ed. McCain *Believing in Accordance with the Evidence: New Essays on Evidentialism*. (Springer, 2018)
- “Responding to Skepticism about Doxastic Agency,” *Erkenntnis* 83: 627-645. (2018)
- “Rational Hope,” *Philosophical Explorations*, Vol 20, supplemental issue on False but Useful Beliefs. (2017)
- “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

- “Review of Peter Fosl’s Hume’s Scepticism: Academic and Pyrrhonian” *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 19: 3, 280-285 (2021)
- “Comments on Aaron Zimmerman’s *Belief: A Pragmatic Picture*” *William James Studies* 16:1, 57-65. (2020)
- “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- Revised 2019, 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)

## Under Review

“Restoring Hope by Imagining-With”

## PRESENTATIONS

- “Conflict without contradiction: Defending Doxasticism about Implicit attitudes and Self-Deception” presented to the Midwest Epistemology Workshop, Iowa City, September 24, 2022, The Thumos Center, Geneva, May 5, 2023 the Centre for Philosophical Psychology and European Network for Sensory Research, Antwerp, May 27, 2023
- “Reasons to Trust” (Also titled “Trusting is Believing”) presented to CRÉ, (Ethics research center) Université de Montréal, September 28, 2021, to The Ethics Working Group, University of Richmond, November 5, 2021, and as keynote at the Graduate Epistemology Conference, University of Rochester, April 1-2, 2022.
- “Belief as Emotion” presented to the Centre for Philosophical Psychology and European Network for Sensory Research, Antwerp, May 5, 2022, the research seminar in practical philosophy at Uppsala University, May 27, 2022, and at the Northern New England Workshop on Ethics and Epistemology, University of Vermont, August 18-19, 2017
- “Engaging With ‘Fringe’ Beliefs: Why, When, and How” presented to the Social (Distance) Epistemology Series, July 3, 2020, The Value of Irrationality Workshop. University of Zürich, August 31-September 2, 2021, The GRIN, Université de Montreal, December 3, 2021, and to the “Extreme Beliefs Project” Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, May 9, 2022
- “Defending Doxasticism about Religious Conviction and Political Ideology” Workshop on Freedom of Belief and Epistemic Normativity Edinburgh, June 17, 2022
- “Resisting non-doxasticism about Religious Beliefs” presented to the Science, Religion and Rationality on-line workshop, January 14, 2022.

- Critic at an author-meets-critic session “Peter S. Fosl, *Hume’s Scepticism: Pyrrhonian and Academic*” for, remote Bogota 47<sup>th</sup> Hume Conference July 10, 2021.
- Critic in an author-meets-critic session on Aaron Zimmerman’s book *Belief* at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, Philadelphia January ,2020.
- Participant in workshop on David Hunter’s *Being a Believer* organized by GRIN, University of Montreal in November 22, 2019.
- Seminar leader on *Epistemic Virtue, Epistemic Responsibility, and Knowledge* at the summer seminar of the Templeton funded LATAM Bridges in The Epistemology of Religion, Universidade de Brasília, Brazil, July 15-19, 2019  
<https://uh.edu/class/philosophy/latam/seminars/seminar-2019.php>
- “Empathetic Messages of Hope” presented at The Meaning of Life Conference, Haifa, Israel, June 11-12, 2019
- “Believing Badly: Doxastic Duties are not Epistemic Duties” presented to  
The Ethics Working Group, University of Richmond, April 10, 2019,  
The *American Philosophical Association*, Pacific Division, Vancouver, April 18, 2019  
The Epistemic Duty Workshop, St. Thomas University Fredericton, New Brunswick, May 29-31, 2019  
The Dimensions of Rationality Workshop, Frankfurt, Germany, June 6-7, 2019
- “Value Beyond Truth-Value” presented to  
The Ethics Working Group, University of Richmond, October 18, 2018  
The Philosophy Department at Union College, October 25, 2018  
COGITO Epistemology Group, University of Glasgow, November 15, 2018  
The Value of Truth conference Budapest, Hungary, 22-23 November, 2018
- “No Kind of Reason is the Wrong Kind of Reason,” presented to  
The Ethics Working Group, University of Richmond, February 12, 2018.  
Ethics of Belief Workshop, Harvard University, March 2-3, 2018  
Canadian Society for Epistemology, Montreal, November 17-18, 2017  
Centre of the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, October 12, 2017.
- “The Value of a Free and Wandering Mind,” presented at the Workshop on *The Ethics of Mind*, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, August 1, 2017 the Virginia Philosophical Association, October, 2019
- “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” presented at Nature and Norms of Hope Conference, Cornell University, April 29. 2017
- “Hopeless Fantasy,” presented to  
The Philosophy Department at University of Birmingham, October 24, 2016  
The Philosophy Department at University of Reading, October 18, 2016
- “Are Constitutive Norms Normative?,” presented to  
The Southwest Epistemology Workshop, New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, 25th and 26th March, 2016, GRIN (Research group on Normativity), McGill

University, September 25, 2015, The Philosophy Department at East Carolina University, September 18, 2015, The Norms of Belief Workshop, University of Luxembourg, Institute of Philosophy, April 24-25, 2015

- “Rational Hope,” presented at the Workshop on Optimism — Its Nature, Causes, and Effects, London February 25-26, 2016
- “The Contingency of Transparency,” presented at the Workshop on Transparency in Belief and Self-Knowledge, Oviedo, Spain, November 9-10, 2015
- “Excusing False Beliefs,” presented at the Workshop on Responsibility: The Epistemic Dimension, VU University, Amsterdam, May 11-13, 2015
- “The Affective Component of Belief,” presented to The Philosophy Department at University of Southampton, March 9, 2015
- “What do Beliefs Feel Like?,” presented to The Workshop on Belief, Ideas and Impressions, Ghent University, February 23, 2015
- The Philosophy Department at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, November 4, 2014
- The Philosophy Department at University of Southern Denmark, October 31, 2014
- “Toward a Unified Conception of Agency,” presented to Eidyn Epistemology Research Group, University of Edinburgh, October 1, 2014
- Workshop on Doxastic Agency and Epistemic Responsibility, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, June 2-3, 2014
- “Virtuous Belief and Eudaimonia” presented to the Conference on Eudaimonia and Virtue: Reconsidering the Good Life, The University of Miami, February 25-27, 2011
- “The Limits of Evidentialism,” presented at The 5th Biennial Margaret Dauler Wilson Conference, Boulder, Colorado, June 28-30, 2010. The Conference on “Responsible Belief in the Face of Disagreement.” August 18 – 20, 2009 VU University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- “Hume’s Skeptical Politics” presented at the 36th International Hume Conference, Dalhousie University and The University of King’s College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 2-6, 2009, North Sea Early Modern Workshop, Leiden University, February 13-14, 2009, Hume Society Session, Eastern APA, December 28, 2007, Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Halifax, July 11, 2007
- “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.
- “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 ,” 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,” presented to  
The Philosophy Department at ,Virginia Commonwealth University, March 5, 2004  
The Philosophy Department at the 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 Wooram Lee’s “Can Fittingness Come First”, Eastern APA, January, 2022

On Pedro Faria’s “Moral differences, language and context in the second *Enquiry*: Hume’s mature moral philosophy and its relation to social theory” 44<sup>th</sup> 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

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#### **AWARDS, PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Distinguished Scholarship Award, University of Richmond, 2022.

Senior visiting fellow at the Centre for Philosophical Psychology, Antwerp May 2022, May 2023.

Visiting Researcher at the Centre de Recherche en Ethique (CRE), 2020-21

Philosophy of Hope and Optimism Templeton Fellowship, 2016-17  
<http://hopeoptimism.com/pages/funding-initiatives/philosophy-hope-optimism>

Arts & Sciences Faculty Research Committee Summer Fellowship (Summers 2018-22, 2013-15, 2009-11, 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

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## UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Chair, Philosophy Department 2022-  
Arts & Science Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2020-2021  
Academic Policies and Planning Committee, 2019-2020  
Undergraduate Research Committee, 2018-2020  
Inclusive Pedagogy Cohort, 2018-19  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee 2015-2021  
Ethics Committee, 2017-present  
Ethics Working Group, 2017-present  
Stewardship FLC, 2017-18  
Sustainability and Environmental Awareness Committee 2015- 2019, Chair of  
Academics subcommittee, 2016-2019  
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, 2019

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## 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 *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Episteme*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy* *Hume Studies*, *Inquiry*, *Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, *Hypatia*, *Mind*, *Mind and Language*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical and Phenomenological Research*, *Social Epistemology* *Synthese*.  
Reviewer for Oxford University Press  
External reviewer for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NOS), and the Paris Institute of Advanced Study.