

BRIAN PRESTON COFFEY

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

2014 Ph.D. Philosophy, University of California, Davis
2008 M.A. Philosophy, University of Florida
2004 B.A. Philosophy & Spanish Literature, University of California, San Diego

EMPLOYMENT

2014 – Current Visiting Assistant Professor, Grand Valley State University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Value Theory, Metaethics, Normative Ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Bioethics, Philosophy of Law, Political Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

2016 Review of Joseph Mendola's *Human Interests: or Ethics for Physicalists. Ethics*, January 2016 (vol.126, no.2), pp.517-521.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

“Why we do not need Intrinsic Goodness” – Under Review
“Reinterpreting the Mere Means Principle” – In Preparation
“The Moral Insignificance of Intrinsic Value” – In Preparation

AWARDS

2013 **Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award**
Graduate Council / Office of Graduate Studies, UC Davis
2013 **Michael V. Wedin Teaching Award**
Philosophy Department, UC Davis

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FELLOWSHIPS

Research Fellowship - Office of Graduate Studies, UC Davis
Spring 2013, Winter 2010, Fall 2009

University of Florida Alumni Fellowship
Fall 2006 – Spring 2007, Summer 2007, 2008, and 2009

PRESENTATIONS

Using an Ethics Bowl Style Competition to Teach Ethics Students How to do Philosophy

2016 Teaching Philosophy in the Michigan Area, Eastern Michigan University

The Moral Insignificance of Intrinsic Value

2015 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, (*Poster Presentation*)*

2015 Colloquium Series, Grand Valley State University

Why we do not need Intrinsic Goodness

2013 39th Annual Conference on Value Inquiry, Western Kentucky University*

2013 Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN*

2012 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, (*Poster Presentation*)*

2012 UC Davis Philosophy Department Workshop

Reinterpreting the Mere Means Principle

2014 8th Annual Felician Ethics Conference, Felician College *

2013 UC Davis Philosophy Department Workshop

Defending the Mere Means Principle from Parfit's Objections

2007 Florida State University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Florida State University*

2007 University of Florida / Florida State University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Florida State University

(* Indicates presentations that were blind-reviewed and open nationally)

COMMENTS PRESENTED

2015 **Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado**
“Humean Constructivism and the Common Core” by Dale Dorsey
(University of Kansas)

2014 **APA Pacific Division, San Diego, CA – Society for Applied Ethics Meeting**
“Incommensurable Meals” by Robert Fischer (Texas State University)

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- 2013 **Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College**
“You’re a Jerk Whether or Not You Know it: Moral Responsibility for Character”
by Marcella Russo (Loyola University Chicago)
- 2012 **Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado**
“The Narrative Theory of the Self” by Jeff Sebo (NYU)
- 2012 **APA Pacific Division, Seattle, WA**
“Interpersonal Manipulation and the Rational Capacities” by Moti Gorin (Rice)
- 2010 **Berkeley, Stanford, Davis Graduate Student Conference, UC Berkeley**
“The Problem of Being Good to Someone” by Robert Shanklin (USC)
- 2009 **Southeast Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Florida**
“Understanding Attributability” by Jada Twedt Strabbing (Princeton University)
- 2007 **FSU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Florida State University**
“Moral Advice and the Structure of Moral Explanations” by Uri D. Leibowitz
(University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE – AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Ethics in the Professional Life – Upper Division

Fall 2014, Grand Valley State University (3 classes)

Logic

Winter 2016, Grand Valley State University

Fall 2014, Grand Valley State University

Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2016, Grand Valley State University (3 classes)

Winter 2016, Grand Valley State University (3 classes)

Fall 2015, Grand Valley State University (2 classes)

Winter 2015, Grand Valley State University (2 classes)

Spring 2009, University of Florida

Introduction to Ethics

Fall 2016, Grand Valley State University

Fall 2015, Grand Valley State University (2 classes)

Winter 2015, Grand Valley State University (2 classes)

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Critical Reasoning

Winter Quarter 2012, UC Davis

Bioethics

Summer Quarter 2013, UC Davis

Summer Quarter 2011, UC Davis

Summer Quarter 2010, UC Davis

Ethical and Social Problems in Contemporary Society

Spring Quarter 2014, UC Davis

Winter Quarter 2013, UC Davis

Summer Quarter 2012, UC Davis

Spring Quarter 2011, UC Davis

TEACHING EXPERIENCE – AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

Metaphysics – Upper Division

Winter Quarter 2014, UC Davis, Instructor: Dr. Cody Gilmore

Philosophy of Law – Upper Division

Fall Quarter 2012, UC Davis, Instructor: Dr. Marina Oshana

Fall Quarter 2010, UC Davis, Instructor: Dr. Marina Oshana

Political Philosophy – Upper Division

Spring Quarter 2012, UC Davis, Instructor: Dr. Marina Oshana

Fall Semester 2007, University of Florida, Instructor: Dr. Jon Tresan

Philosophical Foundations of American Democracy

Fall Quarter 2011, UC Davis, Instructor: Johnnie Pederson

Introduction to Philosophy

Fall Quarter 2013, UC Davis, Instructor: Dr. Adam Sennet

Winter Quarter 2010, UC Davis, Instructor: Dr. Adam Sennet

Spring Semester 2008, University of Florida, Instructor: Dr. Robert D'Amico

Critical Reasoning

Spring Quarter 2010, UC Davis, Instructor: Lucas Halpin

Contemporary Moral Issues

Fall Quarter 2008, University of Florida, Instructor: David Tostenson

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Online Instructional Design / Development

GVSU, Graduate Course, College of Education, 2016

“(Re)Designing Hybrid Courses”

UC Davis, Department of Education, 2013

“Safe-Zone: Being an Ally to the LGBTQ Community”

UC Davis, LGBTQ Center, 2012

“Student Engagement: Mission Possible”

UC Davis, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, 2010

“From Concept to the Classroom: Summer Seminar on College Teaching”

UC Davis, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, 2010

SERVICE

- 2016 **Reviewer**, *Philosophical Psychology*
- 2014 **Chair**, Meeting of the Pacific Division of the APA
Session on Agency and Action
- 2013 **Chair**, Meeting of the Eastern Division of the APA
Session on Metaethics
- 2011 – 2013 **Graduate Student Representative to the Department**, UC Davis
- 2010 – 2012 **Organizer and Panelist**, Training and Information of Pedagogical Salience
(Philosophy Department Event), UC Davis
- 2010 – 2012 **Conference Organizing Committee Member**
Berkeley, Stanford, Davis Graduate Student Conference
At a non-hosting institution, (2011, 2012)
At the hosting institution, (2010)
- 2010 – 2012 **Referee**, Berkeley, Stanford, Davis Graduate Student Conference
- 2008 **President**, Graduate Student Philosophical Society (GSPS)
University of Florida
- 2007 **Vice President**, GSPS, University of Florida
- 2007 **Head of Conference Organizing Committee**
Southeast Graduate Student Conference, University of Florida
- 2006 **Treasurer**, GSPS, University of Florida
- 2006 **Conference Organizing Committee Member**
Southeast Graduate Student Conference, University of Florida

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Spanish (Reading – Near fluent, Writing – Excellent, Speaking – Excellent)

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DISSERTATION: In Defense of an End Relational Account of Goodness

What is it exactly that we are attributing to a thing when we judge it to be good? According to the orthodox answer, at least in some cases when we judge that something is good we are attributing to it a monadic property. That is, some good things are “just plain good.” In arguing against the orthodox view, I begin with the idea that a plausible account of goodness must take seriously the intuitive claim that there is something in common between moral and non-moral goodness—something in virtue of which it makes sense to call ‘good’ both the things that are morally good and the things that are non-morally good. However, it is implausible that all judgments about the goodness of things attribute a monadic property to those things, as this does not capture what we mean when we judge something to be non-morally good. Instead, I propose and defend my own relational theory of goodness according to which goodness is a relation that holds between things and ends (or goals). That is, goodness is a relational property such that to be good is to be related in the relevant way to some goal or another. This is true in both the mundane everyday cases and in loftier cases concerned with moral goodness.

COMMITTEE

David Copp (Chair), Marina Oshana, Adam Sennet, Cody Gilmore, and Stephen Finlay

REFERENCES

David Copp
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(530) 554-4924
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(530) 554-1375
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