

TAYLOR W. CYR

Curriculum Vitae

University of California, Riverside
Department of Philosophy, HMNSS 1604
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Action (esp. Free Will), Ethics, Metaphysics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, Early Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Law,
Logic (excluding metalogic)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of California, Riverside**, Philosophy (anticipated: June 2018)

Dissertation: “Semicompatibilist Options: Essays in Defense of an Actual-Sequence Approach to Freedom and Responsibility”

Committee: John Martin Fischer (Chair, University of California, Riverside)
Adam Harmer (University of California, Riverside)
Dana Kay Nelkin (University of California, San Diego)
Michael Nelson (University of California, Riverside)
Derk Pereboom (Cornell University)
Eric Schwitzgebel (University of California, Riverside)

Abstract In my dissertation, I develop a novel version of semicompatibilism. Semicompatibilism is the view that the freedom required for moral responsibility is compatible with causal determinism even if the freedom to do otherwise is not. I modify this general view by providing arguments for three theses: 1) that one's history can affect the *degree to which* (but not *whether*) one is morally responsible, 2) that indeterminacy is *no gain* to the control necessary for responsibility, and 3) that the requirements on responsibility for actions and omissions are *symmetrical*. These theses, both individually and taken together, provide my account with advantages over extant accounts, and I develop the theses and highlight the advantages they afford in addressing the five main objections to semicompatibilism. Because the view is a compatibilist one, it is targeted by objections to compatibilism itself. I focus on two sets of objections here: the manipulation objection and two objections from luck. I argue that compatibilist views are safe from both sets of objections. I then consider and address two objections that target semicompatibilism in particular. The first challenges the view's distinctiveness, claiming that the dispute between semicompatibilists and traditional compatibilists is merely verbal. The second objection challenges proponents of semicompatibilism to provide an adequate account of moral responsibility for omissions.

M.A. **Florida State University**, Philosophy, 2013

Examination: “Luck Problems for Libertarian Accounts of Free Will”

Committee: Alfred Mele (Chair, Florida State University)
David McNaughton (Florida State University)
Stephen Kearns (Florida State University)

B.A. **Florida State University**, Philosophy, 2010, *Summa Cum Laude*

B.A. **Florida State University**, Religion, 2010, *Summa Cum Laude*

PUBLICATIONS

9. “Semicompatibilism: No Ability to Do Otherwise Required,” *Philosophical Explorations*, forthcoming.

8. "Free Will, Grace, and Anti-Pelagianism" (with Matthew T. Flummer), *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, forthcoming.
7. "Is Semicompatibilism Unstable?" *Disputatio*, forthcoming.
6. "Moral Responsibility for Actions and Omissions: A New Challenge to the Asymmetry Thesis," *Philosophical Studies*, forthcoming.
5. "How Does Death Harm the Deceased?" In John K. Davis (ed.), *Ethics at the End of Life: New Issues and Arguments*. Routledge, 2017: 29-46.
4. "Death's Badness and Time-Relativity: A Reply to Purves," *Journal of Ethics* 20 (4), 2016: 435-444.
3. "A Puzzle About Death's Badness: Can Death Be Bad for the Paradise-Bound?" *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 80 (2), 2016: 145-162.
2. "The Parallel Manipulation Argument," *Ethics* 126 (4), 2016: 1075-1089.
1. "Rationally Not Caring About Torture: A Reply to Johansson," *Journal of Ethics* 18 (4), 2014: 331-339.

BOOK REVIEW

Review of *Causation and Free Will*, by Carolina Sartorio, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, forthcoming.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Manipulation and Constitutive Luck"

"Taking Hobart Seriously"

PRESENTATIONS

22. "Manipulation and Constitutive Luck," Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (Poster Sessions), Aug. 2017
21. "Manipulation and Constitutive Luck," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Apr. 2017
20. "Freedom, Foreknowledge and Dependence: A Dialectical Intervention" (with Andrew Law), Society of Christian Philosophers, Pacific Regional Meeting, Apr. 2017
19. "Is Semicompatibilism Unstable?" II Blasco Disputatio: Does Free Will Require Alternative Possibilities?, University of Valencia, Sep. 2016
18. "Semicompatibilism: No Ability to Do Otherwise Required," Free Will and Consciousness Summer School, Moscow Center for Consciousness Studies, Riga, Latvia, Jul. 2016
17. "Semicompatibilism: No Ability to Do Otherwise Required," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Mar. 2016
16. "Immortality Cynicism," Society of Christian Philosophers, Pacific Regional Meeting, Mar. 2016
15. "Taking Hobart Seriously," SoCal Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2015
14. "Taking Hobart Seriously," Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference, Florida State University, Sep. 2015
13. "Taking Hobart Seriously," Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (Poster Sessions), Aug. 2015

12. "Death's Badness and Time-Relativity: A Reply to Purves," The Immortality Project's Younger Scholars Workshop, May 2015
11. "A Puzzle About Death's Badness: Can Death be Bad for the Paradise-Bound?" Henry Janssen Memorial Conference, May 2015
10. "Free Will, Grace, and Anti-Pelagianism" (with Matthew Flummer), Evangelical Philosophical Society, Far West Regional Meeting, Apr. 2015
9. "Rationally Not Caring About Torture: A Reply to Johansson," International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying, Nov. 2014
8. "Ockhamism and Backward Causation," SoCal Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2014
7. "Divine Sovereignty and Divine Commands," Northeast Florida Student Philosophy Conference, Mar. 2013
6. "Moral Responsibility, Luck, and Compatibilism," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Mar. 2013
5. "Moral Responsibility, Luck, and Compatibilism," Florida Philosophical Association, Nov. 2012
4. "Moral Responsibility, Luck, and Compatibilism," Alabama Philosophical Society, Oct. 2012
3. "Conjoined Persons: Animalism and the Implications of Conjoined Twinning," University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Philosophy Graduate Conference, May 2012
2. "Conjoined Persons: Animalism and the Implications of Conjoined Twinning," North Georgia Student Philosophy Conference, Apr. 2012
1. "Conjoined Persons: Animalism and the Implications of Conjoined Twinning," University of South Florida Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Mar. 2012

COMMENTARIES

4. "Reply to Duncan Purves's 'Desire Satisfaction, Death, and Time,'" Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Aug. 2017
3. "Reply to Phil Robichaud and Jan Willem Wieland's 'Blame Transfer,'" Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Aug. 2015
2. "Reply to Tyler Paytas's 'I'm Sorry I Cared: The Relationship between Agency and Apology,'" Florida State University Graduate Philosophy Conference on Free Will and Moral Responsibility, Sep. 2012
1. "Reply to Ron Claypool's 'Fun with Body Swapping,'" University of Florida/ Florida State University Graduate Philosophy Conference, Feb. 2012

INTENSIVE SUMMER SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS

Free Will and Consciousness Summer School, Moscow Center for Consciousness Studies, Riga, Latvia, Jul. 2016

The Immortality Project's Younger Scholars Workshop, University of California, Riverside, May 2015

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate Research Assistant to Howard Wettstein, "The Fabric of Faith," Spring 2016

Graduate Research Assistant to John Martin Fischer, *Our Fate: Essays on God and Free Will*, Summer 2015

TEACHING (AS INSTRUCTOR) (* = UPPER DIVISION)

Introduction to Logic, University of California, Riverside, Summer 2017

Mortal Questions*, University of California, Riverside, Summer 2015

TEACHING (AS TEACHING ASSISTANT) (* = UPPER DIVISION)

Formal Logic*, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2017

Introduction to Critical Thinking, University of California, Riverside, Spring 2017

Philosophy of Law*, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2017

Introduction to Logic, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2016

Contemporary Moral Issues, University of California, Riverside, Summer 2016

Introduction to Logic, University of California, Riverside, Spring 2016

Contemporary Moral Issues, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2016

Evil, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2015

Introduction to Logic, University of California, Riverside, Spring 2015

Biomedical Ethics, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2015

Introduction to Law and Society, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2014

Formal Logic*, University of California, Riverside, Summer 2014

Introduction to Symbolic Logic*, Florida State University, Spring 2013

Philosophy of Religion*, Florida State University, Fall 2012

Introduction to Philosophy, Florida State University, Summer 2012

Ethical Issues and Life Choices, Florida State University, Spring 2012

Reasoning and Critical Thinking, Florida State University, Fall 2011

TEACHING TRAINING

Philosophy Department Course Design Workshop, University of California, Riverside, 2016

Teaching Assistant Orientation, Teaching Assistant Development Program, University of California, Riverside, 2014

Philosophy Department Teaching Workshop, University of California, Riverside, 2013-2014

Workshop on Intercultural Communication and Appreciating Student Diversity in the Classroom, Program for Instructional Excellence, Florida State University, 2012

Teaching Certificate, Program for Instructional Excellence, Florida State University, 2011

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Modal Logic (Directed Study), Michael Nelson, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2016

Agency and Time, Michael Nelson, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2015

Manipulation Arguments (Directed Study), John Fischer, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2015

Supererogation, Coleen Macnamara, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2015

Kant's Moral Theory, Andy Reath, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2014

Freedom and Foreknowledge (Directed Study), John Fischer, University of California, Riverside, Spring 2014

Metaphysics Proseminar, John Perry, University of California, Riverside, Spring 2014

Intermediate Logic, Erich Reck, University of California, Riverside, Spring 2014

Aristotle's *De Anima*, Jozef Muller, University of California, Riverside, Spring 2014

Death and Immortality, John Fischer, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2014

Personal Identity, John Perry, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2014

Epistemology Proseminar, Eric Schwitzgebel, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2014

Kierkegaard, Mark Wrathall, University of California, Riverside, Winter 2014

Frege, Erich Reck, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2013

Frankfurt-Style Cases (Directed Study), John Fischer, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2013

Value Theory Proseminar, Andy Reath, University of California, Riverside, Fall 2013

Metaphysics and Epistemology Core Course, Stephen Kearns, Florida State University, Spring 2013

Action and Free Action, Al Mele and Marcela Herdova, Florida State University, Fall 2012

Religion and Ethics, David McNaughton, Florida State University, Fall 2012

Plato's Metaphysics and Ethics, Russ Dancy, Florida State University, Fall 2012

Luck and Free Will (Directed Independent Study), Al Mele, Florida State University, Summer 2012

Early Modern Philosophy, John Roberts, Florida State University, Spring 2012

Ethics Core Course, David McNaughton, Florida State University, Spring 2012

Free Will, Al Mele and Justin Capes, Florida State University, Fall 2011

Moral Responsibility, Randy Clarke, Florida State University, Fall 2011

Issues in Composition and Personal Identity, Stephen Kearns, Florida State University, Fall 2011

AWARDS AND HONORS

Departmental Teaching Excellence Award, Philosophy Department, University of California, Riverside, 2016-2017

Travel Award, The John Templeton Foundation, Manipulation and Moral Responsibility in Ethics and Philosophy of Religion Conference, University of Edinburgh, Jul. 2016

Distinguished Chancellor's Fellowship, University of California, Riverside, 2013-2014

Phi Beta Kappa, Florida State University, Dec. 2010

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association

Society for the Philosophy of Agency

International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Co-Organizer, Second Annual UCR Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 2018

Session Chair, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Aug. 2017

Workshop Coordinator, Agency Workshop, University of California, Riverside, 2015-2017

Session Chair, UCR Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, June 2017

Co-Organizer, Inaugural UCR Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 2017

Session Chair, Society of Christian Philosophers, Pacific Regional Meeting, Apr. 2017

Referee, *Dialectica*, *Ergo*, *Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, 2017

Session Chair, Manipulation and Moral Responsibility in Ethics and Philosophy of Religion Conference, University of Edinburgh, Jul. 2016

Session Chair, Society of Christian Philosophers, Pacific Regional Meeting, Mar. 2016

Referee, *Dialectica*, *Dialogue*, *Erkenntnis*, *Ratio*, *Synthese*, 2016

High School Ethics Bowl Judge, Cal Poly Pomona, Jan. 2016

Session Chair, SoCal Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2015

Referee, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophia*, 2015

Session Chair, SoCal Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2014

Session Chair, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Apr. 2014

Referee, Florida State University Graduate Philosophy Conference on Free Will and Moral Responsibility, Sep. 2012

Chair, Program Committee, Florida State University Graduate Philosophy Conference on Free Will and Moral Responsibility, Sep. 2012

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Committee Member, First Generation Program, University of California, Riverside, 2017-2018

Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy Department, University of California, Riverside, 2016-2018

Graduate Student Representative, Highlander Day (for Prospective Students), University of California, Riverside, Apr. 2016

Committee Member, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Programs, University of California, Riverside, 2015-2017

REFERENCES

John Martin Fischer (Dissertation Chair)
University of California, Riverside
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Dana Kay Nelkin
University of California, San Diego
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Adam Harmer
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eschwitz@ucr.edu