

TAYLOR W. CYR

Curriculum Vitae

Samford University
Department of Philosophy
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

History of Philosophy, Logic, Philosophy of Mind

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, **Samford University**, 2019-present

Lecturer, **Washington University in St. Louis**, 2018-2019

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, **University of California, Riverside**, 2018

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

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

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

ARTICLES

19. "Taking Hobart Seriously," *Philosophia*, forthcoming.
18. "Semicompatibilism and Moral Responsibility for Actions and Omissions: In Defense of Symmetrical Requirements," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 99 (2), 2021: 349-363.
17. "Freedom, Foreknowledge, and Dependence: A Dialectical Intervention" (with Andrew Law), *American Philosophical Quarterly* 57 (2), 2020: 145-154.
16. "Timelessness and Freedom," *Synthese* 197, 2020: 4439-4453.
15. "Atemporalism and Dependence," *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 87, 2020: 149-164.
14. "Manipulation and Constitutive Luck," *Philosophical Studies*, 177 (8), 2020: 2381-2394.
13. "Manipulation Arguments and Libertarian Accounts of Free Will," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 6 (1), 2020: 57-73.
12. "Why Compatibilists Must Be Internalists," *Journal of Ethics* 23 (4), 2019: 473-484.
11. "Moral Responsibility, Luck, and Compatibilism," *Erkenntnis* 84 (1), 2019: 193-214.
10. "Moral Responsibility without General Ability" (with Philip Swenson), *Philosophical Quarterly* 69 (1), 2019: 22-40.

9. "Carving a Life from Legacy: Free Will and Manipulation in Greg Egan's 'Reasons to Be Cheerful'," *Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy* 1, 2018: 1-15.
8. "Free Will, Grace, and Anti-Pelagianism" (with Matthew T. Flummer), *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 83 (2), 2018: 183-199.
7. "Is Semicompatibilism Unstable?" *Disputatio* 9 (45), 2017: 245-264.
6. "Semicompatibilism: No Ability to Do Otherwise Required," *Philosophical Explorations* 20 (3), 2017: 308-321.
5. "Moral Responsibility for Actions and Omissions: A New Challenge to the Asymmetry Thesis," *Philosophical Studies* 174 (12), 2017: 3153-3161.
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 CHAPTERS

5. "Free Will and (In)determinism in 'Hang the DJ,'" in Amber Bowen and John Donne (eds.), *Black Mirror and Theology*. Fortress Press, forthcoming.
4. "Compatibilists about Moral Responsibility and (Natural) Determinism Should Be Compatibilists about Moral Responsibility and Theological Determinism," in Leigh Vicens and Peter Furlong (eds.), *New Essays on Theological Determinism*. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.
3. "Election and Human Agency" (with Leigh Vicens), in Edwin Chr. Van Driel (ed.), *T&T Clark Companion to Election*. T&T Clark, forthcoming.
2. "Prenatal and Posthumous Nonexistence: Lucretius on the Harmlessness of Death," in Erin Dolgoy, Kimberly Hurd Hale, and Bruce Peabody (eds.), *Political Philosophies of Aging, Dying, and Death*. Routledge, forthcoming.
1. "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.

BOOK REVIEWS

2. Review of *Manipulated Agents: A Window to Moral Responsibility*, by Alfred R. Mele, *Philosophical Quarterly* 70, 2019: 207-209.
1. Review of *Causation and Free Will*, by Carolina Sartorio, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 15, 2018: 475-478.

PRESENTATIONS

- "Dependence and the Freedom to Do Otherwise"
- Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers Biennial Conference, Apr. 2021
 - Howard College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Roundtable, Samford University, Feb. 2021
 - Fischer Legacy Agency Workshop, Oct. 2019
- "'The Present Calamity in a True Perspective': C. S. Lewis on Learning in the Time of the Pandemic"
- The Association for Core Texts and Courses Annual Conference, Apr. 2021

- “The Inescapability of Moral Luck”
- Uppsala University Higher Seminar in Practical Philosophy, Mar. 2021
 - Blog Post at PEASoup.us, Oct. 2019
 - Alabama Philosophical Society, Sep. 2019
- “No Easy Compatibilism” (with Parker Gilley)
- Volitions, Intentions and Mental Causation: Theoretical and Experimental Approach Workshop, Nov. 2020
- “Dealing with Racism in the Western Intellectual Tradition”
- Samford University Mini-Conference on Teaching and Learning, Aug. 2020
- “The Fine-Tuning Argument for God’s Existence”
- Samford University Science and Religion Panel on Fine-Tuning, Oct. 2019
- “Moral Responsibility without General Ability” (with Philip Swenson)
- American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Jan. 2019
- “Time Travel and Determinism” (with Andrew Law and Jonah Nagashima)
- Northwest Student Philosophy Conference, May 2018
- “Manipulation and Constitutive Luck”
- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (Poster Sessions), Aug. 2017
 - American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Apr. 2017
- “Freedom, Foreknowledge and Dependence: A Dialectical Intervention” (with Andrew Law)
- Society of Christian Philosophers, Pacific Regional Meeting, Apr. 2017
- “Is Semicompatibilism Unstable?”
- II Blasco Disputatio: Does Free Will Require Alternative Possibilities?, University of Valencia, Sep. 2016
- “Semicompatibilism: No Ability to Do Otherwise Required”
- Free Will and Consciousness Summer School, Moscow Center for Consciousness Studies, Riga, Latvia, July 2016
 - American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Mar. 2016
- “Taking Hobart Seriously”
- SoCal Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2015
 - Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference, Florida State University, Sep. 2015
 - Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (Poster Sessions), Aug. 2015
- “Death’s Badness and Time-Relativity: A Reply to Purves”
- The Immorality Project’s Younger Scholars Workshop, May 2015
- “Rationally Not Caring About Torture: A Reply to Johansson”
- International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying, Nov. 2014
- “Moral Responsibility, Luck, and Compatibilism”
- American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Mar. 2013
 - Florida Philosophical Association, Nov. 2012
 - Alabama Philosophical Society, Oct. 2012

COMMENTARIES

- “Reply to Robert Hartman’s ‘If Vicious Character Constitutes Hell’s Punishment and Explains Its Fixity, then Probably All Will Be Saved’”
- Society of Christian Philosophers, Mountain-Pacific Conference, May 2021
- “Reply to Ryan Cummings and Adina Roskies’s ‘Frankfurt, Free Will, and the Problem of Self-Control’”
- American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Mar. 2018

“Reply to Duncan Purves’s ‘Desire Satisfaction, Death, and Time’”

- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Aug. 2017

“Reply to Phil Robichaud and Jan Willem Wieland’s ‘Blame Transfer’”

- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Aug. 2015

“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

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

Podcast: The Free Will Show (co-created and co-hosted with Matt Flummer)

- Season 2: Free Will and Determinism (10 episodes), Spring 2021
- Season 1: Introduction to Debates about Free Will (11 episodes), Fall 2020

Written

- “‘Libertarian Free Will’: How to Avoid Some Confusions,” on “The Ledger” Blog at *The London Lyceum*, 2021.
- “5 Books on Free Will,” on “The Ledger” Blog at *The London Lyceum*, 2021.
- “Time Travel and Causal Loops in Dark,” and philosophy.com (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series), 2020.
- “Learning in the Time of the Pandemic” (with Philip Swenson), on the “Moral Talk” Blog at *Psychology Today*, 2020.
- “Why (and How) Christians Should Study Philosophy,” *The Gospel Coalition*, 2020.
- “Manipulation and Moral Responsibility,” *1000-Word Philosophy*, 2019.
- “Time Travel,” *1000-Word Philosophy*, 2018. [Italian translation published by *L’Indiscreto*, 2019.]

Interviews

- “Free Will and Determinism: A Basic Introduction to Free Will,” Interview for *The Analytic Christian* YouTube Channel, July 2021
- “Manipulation and Compatibilism,” Interview for *The London Lyceum* Podcast, July 7, 2021
- “Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom,” for *Majesty of Reason* YouTube Channel, May 12, 2021
- “The Philosophy of WandaVision,” Interview for *Parker’s Pensées* Podcast and YouTube Channel, Mar. 15, 2021
- “Is Time Travel Possible?” Interview for *Parker’s Pensées* Podcast and YouTube Channel, Dec. 14, 2020
- “Does Timelessness Solve the Foreknowledge Paradox?” Interview for *Crash Course Apologetics (The Analytic Christian)* YouTube Channel, Nov. 4, 2020
- “Did You Freely Choose to Listen to This Episode?” Interview for *Parker’s Pensées* Podcast and YouTube Channel, Sep. 29, 2020
- “TENET Time Travel Explained by a Philosophy,” Interview for *Parker’s Pensées* Podcast and YouTube Channel, Sep. 29, 2020
- “Does God’s Foreknowledge Preclude Human Free Will?” Debate with Philip Swenson for *Capturing Christianity* YouTube Channel, Sep. 8, 2020
- “Divine Foreknowledge vs. Human Freedom,” Interview for *Crash Course Apologetics (The Analytic Christian)* YouTube Channel, July 2020

INTENSIVE SUMMER SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS

Adam Smith’s *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Core Texts Summer Seminar, Samford University, June 2021

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

The Immorality Project’s Younger Scholars Workshop, University of California, Riverside, May 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Samford University

Fall 2021

- Philosophical Ethics ("The Good Place and Philosophy")
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Cultural Perspectives I

Spring 2021

- German Idealism (independent study)
- History of Philosophy: Modern and Contemporary
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Cultural Perspectives II

Fall 2020

- History of Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval (independent study)
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Cultural Perspectives I (two sections)

Spring 2020 (second half online due to coronavirus)

- Metaphysics
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Cultural Perspectives II

Fall 2019

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Cultural Perspectives I (two sections)

Washington University in St. Louis

Spring 2019

- Biomedical Ethics
- Introduction to Environmental Ethics
- Present Moral Problems

Fall 2018

- Introduction to Environmental Ethics (two sections)
- Present Moral Problems

University of California, Riverside

Summer 2017

- Introduction to Logic

Summer 2015

- Mortal Questions

AWARDS AND HONORS

Phi Kappa Phi, Samford Chapter, initiated 2021

Course Development Grant, William E. And Wydoline H. Hull Fund for Christian Scholarship, Samford University, 2020

- Course: "Free Will and Predestination," to be offered beginning Fall 2022

Faculty Development Grant, Samford University, 2020

- Project: "Evaluating History-Sensitive Structuralism," 2021-2022

Faculty Diversity Development Grant (with Julianne Sandberg), Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives, 2020

- Project: "Antiracism and Antiracist Pedagogy Reading Group," 2020-2021

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, July 2016

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Alabama Philosophical Society

International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying

Society for the Philosophy of Agency

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Book Referee

- 2021: Palgrave (proposal)
- 2020: Oxford University Press (proposal), Routledge (one manuscript; one proposal)

Journal Referee

- 2021: *Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Faith and Philosophy, Journal of Analytic Theology, Journal of Ethics, Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, Theoria*
- 2020: *Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Croatian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Philosophia, Philosophia Christi, Philosophical Studies, Review of Metaphysics, Synthese, Topoi*
- 2019: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Journal of Ethics, Philosophia, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Topoi*
- 2018: *American Philosophical Quarterly, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Journal of Ethics, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Synthese*
- 2017: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, Ergo, Journal of Analytic Theology, Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy, Philosophical Papers, Review of Philosophy and Psychology*
- 2016: *Dialectica, Dialogue, Erkenntnis, Ratio, Synthese*
- 2015: *Erkenntnis, Philosophia*

Editor, PhilPapers.org's "Topics in Free Will" Category, 2018-present

Director of Social Media, International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying, 2019-2020

Conference Referee, Second Annual UCR Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 2018; Inaugural UCR Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 2017; Florida State University Graduate Philosophy Conference on Free Will and Moral Responsibility, 2012

Conference Session Chair, The Association for Core Texts and Courses Annual Conference, Apr. 2021; Washington University Workshop in Ethics, Oct. 2018; Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Aug. 2017; UCR Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, June 2017; Society of Christian Philosophers, Pacific Regional Meeting, Apr. 2017; Manipulation and Moral Responsibility in Ethics and Philosophy of Religion Conference, University of Edinburgh, July 2016; American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Apr. 2014

Conference Co-Organizer, Second Annual UCR Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 2018; Inaugural UCR Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, 2017

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

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

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

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Samford University

- Hiring Committee Member, Nursing Position, 2021
- Faculty-Led Cadre, “C. S. Lewis’s *Mere Christianity*,” Spring 2021
- “Antiracism and Antiracist Pedagogy Reading Group” (three meetings) co-organized and co-led with Julianne Sandberg, 2020-2021
- Discussion on “Dealing with Racism in the Western Intellectual Tradition” with 2020-2021 Howard Scholars, Sep. 2020
- Faculty-Led Cadre, “Does Science Support Naturalism or Theism?” Spring 2020
- Philosophy Reading Group on Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*, Fall 2019
- Discussion on “Time Travel” with 2019-2020 Howard Scholars, Sep. 2019

Washington University in St. Louis

- Student Advisor for First-Years and Juniors, Philosophy Department, 2018-2019

University of California, Riverside

- Committee Member, First Generation Program, 2017-2018
- Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy Department, 2016-2018
- Graduate Student Representative, Highlander Day (for Prospective Students), Apr. 2016
- Committee Member, Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Programs, 2015-2017

REFERENCES

John Martin Fischer
University of California, Riverside
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Derk Pereboom
Cornell University
dp346@cornell.edu

Dana Kay Nelkin
University of California, San Diego
dnelkin@ucsd.edu

Michael Nelson
University of California, Riverside
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Carolina Sartorio
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Eric Schwitzgebel
University of California, Riverside
eschwitz@ucr.edu