

JOSHUA MAY

UCSB Dept. of Philosophy
5631 South Hall
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Curriculum Vitae

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EMPLOYMENT

Cuesta College

Adjunct Professor

Fall 2010

University of California, Santa Barbara

Teaching Associate (Instructor), Teaching Assistant

2006-2010

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Ph.D. (in progress), Philosophy

2011 (Spring)

Dissertation: *The Possibility of Acting from Duty* (tentative title)

Committee: Aaron Zimmerman (chair), Matthew Hanser, Michael Rescorla

Visiting Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

2009 (Fall)

Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

M.A. & C.Phil., Philosophy

2008 (Spring)

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS)

B.A., Philosophy

2005 (Spring)

AREAS

Areas of Specialization

Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Action (incl. Free Will), Ethics (esp. History of Ethics & Meta-ethics)

Areas of Competence

Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Modern Philosophy

RESEARCH

Articles (all peer-reviewed & lead author if joint)

“What in the World Is Weakness of Will?” (w/Richard Holton) forthcoming, *Philosophical Studies*.

“Relational Desires and Empirical Evidence against Psychological Egoism” forthcoming, *European Journal of Philosophy*.

“Practical Interests, Relevant Alternatives, and Knowledge Attributions”

(w/Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Jay G. Hull, and Aaron Zimmerman)

Review of Philosophy & Psychology (formerly *European Review of Philosophy*), Edouard Machery, Tania Lombrozo, & Joshua Knobe (guest eds.), Vol. 1, No. 2 (2010), pp. 265–273.

Book Reviews

- Review of *Experimental Philosophy* (2008, OUP) ed. by Joshua Knobe & Shaun Nichols, in *Philosophical Psychology* Vol. 23, No. 5 (October 2010), pp. 713–717.
- Review of *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality behind the Curtain* (2009, McSweeney’s) by Tamler Sommers, in *Metapsychology* Vol. 13, No. 53 (2009).
- Review of *Willing, Wanting, Waiting* (2009, OUP) by Richard Holton, in *Metapsychology* Vol. 13, No. 23 (2009).

Work in Progress

- “Humeanism, Internalism, and Moral Fetishism”
- “Willpower and the Humean Theory of Motivation”
- “Egoism, Empathy, and Self-Other Merging”
- “Psychological Egoism,” for the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (10,000 words)

Dissertation Summary

Modern rationalist, especially Kantian, accounts of human motivation attempt to at least make room for something like the psychological capacity to act from duty. Kant famously argued that only such actions have moral worth, but I focus on a more descriptive issue. I argue that this Kantian capacity requires at least two others: (a) the ability to act on ultimately other-regarding motives, and (b) the ability of our normative beliefs to produce new motivations in us without the assistance of an antecedent desire. This requires rejecting both *psychological egoism* and *motivational Humeanism*. By focusing on recent philosophical discussions and empirical work, I argue that these two rival views are implausible. While I do not purport to have conclusively argued for the existence of the capacity to act from duty, I contend that this defense against two main challengers renders it a live possibility.

Discussions of (or Citations to) My Work

- Keith DeRose, “Contextualism, Contrastivism, and X-Phi Surveys” (draft)
- Jonathan Schaffer & Joshua Knobe, “Contrastive Knowledge Surveyed” (forthcoming, *Noûs*)
- Jeremy Fantl & Matthew McGrath, *Knowledge in an Uncertain World* (2009, OUP)
- Jessica Brown, “Experimental Philosophy, Contextualism and Subject-Sensitive Invariantism” (forthcoming, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*)
- Liane Young, Shaun Nichols, & Rebecca Saxe, “Investigating the Neural and Cognitive Basis of Moral Luck: It’s Not What You Do but What You Know” (*Review of Philosophy and Psychology*)
- Adam Feltz & Chris Zarpentine, “Do You Know More When it Matters Less?” (forthcoming, *Philosophical Psychology*)
- Wesley Buckwalter, “Knowledge Isn’t Closed on Saturday” (*Review of Philosophy and Psychology*)
- James Beebe, “Experimental Epistemology” (forthcoming, *Continuum Companion to Epistemology*)
- N. Ángel Pinillos, “Knowledge, Experiments and Practical Interests” (manuscript)
- N. Ángel Pinillos “Recent Work in Experimental Epistemology” (manuscript)

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Prize	APA Pacific Division	March 2010
Graduate Student Travel Grant	UCSB, Graduate Division	Fall 2008
Ralph W. Church Fellowship	UCSB, Philosophy Dept.	2005–2006
Stephen Humphrey Fellowship	UCSB, Philosophy Dept.	2005–2006

PRESENTATIONS

Key: [R] = refereed [I] = invited, not refereed [U] = accepted, but unable to attend

“Egoism, Empathy, and Self-Other Merging”

Spindel Conference, Empathy & Ethics Univ. of Memphis Oct. 2010 [R]

“What in the World is Weakness of Will?”

Eastern APA, Exp. Phil. Society Boston, MA Dec. 2010 [I]
 Pacific APA, Colloquium Session San Francisco, CA Apr. 2010 [R]
 Graduate Philosophy Conference University at Buffalo Oct. 2009 [R]
 Fredonia Philosophical Society SUNY Fredonia Oct. 2009 [I]
 Northwest Philosophy Conference Pacific University Oct. 2009 [R,U]

“Empirical Evidence against Psychological Egoism”

Society for Philosophy & Psychology (poster) Bloomington, IN Jun. 2009 [R,U]
 Philosophy Conference Univ. of South Alabama Sept. 2008 [R]
 Graduate Philosophy Conference Virginia Tech Nov. 2006 [R]

“Philosophy 101 and Experimental Philosophy”

Pacific APA, Teaching Phil. Committee Session San Francisco, CA Apr. 2010 [R]

“Practical Interests, Relevant Alternatives, and Knowledge Attributions”

Philosophy Seminar, E. Machery Calif. Institute of Tech. Apr. 2009 [I]

(Note: Multiple papers also presented at UCSB’s non-refereed Graduate Colloquium Series.)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor (responsible for syllabus and lectures—plus grading for PHIL 206, 130, & 134)

Course Title	Course #	Year	Term	University	# of Students
Intro to Philosophy	PHIL 206	2010	Fall	Cuesta	40
Freedom & Determinism	PHIL 130	2010	Spring	UCSB	37
Critical Thinking	PHIL 3	2010	Winter	UCSB	145
Metaphysics	PHIL 100E	2009	Summer	UCSB	45
Intro to Philosophy	PHIL 1	2009	Spring	UCSB	130
Moral Psychology	PHIL 134	2009	Winter	UCSB	40

Teaching Assistant (responsible for leading discussion sections and grading)

Course Title	Course #	Year	Term	University	# of Students
Intro to Ethics	PHIL 4	2010	Summer	UCSB	50
Ethics	PHIL 100A	2008	Fall	UCSB	60
Metaphysics	PHIL 100E	2008	Summer	UCSB	40
Late Modern Philosophy	PHIL 20C	2008	Spring	UCSB	60
Intro to Philosophy	PHIL 1	2008	Winter	UCSB	65
Ancient Philosophy	PHIL 20A	2007	Fall	UCSB	75
Philosophy of Mind	PHIL 100D	2007	Spring	UCSB	55
Critical Thinking	PHIL 3	2007	Winter	UCSB	65
Intro to Ethics	PHIL 4	2006	Fall	UCSB	60

(Note: UCSB course #s 100 and above are upper-division.)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

To the Profession

Referee (journal articles)	<i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i>	2010
	<i>European Journal of Philosophy</i>	2010
Referee (book proposals)	Oxford University Press (x3)	2009, 2010
Assistant to General Editors	<i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>	2009–present
Leaf Editor	<i>PhilPapers</i> , D. Chalmers & D. Bourget (eds.)	2009–present
Contributor	<i>Experimental Philosophy</i> (weblog)	2008–present
Contributor	<i>Philosophy CFPs</i> (weblog)	2008–present
Copyeditor & Formatter	<i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>	2006–2009
Web designer	<i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>	2009
Web designer	<i>Populus</i> (an undergraduate journal of philosophy)	2006

To the University & Department

Graduate Representative	Philosophy Department, UCSB	2006–2009
Assembly Member	Graduate Student Association, UCSB	2005–2006
Webmaster Assistant	Philosophy Department, UCSB	2009–present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association	Student Member	2005–present
Society for Philosophy & Psychology	Student Member	2008–present
Experimental Philosophy Society	Student Member	2009–present
Hume Society	Student Member	2010–present

REFERENCES

Aaron Zimmerman (UCSB)

Associate Professor
 Department of Philosophy
 azimmerman@philosophy.ucsb.edu

Matthew Hanser (UCSB)

Professor
 Department of Philosophy
 hanser@philosophy.ucsb.edu

Michael Rescorla (UCSB)

Associate Professor
 Department of Philosophy
 rescorla@philosophy.ucsb.edu

Richard Holton (MIT)

Professor
 Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
 holton@mit.edu

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Duke)

Chauncey Stillman Professor of Ethics and
 Kenan Institute for Ethics
 Co-Director, MacArthur Law and Neuroscience Project
 Department of Philosophy
 wsa@dartmouth.edu

Thomas Holden (UCSB), *teaching reference*

Associate Professor
 Department of Philosophy
 tholden@philosophy.ucsb.edu

GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN

Key: * = course audited μ = course at MIT (instead of UCSB)

Metaphysics & Epistemology

Freedom & Determinism	(Anthony Brueckner)	Perception & Singular Thought	(Kevin Falvey)*
Contextualism & Invariantism	(Aaron Zimmerman)	Self-Knowledge	(Anthony Brueckner)*
Consciousness & Dualism	(Kevin Falvey)	Epistemology of Agency	(Kevin Falvey)*
Computational Theory of Mind	(Michael Rescorla)	Epistemology & Skepticism	(Anthony Brueckner)*
First-Person Thought	(Kevin Falvey)*	Conceptual Role Semantics	(Michael Rescorla)*
Logical Positivism	(Michael Rescorla)*	A Priori Knowledge	(Aaron Zimmerman)*

Ethics & Value Theory

Moral Psychology	(Aaron Zimmerman)	Meta-Ethics	(Chris McMahon)*
Practical Reason	(Matthew Hanser)	Moral Psychology	(Richard Holton)*μ
British Moralists	(Aaron Zimmerman)	Personal Identity & Ethics	(Caspar Hare & Julia Markovits)*μ
Moral Epistemology	(Aaron Zimmerman)	Promises, Etc.	(Matthew Hanser)*
Moral Sense Theory	(Aaron Zimmerman)		

History of Philosophy

Leibniz	(Thomas Holden)	Kant	(Aaron Zimmerman)*
Berkeley	(Thomas Holden)	Hume	(Thomas Holden)*
Hume on Religion	(Thomas Holden)		

Logic, Math, & Language

Modern Logic I	(Nathan Salmon)	Theories of Truth	(Michael Rescorla)*
Modern Logic II	(Nathan Salmon)	Philosophy of Math	(Michael Rescorla)*
Saul Kripke	(Nathan Salmon)*	Frege	(Michael Rescorla)*