

# JOSH MAY

UAB Philosophy HB 425  
900 13th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-1260

joshmay@uab.edu  
(205) 934-8920  
www.joshdmay.com

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## APPOINTMENTS

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Philosophy Department  
Associate Professor (with tenure), August 2018 – present  
Assistant Professor, August 2013 – 2018  
Monash University, Melbourne Australia, Philosophy Department  
Lecturer, July 2011 – July 2013 (U.S. equivalent: Visiting Assistant Professor)

## EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara Ph.D., Philosophy, June 2011  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Visiting Student, Fall 2009  
California State University, Sacramento B.A., Philosophy, June 2005

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

*Specialization:* Ethics (theoretical and applied), Epistemology  
*Competence:* Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, History of Modern Philosophy

## BOOK

*Regard for Reason in the Moral Mind* (Oxford University Press, 2018)  
Argues for an empirically-informed rationalism about moral psychology and defends ordinary moral knowledge and virtue against various scientific challenges.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES (15)

May, J. (forthcoming). “Précis of *Regard for Reason in the Moral Mind*.” *Behavioral & Brain Sciences*. [Target discussion to appear with 20+ commentaries and my replies.]  
King, M. & May, J. (2018). “Moral Responsibility & Mental Illness: A Call for Nuance.” *Neuroethics* 11(1):11-22.  
Feltz, A. & May, J. (2017). “The Means/Side-Effect Distinction in Moral Cognition: A Meta-Analysis” *Cognition* 166: 314–327.  
May, J. (2016). “Emotional Reactions to Human Reproductive Cloning.” *Journal of Medical Ethics* 42(1):26-30. [Made “Editor’s Choice.”]

- May, J. (2014). "Does Disgust Influence Moral Judgment?" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92(1):125-141.
- May, J. (2014). "On the Very Concept of Free Will." *Synthese* 191(12):2849-2866.
- May, J. (2014). "Moral Judgment and Deontology: Empirical Developments." *Philosophy Compass* 9(110):745-755.
- Shepard, J. & May, J. (2014). "Does Belief in Dualism Protect against Maladaptive Psycho-social Responses to Deep Brain Stimulation?" *American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience* 5(4):40-42.
- Allen, T. & May, J. (2014). "Does Opacity Undermine Privileged Access?" *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 22(4):617-629. [Critical Notice]
- May, J. (2013). "Skeptical Hypotheses and Moral Skepticism." *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 43(3):341-359.
- May, J. (2013). "Because I Believe It's the Right Thing to Do." *Ethical Theory & Moral Practice* 16(4):791-808.
- May, J. & Holton, R. (2012). "What in the World Is Weakness of Will?" *Philosophical Studies* 157(3): 341-360.
- May, J. (2011). "Egoism, Empathy, and Self-Other Merging." *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 49(s1): 25-39, Spindel Supplement: Empathy & Ethics, Remy Debes (ed.), Emerging Scholar Prize Essay. (Other contributors include: Stephen Darwall, John Deigh, Peter Goldie, Jesse Prinz, Michael Slote.)
- May, J. (2011). "Relational Desires and Empirical Evidence against Psychological Egoism." *European Journal of Philosophy* 19(1): 39-58.
- May, J., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Hull, J. G. & Zimmerman, A. (2010). "Practical Interests, Relevant Alternatives, and Knowledge Attributions: an Empirical Study." *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* 1(2): 265-273, Special Issue, guest editors: E. Machery, T. Lombrozo, & J. Knobe.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS (5)

- Kumar, V. & May, J. (forthcoming). "How to Debunk Moral Beliefs." *Methodology and Moral Philosophy*, eds. Jussi Suikkanen & Antti Kauppinen. Routledge.
- May, J. (2018). "The Limits of Emotion in Moral Judgment." *The Many Moral Rationalisms*, eds. K. Jones & F. Schroeter, Oxford University Press.
- May, J. (2018). "The Limits of Appealing to Disgust." *The Moral Psychology of Disgust*, eds. N. Strohminger & V. Kumar, Rowman & Littlefield.
- May, J. (2017). "Getting Less Cynical about Virtue" [commentary on C. D. Batson], *Moral Psychology*, Vol. 5: *Virtue & Character*, W. Sinnott-Armstrong & C. Miller (eds.), MIT Press, pp. 45-52.
- May, J. (2016). "Repugnance as Performance Error: The Role of Disgust in Bioethical Intuitions." *The Ethics of Human Enhancement: Understanding the Debate*, Stephen Clarke et al (eds.), OUP.

#### REFERENCES WORKS (4)

- May, J. & Kumar, V. (2018). "Moral Reasoning and Emotion." *The Routledge Handbook of Moral Epistemology*, eds. K. Jones, M. Timmons, & A. Zimmerman. Routledge.

- May, J. (2017). "Empathy and Intersubjectivity." *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Empathy*, Heidi Maibom (ed.), Routledge.
- May, J. (2017) "Empirical Work in Moral Psychology." *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. (5,000 words) [Originally published in 2012; updated and expanded in 2017.]
- May, J. (2011). "Psychological Egoism." *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. (10,000 words).

### BOOK REVIEWS & COMMENTARIES (6)

- "A Limited Skeptical Threat," commentary on John Doris's *Talking to Our Selves*, forthcoming in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, Vol. 41, e52 (2018): 35-6.
- Review of *Bound: Essays on Free Will & Responsibility* (by Shaun Nichols, 2015, OUP), the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (2016): 416-17.
- Review of *Just Babies: The Origins of Good and Evil* (by Paul Bloom, 2013, Crown), *Metapsychology* Vol. 18, No. 33 (2014).
- Review of *Experimental Philosophy* (ed. by Joshua Knobe & Shaun Nichols, 2008, OUP), *Philosophical Psychology* Vol. 23, No. 5 (2010), pp. 711-715.
- Review of *Willing, Wanting, Waiting* (by Richard Holton, 2009, OUP), *Metapsychology* Vol. 13, No. 23 (2009).
- Review of *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality behind the Curtain* (by Tamler Sommers, 2009, McSweeney's), *Metapsychology* Vol. 13, No. 53 (2009). [Featured on *Arts & Letters Daily*.]

### WORK IN PROGRESS

- An experimental paper on intuitions about decision-theory puzzles (in progress)
- Two papers on how moral exemplars motivate emulation (early stages)
- A paper on the challenges of correcting for implicit bias (very early stages)
- An edited volume on moral responsibility & mental illness (very early stages)

### AWARDS, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS

- Outstanding Professor Award, UAB's Early Medical School Acceptance Program, class of 2017
- Emerging Scholar Prize, Spindel Conference on Empathy & Ethics, U. of Memphis, Oct. 2010  
(*External referees*: Martha Nussbaum, Russ Shafer-Landau, and Lori Gruen)
- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Prize, American Philosophical Association, March 2010
- Grad Student Fellowships, Church & Humphrey Funds, UC Santa Barbara, 2005-06

### GRANTS & STIPENDS [competitive]

- Grant, Emulating Moral Exemplars, John Templeton Foundation via Duke University, 2017-18
- Stipend, Summer Seminar in Neuroscience & Philosophy, Duke University, Jun. 2017

UAB Faculty Development Grant, “Moral Responsibility and Mental Illness” w/Matt King, May 2017  
 UAB Center for Teaching and Learning, Affordable Instructional Materials grant, 2017-18  
 Travel Bursary, Institut de Recherches Cliniques de Montréal, Apr. 2015  
 Dean’s Humanities Grant for “Contours of Moral Judgment,” UAB, Apr. 2015  
 Stipend, CEU Summer Seminar on Moral Epistemology, Budapest, Hungary, Jul. 2014  
 Travel Grants, Monash University Faculty of Arts, Dec. 2011 & Jul. 2012  
 Stipend, Big Questions in Free Will Summer Seminar, Florida State University, Jun. 2012  
 School Research Funding for “Conceptions of Free Will,” Monash University, Jun. 2012  
 Stipend, Summer Seminar on Skepticism, Purdue University, Jun. 2011

### PRESENTATIONS (53) [\* = refereed]

American Phil. Assoc. – Pacific Division, author-meets-critics session on my book, Vancouver, Apr. 2019  
 \* Australasian Society for Philosophy & Psychology, author-meets-critics session on my book, Sydney Australia, Dec. 2018 (Critics: Daniel Cohen, Philip Gerrans, Robin Zheng)  
 Alabama Philosophical Society, Workshop on Neuroscience & Philosophy, Pensacola, FL, Sept. 2018  
 \* Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Ann Arbor MI, July 2018  
 Canadian Philosophical Association, author-meets-critics session on my book, Montréal, June 2018 (Critics: Heidi Maibom, Neil Sinhababu, Christine Tappolet)  
 \* American Philosophical Association – Pacific, Colloquium, San Diego CA, Mar. 2018  
 \* Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, San Antonio TX, Mar. 2018  
 University of Alabama in Huntsville, Philosophy Dept., Feb. 2018  
 \* Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Baltimore MD, June 2017  
 American Philosophical Association - Pacific, Invited Symposium, Seattle WA, Apr. 2017  
 Cal State Fullerton Symposium on Moral Sentimentalism, Fullerton, CA Mar. 2017  
 Tennessee Philosophical Association, author-meets-critics session, Nashville, Nov. 2016  
 \* Tennessee Value and Agency Conference, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual, Knoxville, Oct. 2016  
 Amer. Phil. Assoc., Session organized by Committee on Asian Philosophy, San Francisco, Apr. 2016  
 \* New Methods of Ethics, Univ. of Birmingham (UK), Sept. 2016  
 \* Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Austin TX, June 2016 (poster)  
 \* Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Louisville KY, Mar. 2016  
 \* Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis TN, Feb. 2016  
 \* Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola FL, Oct. 2015  
 Prindle Institute for Ethics, DePauw University, Jul. 2015  
 \* Neuroethics Conference for Young Researchers, IRCM Montréal Québec, Apr. 2015 (poster)

- \* Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, Aug. 2015
- \* Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, New Orleans, Apr. 2015
- \* Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis TN, Mar. 2015
- \* University at Buffalo, Experimental Philosophy Conference, Sept. 2014
- Southern Soc. for Philosophy & Psychology, Invited Symposium, Charleston SC, Feb. 2014
- University of Melbourne in Australia, Human Enhancement Workshop, Mar. 2014
- Monash University in Australia, Philosophy Department, Mar. 2014
- \* Georgetown University, Conference on Emotions, Apr. 2014
- University of Mississippi, Dept. of Philosophy & Religion, Apr. 2014
- \* American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Colloquium Session, Dec. 2011
- University of Melbourne, Ethics Workshop, Jan. 2012
- University of Sydney, Philosophy Dept., Oct. 2011
- \* Naturalisms in Ethics Conference, University of Auckland, New Zealand, Jul. 2011
- \* Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, New Orleans, Mar. 2011
- \* University at Buffalo, Experimental Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2013
- University of Melbourne, Philosophy Department, Aug. 2012
- Charles Stuart Univ. at Wagga Wagga, Philosophy Department, Apr. 2013
- Deakin University, Melbourne, Philosophy Department, Mar. 2013
- \* Australasian Association of Philosophy, Annual Conference, Jul. 2012
- Australian National University, Philosophy Department, Apr. 2012
- Macquarie University, Philosophy Department, May 2012
- \* Purdue University, Summer Seminar on Skepticisms, June. 2011
- La Trobe University, Philosophy Department, Mar. 2012
- \* University of Miami, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop on Mind & Ethics, Nov. 2010
- \* Spindel Conference on Empathy & Ethics, University of Memphis, Oct. 2010
- \* American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Colloquium Session, Apr. 2010
- \* University at Buffalo, Experimental Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2009
- American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Group Program, Dec. 2010
- State University of New York, Fredonia Philosophical Society, Oct. 2009
- \* University of South Alabama, Philosophy Conference, Sept. 2008
- \* Virginia Tech, Graduate Philosophy Conference on Ethics, Nov. 2006

#### COMMENTING (5)

Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Feb. 2016 (Justin Bell)

Southern Soc. for Philosophy & Psychology, New Orleans, Apr. 2015 (Mike Roche)  
 Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Mar. 2015 (Matt Waldschlagel)  
 American Philosophical Association, San Diego, Apr. 2014 (Kelly McCormick)  
 American Philosophical Association, San Diego, Apr. 2011 (Mark Wheeler & Dwight Furrow)

## TEACHING & SUPERVISION

### Independent Instructor (44 courses)

*Lower Division:* Bioethics [x14]; Intro to Philosophy [x8]; Contemporary Moral Issues [x2]; Intro to Ethics [x1]; Critical Thinking [x1].

*Upper Division:* Ethical Theory [x7]; Neuroethics [x4]; Moral Psychology [x3]; Philosophy of Mind [x2]; Freedom & Determinism [x1]; Metaphysics [x1].

### Curriculum Development

Courses: *Neuroethics* – PHL 402 (2016); *Philosophy Internship* – PHL 498 (2017).

*Ethics Track* for the Philosophy major (2017).

### Supervision

*Research Assistants:* Elizabeth Beckman (2017); Samantha Sandefur (2017), Clara Wan (2017), JaVarus Humphries (2018), Campbell Mackenzie (2018).

*Honors theses:* Timothy Allen (2012); Francis Li (2012); Brandon Murphy (2014).

*MA/PhD (Monash):* Richard Baker (2011); Christina Majoinen ('11); Parisa Vidifar ('12).

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### To the Profession

Referee for journals (58): *AJOB Neuroscience* (2017), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2013x2, 2015x2, 2017), *Cognition* (2016), *Dialectica* (2013, 2014), *Economics & Philosophy* (2012), *Ergo* (2014, 2017), *Erkenntnis* (2013, 2014), *Ethical Theory & Moral Practice* (2014x2, 2016), *European Journal of Philosophy* (2010), *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy* (2015), *Journal of Philosophical Research* (2013, 2015, 2017), *Journal of Value Inquiry* (2015), *Mind* (2014, 2017), *The Monist* (2011), *Neuroethics* (2014x2), *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (2011), *Philosophical Explorations* (2014), *Philosophical Papers* (2014), *Philosophical Psychology* (2011x2, 2012x2, 2013x2, 2014, 2017x2), *Philosophical Studies* (2010, 2012x2, 2013, 2015), *Philosophy Compass* (2013, 2014), *Philosophy of Science* (2017), *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research* (2010), *Public Affairs Quarterly* (2016), *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* (2013x2, 2015x2), *Synthese* (2014x2, 2015, 2016, 2018), *Utilitas* (2018).

Referee for book manuscripts (3): Oxford University Press (2014, 2018x2).

Referee for book proposals or chapters (9): Continuum Press (2012), Routledge Press (2011, 2016x2), Oxford University Press (2009, 2010x2, 2011, 2016).

Referee for conference papers (9): British Soc. for Ethical Theory (2015); Canadian Philosophical Association (2016; 2017); Central States Phil. Assoc. (2017), Soc. for Phil. & Psych. (2012, 2016, 2017, 2018), Southern Soc. for Phil. & Psych. (2013).

Executive Committee Member, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2018-2021 (3 year term)

Editor of 9 categories for *PhilPapers.org*, D. Chalmers & D. Bourget (eds.), 2009–present

Associate Faculty Member for *F1000Prime*, writing short recommendations of science articles

External examiner for Honours thesis, Australian National University, 2012

Contributor to blogs, *Philosophy CFPs* (2008–2011) and *Experimental Philosophy* (2008–present)

### To the University & Department

Member, Ethics Track Development Committee, 2016-2017

Member, Philosophy Internship Development Committee, 2016-2017

Organizer, Departmental Colloquium Series at UAB, 2013-present

Department Liaison, Online Teaching Network at UAB, 2015-present

Head Coach, UAB Ethics Bowl debate team, 2016-present

Assistant Coach, UAB Ethics Bowl debate team, 2014-2015

Member, Search Committee for Philosophy Dept. Chair, 2018

Member, Search Committee for NTE Assistant Professor, 2015-16

Speaker, “Morality & Rationality,” UAB Haddin Forum, Sept. 2017

Organizer, Colloquium (“Seminar”) Series, Monash University, 2012

Organizer, Mind & Morality Workshop, Monash University, July 2012

Talks: Galen Strawson, Michael Smith, Michelle Montague, Tristram McPherson, Monima Chadha.

Flexible Learning Coordinator, Philosophy Department, Monash University, 2012

Oversaw all 11 online philosophy courses, run primarily through Blackboard or Moodle.

### To Public/Outreach

Assistant to General Editors, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2009–present

Op-ed, “Why Do Politicians Appeal to Our Disgust?” *The Birmingham News*, May 2016

Op-ed, “What’s the Real Threat to Family Values?” *The Birmingham News*, Sept. 2015

Public talks: “Neuroscience & Free Will” (Feb. 2014), “Disgust in Politics” (Feb. 2016)

Interview on neuroethics, UAB’s *The Mix*, 2015

Quoted in story about crowd-sourced research, UAB’s *The Mix*, 2015

Copyeditor & Formatter, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2006–2009

Web designer, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2009-present (redesigned in 2009 & 2014)

**REFERENCES**

Richard Holton (Cambridge University) Professor of Philosophy

Jeanette Kennett (Macquarie University), Professor of Philosophy

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Duke Univ.), Chauncey Stillman Prof. of Ethics, Kenan Institute for Ethics

Aaron Zimmerman (UC Santa Barbara), Professor of Philosophy