

JOSHUA MAY

Monash University
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EMPLOYMENT

Monash University, Philosophy Dept., Melbourne Australia
Lecturer (U.S. equivalent: Visiting Assistant Professor), 2011-2014

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara Ph.D., Philosophy, 2011
Dissertation: *The Possibility of Acting from Duty*
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Visiting Student, Philosophy, 2009
California State University, Sacramento B.A., Philosophy, 2005

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Moral Psychology, Ethics (esp. Meta-ethics), Epistemology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Mind, Modern Philosophy, Metaphysics

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

- May, J. & Holton, R. (2012). "What in the World Is Weakness of Will?" *Philosophical Studies* 157:341-360.
- 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.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- "Empirical Work in Moral Psychology" (forthcoming), *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (6,000 words).
- "Psychological Egoism" (2011), *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (10,000 words).

REVIEWS

Review of *Experimental Philosophy* (2008, OUP) ed. by Joshua Knobe & Shaun Nichols, in *Philosophical Psychology* Vol. 23, No. 5 (2010), pp. 711–715.

Review of *Willing, Wanting, Waiting* (2009, OUP) by Richard Holton, in *Metapsychology* Vol. 13, No. 23 (2009).

Review of *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality behind the Curtain* (2009, McSweeney's) by Tamler Sommers, in *Metapsychology* Vol. 13, No. 53 (2009). [Featured on *Arts & Letters Daily*.]

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Because I Believe It’s the Right Thing to Do” (submitted)

“Skeptical Hypotheses and Moral Skepticism” (submitted)

“Toward a Naturalistic Motivational Rationalism” (submitted)

“Does Disgust Influence Moral Judgment?” (drafted)

“Motivational Externalism and Humeanism Disentangled” (drafted)

DISCUSSIONS OF MY WORK

Weakness of Will: Alfred Mele (OUP), George Newman, Joshua Knobe, & Paul Bloom (ms), Knobe et al. (*Annual Review of Psychology*), Carlos Mauro & Paulo Sousa (ms).

Egoism: John J. Tilley (ms).

Knowledge: Chandra Sripada & Jason Stanley (*Episteme*), Keith DeRose (*Philosophical Studies*), Jonathan Schaffer & Joshua Knobe (*Noûs*), Jonathan Schaffer & Zoltán Gendler Szabó (manuscript), Jeremy Fantl & Matthew McGrath (OUP), Jessica Brown, (*PPR & Synthese*), Don Fallis (*South.J.Phil.*), Liane Young, Shaun Nichols, & Rebecca Saxe, (*Review of Phil. and Psych.*), N. Ángel Pinillos (OUP & *Philosophy Compass*), Adam Feltz & Chris Zarpentine (*Phil. Psych.*), Wesley Buckwalter (*Review of Phil. and Psych. & Philosophy Compass*), James Beebe (*Continuum Companion to Epistemology*).

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

Emerging Scholar Prize, Spindel Conference on Empathy & Ethics, U. of Memphis, Oct. 2010

(*External referees*: Martha Nussbaum, Russ Shafer-Landau, and Lori Gruen)

Purdue Summer Seminar on Perceptual, Moral, & Religious Skepticism, \$5000 stipend, June 2011

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Prize, American Philosophical Association, March 2010

Graduate Student Travel Grant, UC Santa Barbara, Graduate Division, Fall 2008

Church & Humphrey Fellowships, UC Santa Barbara, Philosophy Dept., 2005–2006

PRESENTATIONS (refereed unless noted otherwise)

“Does Disgust Influence Moral Judgment?”

University of Melbourne, Philosophy Department, Aug. 2012 (invited)

“Toward a Naturalistic Motivational Rationalism”

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Colloquium Session, Dec. 2011
 University of Melbourne, Ethics Workshop, Jan. 2012 (invited)
 University of Sydney, Philosophy Dept., Oct. 2011 (invited)
 Naturalisms in Ethics Conference, University of Auckland, New Zealand, Jul. 2011
 Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, New Orleans, Mar. 2011
 Euro & American Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Montreal, Jul. 2011 (unable to attend)

“Skeptical Hypotheses and Moral Skepticism”

Purdue University, Summer Seminar on Scepticisms, June. 2011
 La Trobe University, Philosophy Department, Mar. 2012 (invited)

“Because I Believe It’s the Right Thing to Do”

University of Miami, 3rd Annual Workshop on Mind & Ethics, Nov. 2010

“Egoism, Empathy, and Self-Other Merging”

Spindel Conference on Empathy & Ethics, University of Memphis, Oct. 2010
 Building Bridges Conference, S. Illinois Univ. Carbondale, Nov. 2010 (unable to attend)

“What in the World is Weakness of Will?”

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Colloquium Session, Apr. 2010
 University at Buffalo, Graduate Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2009
 American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Group Program, Dec. 2010 (invited)
 State University of New York, Fredonia Philosophical Society, Oct. 2009 (invited)

“Relational Desires and Empirical Evidence against Psychological Egoism”

University of South Alabama, Philosophy Conference, Sept. 2008
 Virginia Tech, Graduate Philosophy Conference on Ethics, Nov. 2006

COMMENTING

APA Pacific Division, Commentator on Wheeler & Furrow, Apr. 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independent Instructor (Responsible for syllabus, lectures, office hours, managing TAs, sometimes grading.)

Ethics (upper division), Monash, 75 students
Intro to Philosophy: Time, Self, & Mind (w/Clarke-Doane), Monash, 250 students
Philosophy of Mind (upper division), Monash, 75 students
Intro to Philosophy, Cuesta, 40 students
Intro to Philosophy, UCSB, 130 students
Critical Thinking, UCSB, 145 students
Freedom & Determinism (upper division), UCSB, 35 students
Moral Psychology (upper division), UCSB, 40 students
Metaphysics (upper division), UCSB, 45 students

Teaching Assistant (Responsible at UCSB for leading discussion sections, holding office hours, and grading.)

Intro to Philosophy, 65 students
Intro to Ethics (x2), 50 students, 60 students
Critical Thinking, 65 students
Biomedical Ethics, 55 students
Ancient Philosophy, 75 students
Late Modern Philosophy, 60 students
Ethics (upper division), 60 students
Metaphysics (upper division) 40 students
Philosophy of Mind (upper division), 55 students

Supervision

Honors: main supervisor for 3 students (Monash)
 MA/PhD: associate supervisor for 3 students (Monash)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

To the Profession

Referee (journals): *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Studies* (2 times), *The Monist*,
European Journal of Philosophy, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Economics &*
Philosophy.
 Referee (books): Oxford University Press (5 times), Routledge
 Assistant to General Editors, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2009–present
 Editor (Middle & Leaf), *PhilPapers*, D. Chalmers & D. Bourget (eds.), 2009–present
 Contributor, *Philosophy CFPs* (weblog), 2008–2011
 Contributor, *Experimental Philosophy* (weblog), 2008–present
 Copyeditor & Formatter, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2006–2009
 Web designer, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2009–present

To the University & Department

Colloquium (Seminar) Organizer, Monash University, 2012
 Flexible Learning Coordinator, Philosophy Department, Monash University, 2012
 Assistant Conference Organizer, Philosophy of Biology Conference, UC Santa Barbara, 2010-2011
 Webmaster Assistant, Philosophy Department, UC Santa Barbara, 2009-2010
 Graduate Representative, Philosophy Department, UC Santa Barbara, 2006–2009
 Assembly Member, Graduate Student Association, UC Santa Barbara, 2005–2006

BRIEF DISSERTATION ABSTRACT*The Possibility of Acting from Duty*

Is it possible for us to do what we ought simply because we recognize it as such? Kant famously thought that only such actions—those done “from duty”— have moral worth, but I focus on the more psychological question. The 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. But these capacities are ruled out by the following two theses: (1) *psychological egoism* and (2) *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 this defense against two main challengers renders it a live possibility.

REFERENCES

- Matthew Hanser**, UC Santa Barbara
Professor of Philosophy, hanser@philosophy.ucsb.edu
- Thomas Holden**, UC Santa Barbara (*teaching reference*)
Associate Professor of Philosophy, tholden@philosophy.ucsb.edu
- Richard Holton**, MIT
Professor of Philosophy, holton@mit.edu
- Michael Rescorla**, UC Santa Barbara
Associate Professor of Philosophy, rescorla@philosophy.ucsb.edu
- Walter Sinnott-Armstrong**, Duke University
Chauncey Stillman Professor of Ethics
Kenan Institute for Ethics, ws66@duke.edu
- Michael Slote**, University of Miami
UST Professor of Ethics, msslote@mail.as.miami.edu
- Aaron Zimmerman**, UC Santa Barbara
Associate Professor of Philosophy, azimmerman@philosophy.ucsb.edu