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University at Buffalo  
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## **Educational Record**

- Ph.D. University of California at Santa Barbara. 2002  
Thesis: "A Defense of the Biological Account of Personal Identity"  
Supervisor: Nathan Salmon
- M.A. Analytic Philosophy, New York University. 1996  
Thesis: "Personal Identity and Spatial Coincidence"  
Supervisor: Peter Unger
- M.A. Continental Philosophy, New School for Social Research. 1994  
Thesis: "Legal Skepticism and Dworkin's Jurisprudence"  
Supervisor: Agnes Heller
- B.A. University of California, Berkeley. 1985  
Independent major in Twentieth Century European Political Theory

## **Awards**

University at Buffalo Young Investigator Award 2004  
Stough Award for best essay in ethics by a graduate student - University of California at Santa Barbara 1998  
Siff Award for best essay in philosophy by a graduate student - University of California at Santa Barbara 2000  
Individual Development Award from the State of New York/United University Professions (April 2008)

## **Employment**

Full Professor of Philosophy. (Decision Pending, Spring 2010) University at Buffalo  
Associate Professor of Philosophy. University at Buffalo, Fall 2007 to present  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy. University at Buffalo, Fall 2002-Spring 2007

## **Teaching**

### **Graduate Seminars**

Bioethics  
The Subject of Thought  
Philosophy of Science  
Evolution and Epistemology  
Philosophy of Medicine  
Personal Identity  
Teaching Philosophy (twice)  
The Metaphysical Foundations of Bioethics  
Teaching Bioethics (One day workshop for graduate instructors that I have taught 8 times)

### **Undergraduate Courses**

Bioethics (30 + times)  
Introduction to Philosophy (2)  
Philosophy of Law (2)  
Introductory Ethics (5)  
Business and Professional Ethics (2)  
Advanced Ethical Theory (1)  
Early Modern Philosophy (1)  
Ancient Philosophy (1)  
Critical Thinking (1)

### **Summer Teaching** (6 week intensive sessions.)

2003- Social and Ethical Values in Medicine  
2004 - Introduction to Philosophy; Social and Ethical Values in Medicine  
2005 - Social and Ethical Values in Medicine  
2006 - Social and Ethical Values in Medicine  
2007 - Social and Ethical Values in Medicine  
2008 - Social and Ethical Values in Medicine  
2009 - Social and Ethical Values in Medicine; Metaphysical Foundations of Bioethics

### **Independent Studies Directed**

Independent Graduate Study in Personal Identity (Mark Niswonger) Spring 2004  
Independent Undergraduate Study in Bioethics (Melanie Arison) Spring 2003  
Independent Graduate Study in Bioethics (Ryan Kohl) Fall 2002

Independent Graduate Study in Bioethics (Andrea Ott) Fall 2004  
Independent Graduate Study in Bioethics (Elisa Ruhl) Fall 2004  
Independent Graduate Study in Bioethics (Todd Bindig) Fall 2004  
Independent Graduate Study in the Foundations of Bioethics (Steve Halady) Fall 2007  
Independent Graduate Study in Catholic Bioethics (Mark Spencer) Fall 2008  
Independent Graduate Study in Bioethics (Peter Koch) Fall 2008  
Independent Graduate Study in the Foundation of Bioethics (Adam Taylor) Fall 2008  
Independent Graduate Study in The Metaphysics and Ethics of Death (Peter Koch) Spring 2009

### **Reading Groups Directed**

Led two Fall 2002 Bioethics Reading Groups - Jeff McMahon's *Ethics of Killings at the Margins of Life*  
Led Spring 2003 Bioethics Reading Group - Daniel Brock, Allen Buchanan, Norman Daniels, Daniel Wikler's *Genetics and Justice: From Chance to Choice*.  
Led Summer First Session 2004 Bioethics Reading Group - H. Tristram Englehardt's *The Foundations of Bioethics*  
Led Summer Second Session 2004 Bioethics Reading Group - H. Tristram Englehardt's *The Foundations of Christian Bioethics*  
UB Faculty Metaphysics and Epistemology Reading Group. 2006-2007  
WNY faculty reading group on John Fischer's *My Way* – Summer 2008

### **Graduate Student Dissertation Committees**

Rose Koch (chair – Graduated August 2005)  
Larry Torcello (chair – Graduated April 2006)  
Mark Ninswonger (chair from 2006-2009)  
Todd Bindig (chair – Graduated May 2006)  
Andrea Ott (chair)  
George Backen (Graduated August 2005)  
David Kaspar (Graduated October 2003)  
Adam Taylor (chair)  
Cathy Ullman  
Mark Spencer

### **Master's Theses**

Nick Lane (Spring 2005)  
Chris Barlow (Spring 2005)  
Alisa Wandzilak (Summer 2007)

### **Areas of Specialization**

Bioethics, Metaphysics

## Articles – Listed by Field

### Bioethics

24. “Why Consent may not be Needed for Organ Procurement,” (with Jim Delaney). Target Article. *American Journal of Bioethics*. 9:8, 2009, 3-10.
23. “Response to Seven Critics” *American Journal of Bioethics*. 9:8, 2009.
22. “The Metaphysical Basis for a More Liberal Organ Procurement Policy.” *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*. Forthcoming. Special Issue on Personal Identity and Bioethics.
21. “Mandatory Autopsies and Organ Conscriptioin.” (with Jim Delaney) *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*. 19:4, 2009. 367-391. Reprinted in *The Ethics of Organ Transplantation* edited Steve Jensen. Forthcoming.
21. “The Death of a Person,” *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 31:1. 2006, 107-20
19. “The Problematic Role of ‘Irreversibility’ in the Definition of Death,” *Bioethics*, 17:1, 2003, 89-100.
18. “Unrestricted Composition, Temporal Parts and Moral Status” in *Persons, Moral Worth and Embryos: A Critical Analysis of Pro-Choice Arguments from Philosophy, Law and Science*. Ed. Steve Napier. Philadelphia: National Catholic Bioethics Center. 2010.
17. “Organisms, Persons and Bioethics I.” *American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Philosophy and Medicine*. 2008. 8:1, 8-11.
16. “Organisms, Persons and Bioethics II.” *Proceedings of the Creighton Society: The Philosophical Association of New York*. October 2008.
15. “An Argument for Limited Human Cloning,” *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 14: 3, July 2000, 245-258. Reprinted in *In What's Wrong? Applied Ethicists and Their Critics*, Edited by David Boonin and Graham Odie, Oxford University Press, 2004, 688-693.
14. “Misunderstanding the Moral Equivalence of Killing and Letting Die.” *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. 8:2, Summer 2008. 239-245.
13. “Fission and Confusion,” *Christian Bioethics*, 12:3, 2006, 237-254.
12. “Death, Dignity and Degradation,” *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 21:1 2007, 21-36.

11. "Abortions and Distortions: An Analysis of Morally Irrelevant Factors in Thomson's Violinist Thought Experiment," *Social Theory and Practice*, 27:1, 2001, 129-148.
10. "The Problem of Potentiality," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 13: 3, 1999, 255-271.
9. "The 'I'm Personally Opposed to Abortion But ...' Argument." *American Catholic Philosophical Association Proceedings* 82: 2009. Forthcoming May 2010.
8. "Explaining the Psychological Appeal of Viability as a Cutoff Point," *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. 6:4, 2006, 681-686.
7. "How a Hylomorphic Metaphysics Constrains the Abortion Debate," *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, 5:4. 2005, 751-764.
6. "Hylomorphic Concerns: A Reply to Eberl's Criticisms," *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, 6:1 2006. 10-12.
5. "A More Palatable Epicureanism," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 44: 2, 2007, 171-180.
4. "The Limits of Liberal Tolerance: The Rights of Gays and Lesbians to Adopt," *International Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 9:2, 1995, 27-34.
3. *Thomistic Principles and Bioethics* by Jason Eberl – *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. 8:1, Winter 2008, 190-194 (Book Review).
2. *Human Identity and Bioethics* by David Degrazia – *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 8:4, Autumn 2008, 790-793. (Book Review)
1. "The Relevance of Metaphysics to the Morality of Abortion," (with Rose Hershenov) *Mind*. (Resubmission Requested).

## **Metaphysics**

21. "Animals, Persons and their Brains", in *Animalism Anthology*, title TBA ed. Paul Snowdon and Stephan Blatti. Oxford University Press
20. "Do Dead Bodies Pose a Problem for the Biological Account of Identity?" *Mind*, 114:453, 2005, 31-59.
19. "Organisms and their Bodies." *Mind*. 118:70 2009,803-809.
18. "Persons as Proper Parts of Organisms," *Theoria*, 71:1, 2005, 29-37.

17. "Identity Matters" in *Continuum Companion to Metaphysics*. Eds. Manson, N. and Barnard, R. Continuum International Publishing Group. Forthcoming
16. "Problems with a Constitution Account of Persons," *Dialogue*. 48:2. 2009, 291-312.
15. "A Hylomorphic Account of Thought Experiments Concerning Personal Identity," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*. 82:3. 2008, 481-502.
14. "Soulless Organisms?" Hylomorphism vs. Animalism," *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, forthcoming
13. "Lowe's Defense of Constitution and the Principle of Weak Extensionality," *Ratio*, 21:2 2008, 168-181.
12. "The Memory Criterion of Identity and the Problem of Backward Causation," *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 47:2 2007, 181-85.
11. "Shoemaker's Problem of Too Many Thinkers," *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 80, 2007, 225-36.
10. "Countering the Appeal of the Psychological Approach to Personal Identity," *Philosophy*, 79, 2004, 445-472.
9. "Can there be Spatially Coincident Entities of the Same Kind?," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*. 31:1, 2003, 1-22.
8. "Olson's Embryo Problem," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 80:4, 2002, 502-511.
7. "Scattered Artifacts," *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 40:2, 2002, 211-216.
6. "The Thesis of Vague Objects and Unger's Problem of the Many," *Philosophical Papers*. 30:1, 2001, 47-57.
5. "Unrestricted Composition, Temporal Parts and Moral Status." in *Persons, Moral Worth and Embryos: A Critical Analysis of Pro-Choice Arguments from Philosophy, Law and Science*. Ed. Steve Napier. Philadelphia: National Catholic Bioethics Center. 2010.
4. "The Metaphysical Basis for a More Liberal Organ Procurement Policy." *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*. Forthcoming. Special Issue on Personal Identity and Bioethics
3. "Merricks's Identification of the Person and the Organism," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (Resubmission Requested).

2. "Organisms, Artifacts and Eliminativism," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*. (Resubmission Requested).

1. "The Relevance of Metaphysics to the Morality of Abortion," (with Rose Hershenov) *Mind*. (Resubmission Requested).

### **Philosophy of Religion**

7. "Soulless Organisms? Hylomorphism vs. Animalism." *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* Forthcoming.

6. "The Metaphysical Problem of Intermittent Existence and the Possibility of Resurrection." *Faith and Philosophy*. 20:1, January, 2003, 24-36.

5. "Van Inwagen, Zimmerman and the Materialist Conception of Resurrection," *Religious Studies: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*," 38, December 2002, 451-469.

4. "A Hylomorphic Account of Thought Experiments Concerning Personal Identity" *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*. 82:3. 2008. 481-502.

3. "Fission and Confusion," *Christian Bioethics*, 12:3, December 2006, 237-254.

2. "Personal Identity and Purgatory," *Religious Studies: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*, 42, December, 2006, 439-451.

1. *Bodies and Souls, or Spirited Souls* by Nancy Murphy - *Religious Studies*, June 2007 43:2 2007, 237-242. (Book Review)

### **Normative Ethics**

4. "A More Palatable Epicureanism," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 44: 2, April 2007, 171-180.

3. "A Puzzle about the Demands of Morality," *Philosophical Studies*, 107, March 2002, 275-290.

2. "Misunderstanding the Moral Equivalence of Killing and Letting Die." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. 8:2, Summer 2008.

1. "Two Epistemic Arguments for Deliberative Democracy," *Polity: The Journal of the Northeastern Political Science Association*, 37:2, April 2005, 216-234.

## **Philosophy of Law**

4. "Restitution and Punishment" in *New Perspectives on the Ethics of Punishment* eds. Jesper Ryberg, Angelo Corlett Palmgrave. MacMillan Press. Forthcoming
3. "Why Must Punishment be Unusual as Well as Cruel to be Unconstitutional?" *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 16:1, 2002, 77-98.
2. "Restitution and Revenge," *Journal of Philosophy*, 96:2, February 1999, 79-94.
1. "Punishing Attempted Crimes Less Severely than Successes," *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, 34, Fall 2000, 479-489.

## **Articles – Listed by Date of Publication**

47. "Animals, Persons and their Brains" in *Animalism Anthology*, Title TBA, eds. Paul Snowdon and Stephan Blatti. Oxford University Press
46. "Organisms and their Bodies," *Mind*. 2009, 118:70. 803-809.
45. "The Metaphysical Basis for a More Liberal Organ Procurement Policy." *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*. Forthcoming. Special Issue on Personal Identity and Bioethics
44. "Identity Matters" in *The Continuum Companion to Metaphysics*. ed. Manson, N. and Barnard, R. Continuum International Publishing Group. Forthcoming
43. "Mandatory Autopsies and Organ Conscriptioin." (with Jim Delaney) *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*. 19:4, 2009. 367-391.
42. "A Possible Justification for Organ Conscriptioin" (with Jim Delaney) in *The Ethics of Organ Transplantation* edited Steve Jensen. Forthcoming
41. "Soulless Organisms? Animalism vs. Hylomorphism." *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*. Forthcoming
40. "Restitution and Punishment" in *New Perspectives on the Ethics of Punishment* eds. Jesper Ryberg, Angelo Corlett Palmgrave. MacMillan Press. Forthcoming
39. "The 'I'm Personally Opposed to Abortion But ...' Argument." *American Catholic Philosophical Association Proceedings*, 82 2009. May 2010.
38. "Unrestricted Composition, Temporal Parts and Moral Status." in *Persons, Moral Worth and Embryos: A Critical Analysis of Pro-Abortion Arguments from Philosophy, Law and Science*.

- Ed. Steve Napier. Philadelphia: National Catholic Bioethics Center. Forthcoming 2010.
37. "Why Consent may not be Needed for Organ Procurement," (with Jim Delaney). Target Article. *American Journal of Bioethics*. 9:8, 2009, 3-10.
36. "Response to Seven Critics" (with Jim Delaney) *American Journal of Bioethics*. 9:8, 2009.
35. "Problems with a Constitution Account of Persons," *Dialogue*. 48:2. 2009, 291-312.
34. "A Hylomorphic Account of Thought Experiments Concerning Personal Identity" *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*. 82:3. 2008. 481-502.
33. "Organisms, Persons and Bioethics." *APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Medicine*. 8:1, Fall 2008, 8-11. Slightly different version published in *Proceedings of the Creighton Society*. October 2008.
32. "Misunderstanding the Moral Equivalence of Killing and Letting Die." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. 8:2, Summer 2008.
31. "A More Palatable Epicureanism," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 44: 2, April 2007, 171-180.
30. "Lowe's Defense of Constitution and the Principle of Weak Extensionality," *Ratio*, 21:2 2008, 168-181
29. "The Memory Criterion of Identity and the Problem of Backward Causation," *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 47:2:186, 2007, 181-85.
28. "Death, Dignity and Degradation," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 21:1 2007, 21-36.
27. "Shoemaker's Problem of Too Many Thinkers," *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*, 80, 2007, 225-36.
26. "The Death of a Person," *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, 31:1. 2006, 107-20
25. "Personal Identity and Purgatory," *Religious Studies: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*, 42, December, 2006, 439-451.
24. "Explaining the Psychological Appeal of Viability as a Cutoff Point," *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. 6:4, Winter 2006, 681-686.
23. "Fission and Confusion," *Christian Bioethics*, 12:3, December 2006, 237-254.

22. "Hylomorphic Concerns: A Reply to Eberl's Criticisms," *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, 6:1 Spring 2006. 10-12.
21. "A More Palatable Epicureanism I" *Proceedings of the Creighton Club. 152<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the New York State Philosophical Association*. November 4, 2006, 1-12.
20. "Do Dead Bodies Pose a Problem for the Biological Account of Identity?" *Mind*, 114:453, January 2005, 31-59.
19. "Persons as Proper Parts of Organisms," *Theoria*, 71:1, 2005, 29-37.
18. "How a Hylomorphic Metaphysics Constrains the Abortion Debate," *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, 5:4. 2005, 751-764.
17. "Two Epistemic Arguments for Deliberative Democracy," *Polity: The Journal of the Northeastern Political Science Association*, 37:2, April 2005, 216-234.
16. "Countering the Appeal of the Psychological Approach to Personal Identity," *Philosophy*, 79, 2004, 445-472.
15. "Can there be Spatially Coincident Entities of the Same Kind?," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*. 31:1, March 2003, 1-22.
14. "The Problematic Role of 'Irreversibility' in the Definition of Death," *Bioethics*, 17:1, February 2003, 89-100.
13. "The Metaphysical Problem of Intermittent Existence and the Possibility of Resurrection." *Faith and Philosophy*. 20:1, January, 2003, 24-36.
12. "Olson's Embryo Problem," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 80:4, 2002, 502-511.
11. "Scattered Artifacts," *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 40:2, 2002, 211-216.
10. "The Thesis of Vague Objects and Unger's Problem of the Many," *Philosophical Papers*. 30:1, March 2001, 47-57.
9. "Van Inwagen, Zimmerman and the Materialist Conception of Resurrection," *Religious Studies: An International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*," 38, 2002, 451-469.
8. "A Puzzle about the Demands of Morality," *Philosophical Studies*, 107, March 2002, 275-290.
7. "Why Must Punishment be Unusual as Well as Cruel to be Unconstitutional?" *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 16:1, 2002, 77-98.

6. "Abortions and Distortions: An Analysis of Morally Irrelevant Factors in Thomson's Violinist Thought Experiment," *Social Theory and Practice*, 27:1, 2001, 129-148.
5. "Punishing Attempted Crimes Less Severely than Successes," *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, 34, 2000, 479-489.
4. "An Argument for Limited Human Cloning," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 14: 3, 2000, 245-258.
3. "The Problem of Potentiality," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 13: 3, 1999, 255-271.
2. "Restitution and Revenge," *Journal of Philosophy*, 96:2, 1999, 79-94.
1. "The Limits of Liberal Tolerance: The Rights of Gays and Lesbians to Adopt," *International Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 9:2, 1995, 27-34.

### **Articles in Anthologies**

1. "An Argument for Limited Human Cloning" In *What's Wrong? Applied Ethicists and Their Critics*, Edited by David Boonin and Graham Odie, Oxford University Press, 2004, 688-693.
2. "Restitution and Reconciliation" in *New Waves in the Philosophy of Criminal Justice* eds. Jesper Ryberg, Angelo Corlett Palmgrave. MacMillan Press.
3. "Identity Matters" in *Metaphysics: Continuum Companion Series*. ed. Manson and Barnard. Continuum International Publishing Group Forthcoming.
4. "Unrestricted Composition, Temporal Parts and Moral Status." in *Persons, Moral Worth and Embryos: A Critical Analysis of Pro-Abortion Arguments from Philosophy, Law and Science*. Ed. Steve Napier. Philadelphia: National Catholic Bioethics Center. 2010.
5. "Mandatory Autopsies and Organ Conscriptation" (with Jim Delaney) in *The Ethics of Organ Transplantation*. Ed. Steve Jensen
6. "Animals, Persons and their Brains" in *Animalism Anthology*, Title TBA eds. Paul Snowdon and Stephan Blatti. Oxford University Press. Forthcoming.

### **Invited Book Reviews**

1. *Bodies and Souls, or Spirited Souls* by Nancy Murphy - *Religious Studies*, June 2007 43:2 2007, 237-242.
2. *Thomistic Principles and Bioethics* by Jason Eberl – *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*. 8:1

Spring 2008, 190-194.

3. *Human Identity and Bioethics* by David Degrazia – *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 8:4 Winter 2008, 790-793.

### **Articles Under Review– Decisions Pending**

1 “The Relevance of Metaphysics to the Morality of Abortion,” (with Rose Hershenov) *Mind*. (Resubmission Requested) Abstract: Earl Conee has argued that the metaphysics of personal identity is irrelevant to the morality of abortion. He claims that doing all the substantial work in abortion arguments are moral principles and they garner no support from rival metaphysics theories. Conee argues that not only can both immaterialist and materialist theories of the self posit our origins at fertilization, but positing such a beginning doesn’t even have any significant impact on the permissibility of abortion. We argue that this thesis is wrong on both accounts. We do so, in part, by relying on a hylomorphic rather than a Cartesian conception of the soul. There are good reasons for believing such a soul theory can favor an earlier origin than the leading materialist accounts. We also show that the theological metaphysics of hylomorphism provide greater support for a pro-life position than the Cartesian position Conee discusses. However, we argue that even on a materialistic account of personal identity, metaphysics has substantial bearing upon the morality of early abortions. We then consider the possibility that such metaphysics will run afoul of Rawlsian public reason and thus has no relevance to public policy.

2. “Merricks’s Identification of the Person and the Organism,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (Resubmission Requested) Abstract: Trenton Merricks argues that there do not exist any composite material objects other than thinking organisms. Merricks bases these claims on the grounds that if there were such non-thinking composite objects they would exercise redundant causal powers. Objecting to such pervasive causal overdeterminism as well as the alternative of epiphenomenal material objects, he embraces eliminativism. I’ll argue that mindless organisms avoid elimination by Merricks’s overdetermination argument but that their existence is not something that he can easily accommodate. Because of the existence of mindless organisms, Merricks cannot maintain that identity is what matters, organisms can be transplanted if the parts of their brain responsible for producing thought are, and that it is possible for living persons to undergo part replacement and become inorganic, while also insisting that there is not a human person co-located with a distinct human organism.

3. “Organisms, Artifacts and Eliminativism,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*. (Resubmission Requested) Abstract: This paper is a contribution to a tradition in which artifacts are viewed as the poor cousins of organisms - i.e., the former are ontologically suspect in a way that the latter are not. It is argued that positing the existence of artifacts gives rise to a number of intractable metaphysical puzzles such as backward causation, overpopulation due to an explosion of spatially coincident objects, distinguishing substantial change from phase change without having to tolerate vague identity or sharp breaks, the lack of a principled way to determine the essentiality of origins, and things coming into existence merely by thinking that they exist.

Organisms can evade such quandaries for they are unlike artifacts in two significant ways. First, their existence and their nature are not essentially dependent upon the intentions of others. Secondly, they possess the internal power to acquire, assimilate, maintain, and remove matter.

4. “Animals, Persons and Bioethics” *Mind*. My contention is that considering a person to be co-located with an animal, or one of its spatial or temporal parts, gives rise to a host of problems as a result of there then being too many thinkers. These problems, which Olson has emphasized, can be mitigated (somewhat) by a Noonan-style pronoun revisionism. But doing so will have very unwelcome consequences for bioethics as autonomy, informed consent, advance directives and substituted judgment will be impossible for the human animal. I count it as a point in favor of Olson’s answer to the metaphysical question “What are we?” that it avoids such ethical quandaries. But his animalism - with its Parfit-inspired claim that it is not identity that matters in survival but the continuation of our psychology even if someone else is its subject - appears to be at odds with our self-conception and practical concerns. And if the only argument for this thesis is the fission scenario, then the thesis is further undermined as Parfit’s account of fission runs afoul of the rationale behind Williams, Noonan, Wiggins’s, Only a and b rule. What I will very tentatively suggest is that we explore an alternative account of animalism which denies that being identical to a future being is only of derivative importance to us.

## Articles in Production

1. “Can Momentary Stages and Four-Dimensional Worms Think?” Abstract: It is hard to conceive of how momentary stages or four-dimensional worms could think. I focus my efforts upon denying thought to stages since it is often claimed that the worm has certain properties in virtue of its temporal parts having them. If stages can’t think, then thought can’t be predicated of a worm in virtue of its stages thinking. My contention is stages can’t think because they are too short-lived. It doesn’t matter that they are causally connected in the certain ways to other stages.

2. “Frankfurt-Style Cosmic Coincidences” with John Martin Fischer. Abstract: Frankfurt-style arguments against the principle of alternative possibilities have come under heavy criticism for failing to show that people could be morally responsible in the absence of the ability to do otherwise. It is claimed that the Frankfurt-style intervener needs there to be a sign that the monitored agent is going to choose to do one thing rather than the other. But in an indeterministic world there won’t be reliable indications of later conduct. As a result it is claimed that if the world is physically indeterministic, then the Frankfurt-style interventions will come too late or too early. If the latter, they fail to show that an agent is morally responsible in the absence of alternative possibilities. If they come too late, then there would have been moral responsibility and alternative possibilities. We offer a cosmic coincidence Frankfurt-style scenario that rules out the possibility of alternative actions without an earlier indication, yet nevertheless involves an agent that is intuitively responsible for his actions. We show that our account avoids some of the criticisms that have been leveled at other Frankfurt-inspired accounts that purport to show the existence of moral responsibility in the absence of alternative possibilities in an indeterministic world.

## **Book in Progress**

*The Metaphysical Foundations of Bioethics*. The book contains chapters on each of the major metaphysical accounts of personal identity and draws out the theory's implications for when we come into and go out of existence. It then shows how such metaphysical accounts can provide support or obstacles for opposing moral positions regarding beginning and end of life issues such as abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, genetic interventions, physician-assisted suicide, advanced directives and organ procurement. There are chapters on Animalist, Hylomorphic, Cartesian, Constitution, Neo-Lockean, Four-Dimensionalist, and Brain accounts of personal identity. It includes also a final chapter on indeterminacy and bioethics. Each chapter includes discussions about when the particular theory posits that someone comes into and goes out of existence, whether it is possible for a harm (or a harmless wrong) to occur at the time of the medical procedure in question, and how well the approach in question fares as a general theory of personal identity.

## **Presented Papers**

23. “‘The I’m Personally Opposed to Abortion But’...Argument.” (with Rose Hershenov). American Catholic Philosophical Association. New Orleans, Louisiana. November 13-14, 2009.

22 “Animals, Persons and Bioethics.” University of California at Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara, California Fall 2009.

21. “Soulless Organisms? Animalism vs. Hylomorphism.” American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting. Satellite Session of the Society for Catholicism and Analytical Philosophy. November 14, 2009. New Orleans, Louisiana. November 14, 2009. (Commentator Jason Eberl)

20. “‘The I’m Personally Opposed to Abortion But’...Argument.” (with Rose Hershenov) Western New York and Western Pennsylvania Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association. Canisius College. Buffalo, New York. May 1, 2009

19. “A Justification for Organ Conscriptio” with James Delaney. Center for Thomistic Studies. Ethics of Organ Transplantation Conference. University of Saint Thomas, Houston, Texas, March 27-29. Paper delivered by co-author Jim Delaney.

18. “Animals, Persons and Bioethics.” Wake Forest University Philosophy Department, Wake Forest, North Carolina, December 9, 2008

17. “The Metaphysical Basis of a More Liberal Organ Procurement Policy.” Wake Forest University Bioethics Center Search Committee. December 8, 2008.

16. "Organisms, Persons and Bioethics II" *Creighton Club*. Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Geneva, New York. October 18, 2008. (Commentator: Ben Bradley).
15. "Organisms, Persons and Bioethics I." American Philosophical Association Committee on Philosophy and Medicine Panel on "Persons, Human Organisms and Bioethics." Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. March 18-23, 2008. Panel Commentators: Mayra Schectman, David Shoemaker, Mary Anne Warren, John Lizz (chair).
14. "Mandatory Autopsies and Organ Conscription," Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. Seventeenth Annual Meeting. February 21-24, San Antonio, Texas.
13. *Hylomorphism and Personal Identity Thought Experiments*. Western New York and Western Pennsylvania Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association. Canisius College, Buffalo, New York. November 17, 2007.
12. "Organisms, Brains and their Parts." *University at Buffalo Philosophy of Biology Workshop*. Buffalo, New York. September 29, 2007.
11. "The Possibility of Resurrection" – *Albert the Great Lecture*. Niagara University. May 2, 2007. Invited
10. American Medical Students Association. "Why Consent may not be needed for Organ Procurement." University at Buffalo Medical School. April 24, 2007. Co-delivered with J. Delaney. Invited.
9. "A More Palatable Epicureanism." *Creighton Club*. Hobart College. November 4, 2006. (Commentator: Ben Bradley.)
8. "Shoemaker's Problem of Too Many Thinkers." *American Catholic Philosophical Association 2006 Annual Meeting*. Denison University, Grandville, Ohio. October, 27-29, 2006. (Commentator: Jason Eberl.)
7. "Personal Identity and Purgatory." *Selves, Souls and Survival Conference*. Society for Christian Philosophers Pacific Regional Meeting. University of San Diego. San Diego, California. February 16-18, 2006. (Commentator: Aaron Schiller.)
6. "The Definition of Death." *University at Buffalo Metaphysics of Medicine Conference*. Buffalo, New York. November 13, 2004.
5. "Organisms, Artifacts and Eliminativism." *University at Buffalo Philosophy Colloquium*. Buffalo, New York. September 5, 2002.
4. "The Subject of Thought." *University at Buffalo Workshop on Intentionality and its Biological*

*Foundations*. Buffalo, New York. February 1, 2003.

3. "Personal Identity and Bioethics." *University of Delaware Philosophy Department Colloquium*. Newark, Delaware. January 2002.

2. "Personal Identity and Bioethics." University of Buffalo. Buffalo, New York. December 2002.

1. "Van Inwagen, Zimmerman and the Materialist Conception of Resurrection." University of California at Santa Barbara Philosophy Club. Santa Barbara, California. November 13, 2001.

### **Comments Delivered at Conferences**

1. Comments on David Shoemaker's "What's Identity Got to do with It"? Pacific APA, March 19, 2008

2. Comments on Mayra Schectman's "Persons and the Practical". Panel on Organisms, Persons and Bioethics. Pacific APA, Pasadena California. March 19, 2008

3. Comments on Mary Anne Warren. Pacific "What Would Kant Have Said about Abortion and Embryonic Stem Cell Research, and Why Does It Matter?" APA. Panel on Organisms, Persons and Bioethics. Pasadena, California. March 19, 2008.

### **Professional Service**

#### **Refereeing for the following Peer Reviewed Journals:**

Australasian Journal of Philosophy  
Social Theory and Practice (Five Times)  
Canadian Journal of Philosophy (Three Times)  
Journal of Social Philosophy  
The Philosophical Quarterly (Three Times)  
Mind and Machines  
Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review  
The Monist (Twice)  
Public Affairs Quarterly (Seven times)  
Philosophia  
Philosophical Papers  
Journal of Moral Philosophy  
Southern Journal of Philosophy

### **Editorial Work**

Guest Editor of *The Monist*, "Coming Into Being and Passing Away." 98:3, July 2006.

Guest co-Editor (with Randy Dipert) of *The Monist* "Composition and Constitution." Forthcoming

### **Conferences Organized**

Co-organizer (with Barry Smith) of *Metaphysics of Medicine Conference*. University at Buffalo. November 13-14, 2004.

Co-organizer (with Randall Dipert and Barry Smith) *The Philosophy of E.J. Lowe*. University at Buffalo. April 7-9, 2006.

Co-organizer (with Randall Dipert) *The Philosophy of Lynne Baker: The Metaphysics of Everyday Life*. University at Buffalo. April 24-25, 2009.

### **Philosophical Associations**

American Philosophical Association

Creighton Club: The New York State Philosophical Association

Society for Christian Philosophers

American Catholic Philosophical Association

Association for Practical and Professional Ethics

### **2002-2003 Department Committee Work**

Progress and Evaluation Committee

Library Committee

Qualifying Examinations Committee

### **2003-2004**

Placement Officer Committee (chair)

Colloquium Committee (chair)

Search Committee

Executive Committee

Graduate Examinations Grader

### **2004-2005**

Admissions Committee

Graduate Examinations Committee

Executive Committee

**2005-2006**

Admissions Committee  
Library Committee  
Graduate Student Teaching Award Committee  
Romanell Chair (Lowe) Committee

**2006-2007**

Placement  
Library  
Progress and Evaluation

**2007-2008**

Executive Committee  
Admissions (Chair)  
Placement  
Library  
Course Committee – Bioethics  
Director of Graduate Studies – Appointed May 29, 2008

**2008-2009**

Director of Graduate Studies  
Executive Committee  
Curriculum  
Admissions  
Progress and Evaluation  
Placement  
Course Committee - Bioethics  
Graduate Affairs  
Hourani Lectures (John Fischer) Organizer

**Spring 2010**

Director of Graduate Studies  
Curriculum Committee  
Admissions Committee  
Progress and Evaluation  
Placement  
Course Committee - Bioethics  
Graduate Affairs

**Public Service**

Videotape Interview with High School Students at Williamsville North for C-Span project on the

Science and Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research - Fall 2007

**University Service 2007-2008**

Advisor to Health Sciences Librarian Renee Bush on Bioethical book purchases - Spring 2007

**Summer School Teaching**

Social and Ethical Values in Medicine Phi 337 taught every Summer 2002-2009

Metaphysical Foundations of Bioethics – UB Ontology Workshop July 2009

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