

MICHAEL JOSEPH FLETCHER | CV

<https://michaelfletcherphi.wixsite.com/website>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Surface Address:

335 Bloomfield St., Apt 17
Johnstown PA 15904

Mobile: +1 970-310-4614

Email: michael.fletcher.philosophy@gmail.com

University Email: michael.fletcher@pitt.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2025- Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh | Johnstown
- 2022-25 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh | Johnstown
- 2021-22 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
Fort Hays State University
- 2020-21 English Language Lector – 21 contact hours/wk
Eötvös József Gimnázium (AY 2020-21)
6726 Szeged Hungary [COVID-19 Layoff Year]
- 2018-20 Teaching Faculty | Current | Teaching load: 5/6
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Coastal Carolina University (SC)
- 2013-18 Lecturer in Philosophy | Teaching load: 3/3/3
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Central Washington University
- 2013-14 Instructor of Philosophy
History of Western Philosophy Sequence
UC Berkeley Extension (Online)
- 2012 Instructor of Philosophy
Department of Humanities
SOKA University CA

2004-11 Graduate Teaching
Philosophy Dept.
University of California, Santa Barbara

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA PH.D.

- Dissertation: "THE COGNITIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF KANT'S THIRD CRITIQUE"
- Doctoral committee: Anthony Brueckner, Donald Crawford, and Burleigh Wilkins
- <http://gradworks.umi.com/34/81/3481972.html>

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA C.PHIL.

- Major: Philosophy
- Qualifying Paper: "DEPENDENT BEAUTY AND PERFECTION IN KANT'S AESTHETICS"
- <http://www.dur.ac.uk/Philosophical.Writings/journalpages>

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH M.A.

- Major: Philosophy
- Specialization: Philosophy of Language
- Thesis: "PUTNAM'S PUZZLE: AN ATTEMPTED EXORCISM IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE"
- http://books.google.com/books/about/Putnam_s_puzzle.html?id=Qpz8NwAACAAJ

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA) B.A.

- Major: Philosophy
- Departmental & Latin Honors

RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization

Kant (metaphysics and epistemology), Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, History of Modern Philosophy

Areas of Competence

History of Western Philosophy, Logic and Critical Thinking, Ethical Theory, Applied Ethics, Business Ethics, Bioethics, Philosophy of Language, Non-Western (Asian) Philosophy

Other Related Areas of Special Interest

Normativity of Logic, Philosophical Semantics, Cognitive Science, AI, Embodied Cognition

DISSERTATION

Title: THE COGNITIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF KANT'S THIRD CRITIQUE

Abstract: Kant's medieval predecessors were metaphysical realists in this sense: they thought that a fully objective account of reality could be given without taking into consideration the nature of the knowing subject. Kant's message was revolutionary: contrary to what the metaphysical realists' claim, Kant held that we cannot give an account of reality without taking into consideration the nature of the knowing subject. The knowing (or epistemic) subject's cognitive capacities make an ineliminable contribution to the way it represents reality.

In my doctoral dissertation—'The Cognitive Significance of Kant's Third Critique'—the aim is to show that Kant's transcendental project in the Critique of Pure Reason—which details what the human mind's ineliminable contribution is—is programmatically extended into his third critique, the Critique of the Power of Judgment. On this "cognitive" interpretation, Kant's third critique is not (as many have thought) a rogue critique. Rather Kant's third critique can be seen to have a cognitive significance in how it elaborates further on reason's contribution to our systematic cognitive representation of single all-inclusive empirical reality. On my reading, Kant's Ideas of Pure Reason (IPRs)—GOD, WORLD-WHOLE, and SELF—serve as internal non-empirical representational models that jointly function as guides for the cognitive construction of a single unified, all-inclusive, hierarchically-structured Mega-Object—the physical universe—in which all phenomena are to stand in systematic mereological relations within a multilayered model of physical nature. Within this hierarchically structured system of coordinated physical environments, all phenomena may be viewed as governed by a corresponding hierarchic system of level-appropriate and scientifically discoverable physical laws.

In terms familiar to a contemporary philosopher of science, Kant's third critique aims to address a foundational metaphysical issue of concern to scientific compositionists: VERTICALITY. Vertical compositional structure—in which lower-order microsystems iteratively constitute higher-order macrosystems—is ubiquitous in nature. So, the 'how possible?' question addressed by Kant's third critique is this: How is a single multilayered physical universe possible? How, for instance, is it possible for lower-level micro-systems to iteratively compose higher-level macro-systems in such a way as to form not a plurality of ontologically distinct and causally disconnected physical worlds but rather a single all-inclusive and causally interconnected multi-leveled system of physical environments? Under my "cognitive" interpretation, Kant's third Critique has important implications for the philosophy of science and the metaphysical presuppositions that support the practice of natural science.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Anthony Brueckner Ph.D., Philosophy Department, University of California at Santa Barbara
Email: brueckne@philosophy.ucsb.edu; Phone: (805) 893-7488

Donald Crawford Ph.D., Philosophy Department, University of California at Santa Barbara
Email: dwcrawford@charter.net; Phone: (805) 528-7282

Stephen Palmquist, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Western Sydney University, Australia.
Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
Email: stevepq@hkbu.edu.hk | Phone: 852-3411-7289

Martin Rice Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (Johnstown)
Email: rice@pitt.edu | Phone: (814) 269-7165

Eugene Rice Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, Fort Hays State University
Email: grice@fhsu.edu | Dept. Phone: (785)-628-4249

Jeffrey Dippmann Ph.D., Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religious; Director of Asia Pacific Studies, Central Washington University
Email: jeffrey.dippmann@cwu.edu; Phone: (509) 963-1830

Robert Allinson Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, Division of
Humanities, SOKA University of America, CA, USA
Email: rallinson@soka.edu

Burleigh Wilkins Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, UC Santa
Barbara Phone: (805) 893-4137

PUBLICATIONS

1. "Buddhist No-Self Reductionism, Moral Address, and the Metaphysics of Moral Practice: Can Buddhists Be Motivated by Second-Personal Moral Reasons?" *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 2024.
doi:10.5840/ipq202415226
2. "Buddhist No-Self, the Person Convention, and the Metaphysics of Moral Practice: Is Hayashi's Emergentist Account of Vasubandhu's Ontology of Persons Explanatorily Self-Defeating?" *Philosophy East and West* 70, no. 2 (2020): 303-337.
[doi:10.1353/pew.2020.0023](https://doi.org/10.1353/pew.2020.0023).
3. Review of Kant and Spinoza: *Transcendental Idealism and Immanence from Jacobi to Deleuze* by Beth Lord. *Kantian Review* Vol 16, 3 Cambridge University Press Journals, 2011. (http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S1369415411000264)
4. "Dependent Beauty and Perfection in Kant's Aesthetics," Issue 29, *Philosophical Writings*, University of Durham, Great Britain (2009)
5. "Good Habits, Good Character: An Aristotelian Reply to the Question Whether Ethics Can Be Taught," *Premise*, Vol. XII, University of Kansas.

Currently Under Review

Under Review: "Can the Metaphysics of Personal Agency and Buddhist No-Self Reductionism Be Reconciled?: A Critique of Siderits' Insulationist Account of Buddhist Two Truths"

Papers in Progress

- "Scared to Death into Being Good: A Sentimentalist Care-Ethical Analysis of Scrooge's Moral Self-Transformation in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*"
- "How to Conceptualize a World: A Kantian Alternative to Spinozistic Metaphysical Engulfment and Leibnizian Ontological Isolation"
- Invitation to review *Cultivating Personhood: Kant and Asian Philosophy*, Stephen R. Palmquist (Ed.), *Kantian Review* (Cambridge University Press Journals). In progress.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE*

*Course syllabi available on request.

COURSES TAUGHT	UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION
Bioethics	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Philosophy of Law/Jurisprudence (S25)	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Minds and Machines (Introductory course in the philosophy of mind)	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Business Ethics Ethics in the Professions & Business	University of Pittsburgh, Fort Hays State University, Coastal Carolina University
Contemporary Moral Issues (Applied Normative Ethics)	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown Central Washington University
Critical Thinking (Informal Logic/Intellectual Virtues)	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown Merced College
Ethical Theory / Introduction to Philosophical Ethics (Normative Ethics)	Coastal Carolina University University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Global Ethics (World Religions as World Philosophies and their Ethical Systems)	Central Washington University
Introduction to Philosophy	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown Coastal Carolina University, Central Washington University, University of California-Santa Barbara
Introduction to Logic	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, Central Washington University
History of Ancient Philosophy	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, UC Santa Barbara (As TA), UC Berkeley Extension Online
History of Medieval Philosophy	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown University of California-Santa Barbara
History of Modern Philosophy	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown University of California-Santa Barbara
Social Philosophy (Concentration: Theories of Distributive Justice, Liberalism)	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Political Philosophy (Survey of Western Political Philosophers)	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Theories of Human Nature & Modern Moral Philosophy	University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown

TEACHING AWARDS/HONORS

- Awardee of the College Research Council Summer Grant 2024 (2K), University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, May 2024.
- Spring 2020 *Apple Core Teaching Award* Nominee, Department of the Humanities, Coastal Carolina University, South Carolina.
- 2017 Faculty Development Award (\$700), Central Washington University
- Faculty-nominated for 2011-2013 UCSB *Lancaster Dissertation Award in the Humanities and Fine Arts* (a university-wide award)
- *Paul Wienpahl Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching*, Philosophy Department, UCSB, Spring, 2004.
- *Outstanding Educator Award*, Office of Residential Life, UCSB, Spring 2003.
- University Travel Grant (International Conference, University College Cork, Ireland), 2004.
- University Fee Fellowship, UCSB 2000-2004.
- *Award for Unusually Exceptional Academic Achievement*, Department of Philosophy, California State University, Long Beach.
- *Whittington Prize for Scholarly Excellence*, The Department of Philosophy, California State University, Long Beach.
- First Prize Award at Santa Clara University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference.
- Departmental Honors, Philosophy Department, UCLA
- Latin Honors (Cum Laude) UCLA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Society of Business Ethics (SBE)
- American Philosophical Association (APA)
- North American Kant Society (NAKS)
- International Society for the Study of Argumentation (ISSA)

CONFERENCE/SYMPOSIA

- Paper presented at *West Virginia Philosophical Society* Conference, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, November 8-9th 2024. Paper: “Pulling a Moral Rabbit Out of a Biological Hat: The Aristotelian Enterprise of Deriving Moral Goodness from Morphological Goodness of Kind.”
- Attendee at *West Virginia Philosophical Society* Conference, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, April 21st 2023.
- Paper accepted for presentation at the Second World Congress of Logic and Religion, Warsaw Summer 2017. (<http://logicandreligion.uw.edu.pl>)
- Paper accepted for presentation at the First World Congress of Logic and Religion, Brazil, 2015. (<https://www.uni-log.org/logic-and-religion-1.html>)
- Paper presented at American Society of Aesthetics Conference, Asilomar CA.
- Paper presented at “Rediscovering Aesthetics,” an international conference hosted by University College Cork, Ireland 2004.
- Paper submitted and accepted for presentation at the British Society of Aesthetics’ Annual Conference held at St. Edmund’s Hall, Oxford University, UK.
- Paper submitted and accepted for presentation at the Interdisciplinary Conference of Despair and Desire, Atlanta GA.

- Panel member of symposium discussing the relation between Philosophy and the Humanities, hosted by the Philosophy Department, CSU Long Beach, 1999.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE PHILOSOPHY COURSES (COMPLETED)

UCLA UNDERGRADUATE COURSE	Professor/Instructor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kant (<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>) ▪ Skepticism and Rationality ▪ Language and Communication ▪ Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy ▪ History of Modern Philosophy ▪ Existentialism (Kierkegaard) ▪ Independent Study (Kierkegaard) ▪ History of Western Philosophy (Ancient) ▪ Philosophy of Mind ▪ Analytic Metaphysics ▪ Graduate Seminar: Kant's Philosophy of Religion ▪ Graduate Seminar: Wittgenstein (Early) ▪ Graduate Seminar: Wittgenstein (Later) 	<p>Tyler Burge Keith Donnellan Keith Donnellan Joseph Almog Robert Merrihew Adams Robert Merrihew Adams Robert Merrihew Adams Rogers Albritton Jay D. Atlas Jay D. Atlas Robert Merrihew Adams</p> <p>David Pears (Oxford) Gavin Lawrence</p>
UCSB GRADUATE COURSES	Professor/Instructor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Philosophy of Mind: McDowell's <i>Mind and World</i> 	Hubert Schwyzer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kant A/B (two terms): Intensive Study of Kant's <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> ▪ Independent Study: Kant (<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>) ▪ Philosophy of Mind: Wittgenstein (<i>On Certainty</i>) ▪ Philosophy of Mind: Topics in Perception ▪ Descartes ▪ Social Philosophy (Rawls) ▪ Seminar: Epistemology ▪ Seminar in Ethics ▪ Seminar: Kant's Philosophical Aesthetics ▪ Symbolic Logic Set Theory 	<p>Hubert Schwyzer</p> <p>Hubert Schwyzer</p> <p>Kevin Falvey</p> <p>Kevin Falvey Hubert Schwyzer Chris McMahan Chris McMahan Matthew Hanser Donald Crawford Nathan Salmon</p>
CSULB GRADUATE COURSES	Professor/Instructor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special Topics: Modern Tradition ▪ Seminar in Epistemology ▪ Analytic Philosophy ▪ Hegel ▪ Seminar in Metaphysics ▪ Philosophy of Language ▪ Independent Study: Saul Kripke 	<p>David Ring Al Spangler Paul Tang Steven Davis Al Spangler Al Spangler Al Spangler</p>

