

JAMES PEARSON

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EMPLOYMENT

2013- Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Bridgewater State University
2013- Instructor, Department of Philosophy, Harvard Summer School
2011-2013 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, William Jewell College

EDUCATION

2003-2011 University of Pittsburgh, Ph.D. in Philosophy
Dissertation: "Logic and Intelligibility"
Committee: Thomas Ricketts, Anil Gupta, Stephen Engstrom, Steven Awodey
1999-2003 University of Oxford, Balliol College, B.A. in Mathematics and Philosophy (Class I)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Epistemology, History of Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind and Language

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics, Symbolic Logic, Philosophy of Science, Ethics, Environmental Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "Carnap, Explication, and Social History." *Social Theory and Practice*, 43, 4, (2017): 741-774.
"Taking Care with Quine's 'Don't-Cares.'" *The Monist*, 100, 2, (2017): 266-287.
"Asking Students What Philosophers Teach." *Teaching Philosophy*, 36, 1, (2013): 31-49.
"Interpreting Disturbed Minds: Donald Davidson and *The White Ribbon*." *Film-Philosophy*, 16, 1, (2012): 1-15.
"Distinguishing W.V. Quine and Donald Davidson." *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy* 1, 1 (2011): 1-22. - Nominated in 2012 for the APA Prize for an article by a Junior Scholar

Review Articles

Gilbert Harman and Ernie Lepore (eds), *A Companion to W.V.O. Quine*. *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy*, 4, 2 (2016): 1-16.

Book Reviews

- Bryan Frances, *Disagreement*. *Philosophy East and West* 66, 1, (2016): 357-359.
William Demopoulos, *Logicism and its Philosophical Legacy*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, (2013). (<http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/40917/>)
Benjamin Schnieder and Moritz Schulz (eds.), *Themes from Early Analytic Philosophy*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, (2012). (<http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/28321/>)

Other

Interviewed by Skye Cleary, *American Philosophical Association Blog*, (2017). (<https://blog.apaonline.org/2017/03/23/the-spirit-of-modern-philosophy-at-central-apa/>)

WORK IN PROGRESS

- “Objectivity Socialized”
- “Frege’s Alleged Pragmatism”
- “Modest Transcendental Externalism”

PRESENTATIONS

- “Objectivity Socialized,” Carnap and Quine Reassessed Conference, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Oct 2017
- “Russell and Logical Form,” Film and Philosophy Honors Class Guest Lecture, Appalachian State University, Aug 2017
- “Caring for Quine’s ‘Don’t-Cares,’” American Philosophical Association (Central Division), Mar 2017
- “Interpreting Radical Others in *Arrival*,” Film-Philosophy Panel, Appalachian State University, Mar 2017
- “Caring for Quine’s ‘Don’t-Cares,’” Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy, 5th annual meeting, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Jun 2016
- “Quine on Explication,” Quine: Structure and Understanding, Glasgow-Nottingham International Conference, Dec 2015
- “Frege’s Alleged Pragmatism,” Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy, 4th annual meeting, Dublin, Jun 2015
- “Carnapian Explication and Social Criticism,” Analyzing Social Wrongs Workshop, Institut für Wissenschaft und Kunst, Vienna, May 2015.
- “Taking Care with Quine’s ‘Don’t-cares,’” North Carolina Philosophical Society, NC State University, Feb 2015.
- “A Taxonomy of Logical Aliens,” Denison University, Jan 2013.
- “How to do things with philosophy,” Flagler College, Jan 2013.
- “Philosophy of Mathematics: Laws of Number as Laws of Thought,” Park University, Nov 2012.
- “Frege and the Madness of Logical Aliens,” Augustana College, Nov 2011.
- “Rationality from Madness: Frege, Logic, and the case of Logical Aliens,” Madness: Probing the Boundaries Conference, University of Oxford, Sep 2010.
- “Interpreting Disturbed Minds: Donald Davidson and *The White Ribbon*,” Film-Philosophy III Conference, Warwick University, Jul 2010.
- “Wittgenstein and the Significance of Logic for 21st Century Philosophy,” Philosophy in the 21st Century Conference, Marquette University, Mar 2009.
- “May Philosophers Legitimately Teach?” Education Conference, Boston College, Mar 2009.
- “Wittgenstein, Normativity, and Necessity,” Wittgenstein’s Method(s), British Postgraduate Philosophy Association Masterclass, London Institute of Philosophy, Sep 2008.
- “Ought Philosophy be Prescriptive or Descriptive?” Philosophy as a Way of Life Conference, University of Liverpool, Nov 2004.

TEACHING

Awards

- 2017 Presidential Award for Distinguished Teaching, Bridgewater State University
2009 Elizabeth Baranger Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Pittsburgh

Courses Taught

Bridgewater State University

- Foundations of Logical Reasoning (twenty-five times)
- Symbolic Logic (nine times)
- Philosophy of Language (twice)
- Environmental Ethics
- History of Analytic Philosophy
- Metaphysics (twice)
- Epistemology (twice)
- Philosophy of Mathematics (directed study)
- Modal Logic (directed study)

Harvard University Summer School

- Deductive Logic (five times)

William Jewell College

- Oxbridge Honors Tutorials* (2-4 student classes for honors philosophy majors)
- Moral Epistemology: Naturalism and Ethics
- Critique of the Tradition: Philosophical Peripheries (twice)

Philosophy

- Ethics
- Philosophy of Science
- History of Philosophy I: Plato to Kant
- History of Philosophy II: Kant to Davidson

Core Curriculum

- Senior Capstone*: Endangerment: Languages, Species, and Cultures
- Freshman Seminar*: The Responsible Self (four times)

University of Pittsburgh

Full Responsibility:

- Theory of Knowledge: Contemporary Epistemological Debates
- Topics in 20th Century Philosophy: Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein
- Introduction to Ethics (writing intensive)
- Introduction to Symbolic Logic (twice)
- Political Philosophy: Liberty and Equality
- Social Philosophy: Race, Class, and Gender
- Social Philosophy: Introduction to Environmental Philosophy (three times)

Assisted:

- Introduction to Symbolic Logic (twice)
- Introduction to Philosophical Problems (writing intensive)
- Political Philosophy

Student Research Supervision

- 2016 Advisor, Philosophy Honors Thesis: Michael Hollien, "The Reliability of Testimony and Memory," Bridgewater State University
- 2014 Advisor, Philosophy Honors Thesis: Diane Smedberg, "Defending the Phenomenal Concept Strategy," Bridgewater State University
- 2012 Advisor, Oxbridge Summer Research Project: Karen Rice, "French Existentialism," William Jewell College
- 2012 Advisor, Oxbridge Summer Research Project: Andrew Smith, "Feminism and Autonomy," William Jewell College

RESEARCH AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 Travel Grant, Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship, Bridgewater State
- 2016 Summer Grant, Office of Assessment, Bridgewater State
- 2015 Travel Grant, Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship, Bridgewater State
- 2015 Course Proposal Grant, Institute of Social Justice, Bridgewater State
- 2015 Pedagogy Grant, Summer Teacher-Scholar Institute, Bridgewater State
- 2015 Summer Grant, Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship, Bridgewater State
- 2014 Writing Grant, Summer Teacher-Scholar Institute, Bridgewater State
- 2014 Travel Grant, Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship, Bridgewater State
- 2012 Oxbridge Advisor Summer Research Grant, William Jewell
- 2009 Speaking in the Disciplines Seminar Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Cengage Learning, Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford UP, Norton

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Bridgewater State University

- 2017- LGBTQ Mentor
- 2017- Faculty Advisor to Student Rugby Club
- 2014; 16- Foundations of Logical Reasoning Core Requirement Coordinator
- 2016- Faculty Development Leadership Group Committee Member
- 2016- Critical Thinking Assessment Team Leader
- 2016 Faculty Research Colloquium Speaker: "Carus's Carnap and the Institution of Marriage"
- 2015- Film Studies Minor Advisory Board Member
- 2015- Center for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship Advisory Board Member
- 2015- Faculty and Librarian Research Grant Subcommittee Chair
- 2015- Philosophy Department Assessment Chair
- 2015 Faculty Research Colloquium Speaker: "Modest Transcendental Externalism."
- 2014- Philosophy Departmental Honors Chair
- 2014- Quantitative Reasoning Across the Curriculum Advisory Board Member
- 2014- Center for Sustainability Advisory Board Member
- 2014 Institute for Social Justice "Syllabus Design" Workshop Facilitator
- 2014 Faculty Research Colloquium Speaker: "Why Naturalists Ought to Care about Quine's 'Don't-cares'"
- 2013-16 Philosophy Department Meeting Secretary

William Jewell College

- 2012-2013 Duke Undergraduate Research Colloquium Committee Member
2012 Workshop panelist on “The Impact of MOOCs”
2011, 2012 Guest Speaker for Diakrinomena Series: “Iris Murdoch’s Platonic Dialogues” (Feb),
“On Wittgenstein’s ‘Lectures on Religious Belief’” (Oct)
2011-2013 Film-Philosophy Colloquium Series Founder and Coordinator

University of Pittsburgh

- 2010 Arts and Sciences Grad Expo Chief Panel Judge
2010 Speaker in Fessenden Honors in Engineering Symposium: “On C.P. Snow’s ‘The Two Cultures’”
2010, 2008 Philosophy TA/TF Graduate Student Mentor
2007 Graduate Student Representative on Junior Faculty Philosophy Search Committee
2007-2010 “Sample a Class” Program Participant
2003-2011 Philosophy Graduate Student Conference Referee
2003-2006 Student/Faculty Philosophy Works in Progress Colloquium Coordinator

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association
American Association of Philosophy Teachers
Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy
Network for Analytic Philosophy and Social Critique
National Numeracy Network

REFERENCES

- Dr. Thomas Ricketts, Professor of Philosophy
1001 Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260
Email: ricketts@pitt.edu Tel: 412-624-5788
- Dr. Anil Gupta, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
1001 Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15260
Email: agupta@pitt.edu Tel: 412-624-5771
- Dr. Catherine Womack, Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater MA 02325
Email: cwomack@bridgew.edu Tel: 508-531-2259
- Dr. Juliet Floyd, Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Boston University, Boston MA 02215
Email: jfloyd@bu.edu Tel: 617-353-3745
- Dr. Stephen Engstrom, Professor of Philosophy
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Email: engstrom@pitt.edu Tel: 412-624-5775
- Dr. Kenneth Alpern, Oxbridge Senior Tutor and Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, William Jewell College, Liberty, MO 64068
Email: alpernk@william.jewell.edu Tel: 816-415-7612
- Dr. Warren Goldfarb, W.B. Pearson Professor of Modern Mathematics and Mathematical Logic
Department of Philosophy, Harvard University, Cambridge MA 02138
Email: goldfarb@fas.harvard.edu Tel: 617-495-9512