

Keith Buhler

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RESEARCH

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Virtue Ethics, Metaethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion, Bioethics

EDUCATION

2017 PH.D. Philosophy, University of Kentucky (expected completion January, 2017)
2015 M.A. Philosophy, University of Kentucky
2014 M.A. Applied Orthodox Theology, University of Lebanon
2004 B.A. Humanities, Biola University

PRESENTATIONS

2016 “The Cosmic Question”: Teleology without Theology in Thomas Nagel’s *Mind and Cosmos* San Diego, CA.
2014 “Nihilistic Fairy Tales: Kung Fu Panda and the Great and Powerful Oz”, Faith and Film Conference, Baylor University, TX.
2014 “Is the Cosmos Causally Closed? Against Inductive Arguments,” Oxford University, Ian Ramsey Center, St. Anne’s College.
2014 “Socratic Spiritual Direction,” SOPHIA Conference, TX.
2014 “I Wouldn’t Imagine That if I Were You: Moral Imaginative Resistance in a Virtue Ethical Frame,” South Carolina Society for Philosophy, SC; Midsouth Philosophy Conference, MI.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2014 - present Instructor, Philosophy Department, Asbury University

2012 - present Teaching Assistant, Philosophy Department, University of Kentucky

TEACHING

University of Kentucky

2016 Business Ethics, Upper Division

2015-16 Health Care Ethics, Upper Division

2013-14 Introduction to Philosophy

2013 Introduction to Philosophy, Winter course

2013 Introduction to Ethics

2012-13 Introduction to Logic (Teaching assistant)

Asbury University

2016 Philosophy of Religion, Upper Division Summer course

2016 Seminar: Philosophy of CS Lewis

2016 Seminar: Wisdom and Virtue

2014-2016 Introduction to Philosophy

Biola University

2004 Philosophy of Science (Teaching assistant)

High School Courses

2011 Plato Seminar

2009-2010 Aristotelian Logic

2009-2012 Western Civilization: American Thought

2008-2012 Western Civilization: Ancient and Medieval Thought

2007-2013 Western Civilization: 20th Century British Thought

Other Teaching and Leadership

2013-2014 Director of High School Studies, Veritas Academy

2010-2012 Master Tutor, Torrey Academy

2010-2012 Tutor, Etum Academy, Fullerton, CA

2007-2010 Tutor, Torrey Academy, La Mirada CA

2009-2011 Lecturer, Wheatstone Academy

2004-2005 Assistant Director, Wheatstone Academy

2001-2009 Tutor, Wheatstone Academy, Fullerton, CA.

2001-2002 Great Books Tutor, Willow Elementary, Long Beach, CA.

2001 Summer English Teacher, Biola University Abroad, Mongolia.

RECOMMENDATIONS

David Bradshaw, Professor of Philosophy University of Kentucky, 1415 Patterson Office Tower
dbradsh@uky.edu / 859.257.7107

Anita Superson, Profesor of Philosophy
University of Kentucky, 1433 Patterson Office Tower
superson@uky.edu / 859.257.4186

Daniel Breazeale, Profesor of Philosophy, University of Kentucky, 1417 Patterson Office Tower
breazeal@uky.edu / 859.257.4376

Clare Batty, Assistant Profesor of Philosophy
University of Kentucky, 1415 Patterson Office Tower
clare.batty@uky.edu / 859.257.7109.

GRADUATE COURSES

Ethics

- S2016 Seminar on Post-Kantian Ethics: Fichte and Hegel on Right, Dan Breazeale.
- F2015 Ethical Naturalism (Dissertation research)
- S2014 Seminar on the Ethics of Bodily Autonomy, Anita Superson.
- S2014 Ethical Naturalism (Independent study)
- F2012 Ethics from Hobbes to Feminism, Anita Superson.
- F2015 Seminar on Metaethics and Motivation, Anita Superson.
- F2014 Virtue and After Virtue (Independent study), David Bradshaw.

Ancient Philosophy

- S2016 Seminar on the Death of God: Plato's Forms (audit), Eric Sanday
- S2014 Seminar on Plato: Philebus and Timaeus, Eric Sanday.
- S2013 Seminar on Plato's Parmenides, Eric Sanday.
- S2013 Aristotle and Aristotelians on Mind (Independent study), David Bradshaw.
- F2012 Ancient Greek Metaphysics, Eric Sanday.

Philosophy of Mind

- F2013 Seminar on Mind and Imagination, Clare Batty.
- S2009 Philosophy of Mind, JP Moreland.

Metaphysics, Epistemology, other.

- S2013 Seminar on Language & Normativity, Tim Sundell.
- F2013 Seminar on Metaphysical Naturalism, David Bradshaw.
- F2012 Seminar on Kantian Idealism, Stefan Bird-Pollan.
- S2013 Philosophy of Religion, David Bradshaw.
- F2013 Symbolic Logic, Tim Sundell.
- F2008 Metaphysics of Substance and Property, JP Moreland.

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2014 “Morality: Rule-following or New Life?”, Wesleyan Society.
- 2013 “Reading as Classical Education”, Veritas Academy.
- 2012 “The Goodness of Goodness: Lewis’ *Abolition of Man*”, Torrey Academy.
- 2012 “Is Vainglory Pride? Dorothy Sayers’ *Gaudy Night*”, Torrey Academy.
- 2011 “Does Love Cover a Multitude of Sins?”, Hope Academy.
- 2011 “Hope and the Cycle of Desire”, Hope Academy.
- 2011 “The Divided Self”, Hephatha Lutheran Church.
- 2010 “The Art of Conversation; Conversation with Art”, Wheatstone Academy.
- 2009 “The Virtue of Constancy”, Hope Academy.
- 2007 “Learning From Experience”, Torrey Honors Institute, Biola University.

LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek (proficient reading knowledge)

Spanish (fluent speaking knowledge)

AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association, 2014-present

Society of Orthodox Philosophers in America, 2014-present

International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry, 2015-present

EVALUATIONS

- 3.7 out of 4, cumulative average in overall teaching quality (University of Kentucky and Asbury University)
- 3.5 out of 4, cumulative average in overall course quality

DISSERTATION

Title: “The Point of Virtue: Nature, Reason, and Teleology in Recent Neo-Aristotelianism” (Chair: David Bradshaw)

Abstract: Recent Neo-Aristotelian virtue ethicists are united on several points, including these: the good person is the virtuous person; virtues are human goods; human goods are in some way natural. They are divided on other points: is virtue “natural” to human beings in virtue of their being rational beings unlike others in the animal kingdom or in virtue of their being organisms like any other? Given that human beings are biological and rational creatures, what is the relationship between rationality and biology? Put differently, what is the relationship between normativity and nature? Philippa Foot represents the physical, organic aspect of this division; John McDowell represents the normative, rational aspect. Biological naturalism blocks

cultural relativism while “second nature” naturalism seems more aligned to the scientific view of nature. Who has the upper hand? My dissertation attempts to bolster the argument that virtues are human goods pertaining to our nature as practical, rational primates and to give some reasons to believe that Foot is right, contra McDowell, that our very biology is teleological, while McDowell is right that some virtue is a kind of knowledge. I argue that virtue is the excellence of rational practices and practical reasoning. In light of this definition of virtue, I defend a conception of practical reasoning according to which one’s success or failure in pursuit of the good life for humans is the definitive criterion by which to judge a human being. I also provide an outline of a secular, humanistic conception of flourishing according to which becoming wise is the natural telos of practical rational animals, even though they may individually die and (one day) go extinct.