

**Keith Buhler**  
University of Kentucky  
Department of Philosophy  
1402 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506  
keith.buhler@uky.edu  
keithbuhler.com  
562.230.2920

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Kentucky, 2017  
M.A. Philosophy, University of Kentucky, 2015  
M.A. Orthodox Theology, University of Balamand, 2012  
B.A. Humanities, emphasis History, Biola University, 2004

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Kentucky, Spring 2017  
Instructor of Philosophy, Asbury University, 2013-2017

## **RESEARCH AREAS**

Specialization in Ethics and the History of Philosophy.  
Competence in Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Philosophy of Religion.

## **UNIVERSITY TEACHING**

1. Business Ethics (Fall 2016, Spring 2017 UK)
2. Health Care Ethics (Spring 2015, Fall 2016, UK)
3. Introduction to Philosophy (2013-2014, UK, 2014-2017 Asbury)
4. Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2013, Spring 2017 UK)
5. Introduction to Logic (Spring 2013)

6. Philosophy of Religion (Summer 2016, Asbury)
7. Philosophy of C.S. Lewis (Fall 2016, Asbury)
8. Virtue Ethics, Ancient and Modern (Spring 2016, Asbury)
9. Introduction to Logic (Spring 2013)
10. Introduction to Logic (Fall 2012, UK, as TA under Bob Sandmeyer)
11. Philosophy of Science (summer 2004, Biola University, as TA under Nancy Pearcey)

## **SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHING**

12. Introduction to Philosophy (online course, Freedom Project Academy, 2017)
13. Humanities: 20th Century British Thought (Veritas Academy, KY 2013)
14. Philosophy: Plato on Being and Knowing (Torrey Academy, CA 2011)
15. Philosophy: Traditional Logic (Torrey Academy, CA 2009-2010)
16. Humanities: Foundations of American Thought (Torrey Academy, CA 2009-2012)
17. Humanities: Ancient and Medieval Thought (Torrey Academy, CA 2008-2012)
18. Humanities: 20th Century British Thought (Torrey Academy, CA 2007-2012)
19. Philosophy: Great Books Tutor, GATE Program (Willow School of Long Beach, CA 2001-2002)
20. ESL Tutor (Etum Academy, CA 2010-2012)
21. ESL Teacher (Biola University Abroad, Ulaambatar, Mongolia, 2001)

## **ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS**

1. Director of High School Studies (Veritas Academy, 2013-2014)
2. Master Tutor (Torrey Academy, 2010-2012)
3. Assistant Director (Wheatstone Academy, 2004-2005)

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

1. "The Case for Agnosticism about Causal Closure" (revise and resubmit to *Religious Studies*)
2. *Becoming What We Are* (book draft complete)
3. "Organic Naturalism: Teleological Realism in the Foundation of Ethics" (article in development)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

1. "Pride and Vainglory are Separate Vices", SOPHIA Conference, Spring Branch, TX 2017.

2. “Natural Teleology without Theology in Thomas Nagel’s *Mind and Cosmos*” Society of Christian Philosophers, University of San Diego, 2016.
3. “Fairy Tale Nihilism: The Empty Hero in *Kung Fu Panda* and *The Great and Powerful Oz*,” Faith and Film Conference, Baylor University, 2014.
4. “Is the Cosmos Causally Closed?” Ian Ramsey Centre, Oxford University, 2014.
5. “Socratic Therapy,” SOPHIA Conference, Spring Branch, TX 2014.
6. “Virtue and Imaginative Resistance,” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, 2014.
7. “Virtue and Imaginative Resistance,” South Carolina Society of Philosophers, University of South Carolina, 2014.

## COMMENTS AND SERVICE

1. Referee for Kentucky Graduate School Conference submissions, 2017.
2. “How to Keep Momentum in Dissertation Writing,” University of Kentucky Graduate School, Writing Bootcamp, 2016.
3. Comments on David Skowronski’s “Inductive Reasoning in Naturalism and Supernaturalism.” Society of Christian Philosophers, University of San Diego, 2016.
4. Session Chair, Ian Ramsey Centre Conference, Oxford University, 2014.
5. Comments on Andrew Greenlee’s “Combating the Normativity Challenge to Virtue Ethics,” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, 2014.
6. Referee for Kentucky Graduate School Conference submissions, 2013.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

Travel Funding, University of Kentucky Philosophy Department (2014, 2015, 2016)  
 Travel Funding, University of Kentucky Graduate School (2014)  
 Teaching Assistantship, University of Kentucky (2012-2016)  
 Perpetual Member of the Torrey Honors Institute, Academic Honors Society (2004)

## DISSERTATION

**Title:** *Becoming What We Are: Virtue and Practical Wisdom as Natural Ends*

**Committee:** David Bradshaw (Chair), Dan Breazeale, Stefan Bird-Pollan, Mark Kightlinger

**Abstract:** Philippa Foot and John McDowell are united in the affirmation that virtue is ‘natural goodness’ for human beings. They are also united in endorsing scientific naturalism. Nevertheless, they are divided in their rival conceptions of ‘nature.’

This dissertation defends and advances upon Foot’s view of natural goodness by appealing to “generic propositions,” a little-utilized feature of linguistic theory. Generic life forms and organic functions are just as scientifically respectable as other naturalistic concepts. Human beings are best understood as practical, rational primates. It follows that the ethical and rational norms defining

a good human life are a subset of natural norms which can be known as such from an “external” scientific point of view as well as from an “internal” ethical point of view.

I articulate neo-Aristotelian accounts of virtue and practical reason according to which all practical, rational animals necessarily pursue the (perceived) good and avoid (perceived) evil that is internal to their life form. In short, virtue and practical wisdom are natural ends for human beings. We are practical rational animals capable of reasoning, so we ought to become practically wise, despite varying abilities and life circumstances. The life of virtue is the life spent becoming what we are.

While the normative force of my view is clear, I secure its naturalistic credentials by examining three influential conceptions of ‘nature.’ I criticize McDowell’s conception, and show how my view is consistent with either of the remaining two. I call my view “recursive naturalism,” for practical reasoning, which is natural to human beings, is part of the natural world even though we reason about the world, ourselves, and our own reasoning.

## INVITED PUBLIC TALKS

1. “Morality: Rule-following or New Life?,” Wesleyan Society, Lexington KY, 2014.
2. “Reading Great Books in Classical Education,” Veritas Academy, Lexington KY, 2013.
3. “The Goodness of the Tao: CS Lewis’ *Abolition of Man*,” Torrey Academy, CA 2012.
4. “Is Vainglory Pride? Dorothy Sayers’ *Gaudy Night*,” Torrey Academy, 2012.
5. “The Philosophy of Pain,” St. Barnabas Church, CA 2011.
6. “Hope and the Cycle of Desire,” Hope Academy, 2011.
7. “The Art of Conversation: Conversation with Art,” Wheatstone Academy, La Habra, CA 2011.
8. “Goodness, Truth, and Beauty,” St. George Church, CA 2010.
9. “The Virtue of Constancy,” Hope Academy, Yorba Linda, CA 2009.
10. “Life Experience as a Text: Learning From Initiatives,” Biola University, CA 2007.

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

### *Professional Development Courses*

Proseminar on Teaching Philosophy, David Bradshaw.  
Preparing Future Faculty, Morris Grubbs.

### *Taken at University of Kentucky*

Seminar on Post-Kantian Ethics: Fichte and Hegel on Right. Dan Breazeale.  
Seminar on Metaethics: Moral Motivation. Anita Superson.  
Seminar on Ethics and Bodily Autonomy. Anita Superson.  
Seminar on Metaethics: Normative Language. Tim Sundell.  
Metaethics (Dissertation residency). David Bradshaw.

Ethical Naturalism (Independent study). David Bradshaw.  
MacIntyre and After Virtue (Independent study). David Bradshaw.  
Ethics from Hobbes to Feminism. Anita Superson.  
Seminar on Plato's Forms and the Death of Gods (audit). Eric Sanday  
Seminar on Plato's *Philebus* and Timaeus. Eric Sanday.  
Seminar on Plato's *Parmenides*. Eric Sanday.  
Aristotle and Aristotelians on Mind (Independent study). David Bradshaw.  
Ancient Greek Metaphysics. Eric Sanday.  
Seminar on Mind and Imagination. Clare Batty.  
Seminar on Kantian Idealism. Stefan Bird-Pollan.  
Seminar on Metaphysical Naturalism. David Bradshaw.  
Philosophy of Religion. David Bradshaw.  
Symbolic Logic. Tim Sundell.

### ***Taken at Biola University***

Philosophy of Mind. JP Moreland.  
Metaphysics of Substance and Property. JP Moreland.  
Philosophy of Cosmology and Quantum Physics. John Bloom.

## **LANGUAGES**

Reading proficiency in Ancient Greek  
Speaking fluency in Spanish  
Basic programming in HTML, CSS, and LaTeX

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Society of Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, 2012-present  
American Philosophical Association, 2014-present  
Society of Orthodox Philosophers in America, 2014-present  
International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry, 2015-present

## **REFERENCES**

David Bradshaw, Professor of Philosophy  
University of Kentucky, 1415 Patterson. dbradsh@uky.edu / 859-257-7107  
  
Dan Breazeale, Professor of Philosophy  
University of Kentucky, 1417 Patterson. breazeal@uky.edu / 859-257-4376

Stefan Bird-Pollan, Associate Professor of Philosophy  
University of Kentucky, 1421 Patterson. stefanbirdpollan@uky.edu / 859-257-7107

Brandon Look, Research Professor of Philosophy  
University of Kentucky, 1415 Patterson. look@uky.edu / 859-257-1862

John Reynolds, President, The Saint Constantine School  
6000 Dale Carnegie Lane Houston, TX. jmnreynolds@saintconstantine.org / 832-975-7075

Chris Bounds, Chair, Philosophy and Religion  
Asbury University, One Macklem Drive, Wilmore KY. chris.bounds@asbury.edu / 859-858-3511