COLE MITCHELL
Curriculum Vitae

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION
Metaethics, Ethical Theory, Early Modern

AREAS OF COMPETENCE
History of Ethics, Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion

EMPLOYMENT
University of North Carolina   08/2012–08/2014
    Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy / Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Northern Arizona University   09/2011–05/2012
    Instructor, Philosophy

EDUCATION
University of Arizona   2003–2011   Ph.D.   Philosophy
        Dissertation: "Against Metaethical Descriptivism: The Semantic Problem"
        Committee: Mark Timmons (advisor), Michael Gill, Terry Horgan

University of Alabama   1997–2002   B.A.   Philosophy (minor: Economics)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS
- *Graduate College Fellowship*, University of Arizona, Spring 2011 [merit-based]
- *The Iredell Jenkins Memorial Endowed Scholarship*, University of Alabama, 2000, 2001, 2002 [best philosophy student]
- *The Martin and Marie ten Hoor Prize*, University of Alabama, 2000, 2001 [best paper by a philosophy student]

PUBLICATIONS
"Mixed-Up About Mixed Worlds? Understanding Blackburn's Supervenience Argument"
    (forthcoming in *Philosophical Studies*)

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS (available upon request)
"Why Not Metaethical Non-Naturalism? A Problem in Moral Semantics"
"Bayle and the Atheist-Friendly *Euthyphro*"
"Motivation and the Direct Passions in Hume's *Treatise*"
"A Supervenience Argument against Error-Theory"
"Does Metaethical Quietism Have Anything to Say?"

TEACHING POSITIONS (at the University of Arizona unless otherwise noted)
As Instructor
 History
- Early Modern Philosophy (Fall 2006, Summer 2009)
- History of Moral and Political Philosophy (Spring 2008)

Value Theory
- Social Justice (Spring 2014 [UNC])
- Social Ethics and Political Thought (Spring 2013, Fall 2013 [UNC])
- Ethics and Economics (Fall 2012 [UNC])
- Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2012, Spring 2014 [UNC])
- Health Care Ethics (Fall 2011 [NAU])
- Introduction to Moral and Social Philosophy (Fall 2010)
- Metaethics (Fall 2009)
- Law and Morality (Spring 2007)
- Medical Ethics (Summer 2006)

M&E
- Philosophy of Mind (Spring 2012 [NAU])
- Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 [NAU])
- Introduction to Symbolic Logic (Fall 2008)
- Philosophy of Religion (Summer 2007, Fall 2007)
- Mind, Matter, and God (Summer 2004, Summer 2005)
- Logic and Critical Thinking (Fall 2004)

As Teaching Assistant
- Personal Morality (Issues in Applied Ethics), with Mark Timmons (Fall 2010)
- Introduction to Symbolic Logic, with Martin Fricke (Fall 2008)
- Mind, Matter, and God, with J. Christopher Maloney (Spring 2004, Spring 2006)
- Justice and Virtue, with Houston Smit (Spring 2005)
- Personal Morality (Issues in Applied Ethics), with Michael Gill (Fall 2003)

As Grader
- Metaethics, with Mark Timmons (Fall 2010)
- Metaethics, with Mark Timmons (Fall 2007)
- Introduction to Symbolic Logic, with Martin Fricke (Fall 2007)
- Introduction to Symbolic Logic, with Martin Fricke (Fall 2006)

SERVICE

To the Profession:

Chapter abstracts for Oxford Scholarship Online, *Rationality and the Good*, Timmons, Greco, & Mele (eds.), Oxford University Press

Referee, *The Journal of Philosophical Research*

Referee, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

History
  Plato's Psychology (seminar), Rachana Kamtekar, Spring 2006
  Hume's *Treatise* (seminar), David Owen, Spring 2005
  History of Social Contract Theory, Michael Gill, Spring 2004

Value Theory
  Moral Phenomenology (seminar), Mark Timmons, Fall 2006
  Ethical Intuitionism (seminar), Mark Timmons, Spring 2005
  The Purpose of Moral Theory (seminar), Dave Schmidtz, Fall 2004

The British Moralists (seminar), Michael Gill, Fall 2003
Political Philosophy, Eric Cavallero, Fall 2003

M&E
Philosophy of Mind, Terry Horgan, Spring 2007
Philosophy of Mind (independent study), Terry Horgan, Fall 2006
Philosophy of Science, Shaughan Lavine, Spring 2006
Metaphysics of Experience, Houston Smit, Spring 2006
Philosophy of Language, Marga Reimer, Spring 2005
Truth (seminar), Joseph Tolliver, Fall 2004

Other
Research and Professionalization Seminar, Tom Christiano & Terry Horgan, Fall 2007
Mathematical Logic, Shaughan Lavine, Fall 2004
Pro-Seminar, Marga Reimer, Fall 2003

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES
French, Czech

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Descriptivist metaethical views face a serious semantic problem. Moral thought and discourse, descriptivists hold, purports to describe moral properties and/or relations: e.g., the term 'good' purports to refer to some property or cluster of properties. Central to any such theory, then, is the recognition of certain items of ontology which, should they actually exist, would count as the referents of moral terms and concepts. And since moral thought and discourse operates under a supervenience constraint, descriptivists hold that any ontology suitable for morality would have to supervene upon non-moral ontology. But this lands descriptivists with the task of providing a semantic account capable of relating this ontology to moral terms and concepts. That is, they must explain why it is that certain items of ontology and not others would count as the referents of moral terms and concepts, in a way that is consistent with the supervenience constraint. I argue that this important explanatory task cannot be carried out, as well-known semantic concerns—the open question argument, the is-ought gap, and Moral Twin Earth—return in unfamiliar guises to bedevil extant descriptivist accounts. And because the problem generalizes from metaethics to all normativity, we are left with good reason to pursue alternatives to descriptivist accounts of moral, and indeed generally normative, semantics.

LIST OF REFERENCES

Simon Blackburn   Professor of Philosophy, UNC Chapel Hill, swb24@cam.ac.uk
Mark Timmons   Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona, mtimmons@u.arizona.edu
Terry Horgan   Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona, thorgan@u.arizona.edu
Michael Gill   Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona, gillm@u.arizona.edu
David Owen   Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona, dwo@u.arizona.edu
Houston Smit   Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona, smit@u.arizona.edu
Shaun Nichols   Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona, sbn@u.arizona.edu