

Alexander Dunn

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Education

2008–2009	Santa Barbara City College
2009–2012	BA in Philosophy from Reed College
2012–	PhD in Philosophy from the University of California, Santa Barbara (expected in 2017)

Coursework and specialization

Philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, modern philosophy, aesthetics

Honors & awards

2012–2013	Burnand-Partridge Foundation Scholarship (SB Scholarship Foundation)
2010–2012	Mary E. Barnard Memorial Humanities Scholarship (Reed College)
2011–2012	Robert O. Dougan Memorial Scholarship (SB Scholarship Foundation)
2010–2011	Commended for Excellence in Scholarship (Reed College)
2010–2011	David D. Stalker Memorial Scholarship (SB Scholarship Foundation)
2008–2009	Jackson Honors Scholarship (Santa Barbara City College)

Recent work and research

2011–2012	Reed College Undergraduate Thesis <i>Title:</i> The Metaphysics of Ordinary Things <i>Advisor:</i> Paul Hovda Available at http://www.uweb.ucsb.edu/~adunn/dunn_metaphysics-of-ordinary-things.pdf
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Abstract: Theories of metaphysical nihilism claim that there are no (or nearly no) objects with parts: no chairs, houses, mountains, and perhaps even no people. The philosophers who make these claims have trouble explaining why we nonetheless believe there are such things. The only successful explanation is compatible both with nihilism and with metaphysical universalism. Universalism claims that for every set of things, there is something else made up of those things; this thesis is intuitively more plausible than nihilism. But if we assume that universalism is true, and if we do not presuppose four-dimensionalism, we have to choose between two unintuitive versions of universalism: one that posits a plurality of co-located (entirely overlapping) objects, or one that denies that things can change their parts.

2010–2012	Reed College Library I held two positions at the Reed College Library. Between the fall of 2010 and the spring of 2012—when I graduated—I worked at the circulation desk; since June of 2011 was one of the lead students supervising circulation operations. During the summer of 2011 I rewrote many of the
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circulation guidelines and formatted them for the web. In 2011 I was hired as a reference assistant. This position involved staffing the library's reference desk and helping students, staff, faculty, and members of the public access library resources.

Contacts: Dena Hutto, Director of Reference and Instruction and Norman F. Carrigg College Librarian as of July 2012 (dena.hutto@reed.edu) and Jennie McKee, Access Services (jennie@reed.edu)

2011

Oregon Humanities

During the summer of 2011 I worked as a volunteer intern in the Oregon Humanities office in Portland, OR. I worked on the Conversation Project, a new program designed to foster public debate on contemporary issues. In its third year scholars, writers, and other 'conversation leaders' designed educational discussions that focused on community participation and dialogue. I assisted with public outreach, researching nonprofits statewide and asking them to host our conversation leaders. I also helped review the impact of the Oregon Humanities grant programs, and worked to make the Conversation Project's web page more accessible.

Contact: Annie Kaffen, Program Coordinator (a.kaffen@oregonhumanities.org)

2010

Goleta Valley Beautiful

During the summer of 2010 I worked as a paid research intern with Goleta Valley Beautiful. GVB was contracted by the City of Goleta, CA to produce an Urban Forest Management Plan that would provide guidelines, standards, and ordinances to protect the trees within the city and promote the planting and maintenance of new trees in the urban forest. During my internship I familiarized myself with the literature on urban forestry and drew a number of previous drafts together into a single Management Plan. I met with City officials and incorporated their requirements into the document, quickly moving through several revisions. I also produced a cost-benefit framework for urban forests based on previous research by Ken Knight (Executive Director of GVB) and the USDA Forest Service.

Contact: Ken Knight, Executive Director (805-685-7910)