

## **Grant Ramsey**

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**Area of Specialization:** Philosophy of Science, especially Philosophy of Biology

**Area of Competence:** Logic, History of Biology since Darwin

### **Academic Positions**

#### **Beginning July 2016**

*BOFZAP Research Professor*  
Institute of Philosophy, KU Leuven

#### **August 2015-June 2016**

*Fellow*  
National Humanities Center

#### **July 2007-June 2015**

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame  
Program in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Notre Dame  
*Fellow*  
The Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values

### **Education**

Duke University, August 2000 – May 2007  
*Ph.D. in Philosophy*

The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington, August 1992 – June 1997  
*B.S. in Biology*  
*B.A. in Philosophy*

### **Essay Awards**

2013 Sir Karl Popper Prize, [www.thebsps.org/society/bsps/popper\\_prize.html](http://www.thebsps.org/society/bsps/popper_prize.html)

*Awarded for:*

Pence, C. and Ramsey, G. (2013) "A new foundation for the propensity interpretation of fitness" *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 64: 851-881. doi: 10.1093/bjps/axs037

## Teaching Awards

The Bass Instructorship award (2006)

## Major Research Grants

The National Science Foundation Scholars Award (2015): \$188,000  
(with Charles Pence, Co-PI)

## Residential Fellowship Awards

**National Evolutionary Synthesis Center:** Appointed as a fellow for the 2015-2016 academic year.

**Pittsburgh Center for Philosophy of Science:** Appointed as a fellow for the 2015-2016 academic year. (Declined for National Humanities Center fellowship.)

**Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies:** Appointed as a fellow from September 2015 to July 2017. (Declined for National Humanities Center fellowship and BOFZAP Research Professorship.)

**National Evolutionary Synthesis Center:** Appointed as a fellow for the 2013-2014 academic year. (Accepted for Spring 2014 only.)

**KU Leuven:** Appointed as F+ Fellow summer 2013.

## Publications – Journal Articles and Book Chapters

24. Ramsey, G. and De Block, A. (forthcoming) "Is cultural fitness hopelessly confused?" *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.
23. Pence, C. and Ramsey, G. (forthcoming) "Is organismic fitness at the basis of evolutionary theory?" *Philosophy of Science*.
22. De Block, A. and Ramsey, G. (forthcoming) "The organism-centered approach to cultural evolution" *Topoi*.
21. Ramsey, G. (forthcoming) "Can altruism be unified?" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*.
20. Ramsey, G. (forthcoming) "What is human nature for?" in A. Fuentes (ed.) *Verbs, Bones and Brains: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Human Nature*, Notre Dame, University of Notre Dame Press.
19. Ramsey, G. (forthcoming) "What is animal culture?" in K. Andrews and J. Beck (eds.) *Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Animal Minds*, Routledge Press.
18. Ramsey, G. (forthcoming) "Is human nature the subject of the human sciences?" in T. Lewens and (ed.) *Why We Disagree about Human Nature*, Oxford University Press.
17. Ramsey, G. and Pence, C. (Under contract) "Chance in evolution from Darwin to contemporary biology" in G. Ramsey and C. Pence (eds.) *Chance in Evolution*, University of Chicago Press.

16. Deem, M. and Ramsey, G. (conditionally accepted) "Guilt, gossip, and groups: culture and the evolution of guilt proneness" In: A. De Block H. De Cruz and P. R. Adriaens (eds.) *Cultural evolution, philosophy, and the emotions* (volume currently under review).
15. Ramsey, G. (2013) "Human nature in a post-essentialist world" *Philosophy of Science* 80(5): 983-993.
14. Ramsey, G. and Pence, C. (2013) "Fitness: philosophical problems" eLS. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/9780470015902.a0003443.pub2>. [This is an Encyclopedia of Life Sciences entry.]
13. Ramsey, G. (2013) "Can fitness differences be a cause of evolution?" *Philosophy & Theory in Biology*. 5e:401. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.6959004.0005.001>
12. Pence, C. and Ramsey, G. (2013) "A new foundation for the propensity interpretation of fitness" *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 64: 851-881. doi: 10.1093/bjps/axs037
11. Ramsey, G. (2013) "Organisms, traits, and population subdivisions: two arguments against the causal conception of fitness?" *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 64: 589-608. doi: 10.1093/bjps/axs010
10. Ramsey, G. (2013) "Culture in humans and other animals" *Biology and Philosophy*. 27: 457-479. doi: 10.1007/s10539-012-9347-x
9. Ramsey, G. (2012) "Driftability" *Synthese*. 190: 3909-3928. doi: 10.1007/s11229-012-0232-6
8. Ramsey, G. (2012) "How human nature can inform human enhancement" *Philosophy and Technology*. 25: 479-483. doi: 10.1007/s13347-012-0087-2
7. Ramsey, G. and Peterson, A. (2012) "Sameness in biology" *Philosophy of Science* 77: 255-275. doi: 10.1086/664744
6. Ramsey, G. and Brandon, R. (2011) "Why reciprocal altruism is not a kind of group selection" *Biology and Philosophy* 26: 385-400. doi: 10.1007/s10539-011-9261-7
5. Ramsey, G. (2007) "The Fundamental Constraint on the evolution of culture" *Biology and Philosophy* 22: 401-414. doi: 10.1007/s10539-006-9038-6
4. Ramsey, G., Bastian, M. L., and van Schaik, C. (2007) "Animal innovation defined and operationalized" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 30: 393-437. doi: 10.1017/S0140525X07002373 [Note that this is a full target article, not a commentary.]
3. Brandon, R. and Ramsey, G. (2007) "What's Wrong with the Emergentist Statistical Interpretation of Natural Selection and Random Drift?" in D. Hull and M. Ruse (eds.) *Cambridge Companion to the Philosophy of Biology*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

2. Ramsey, G. (2006) "Block fitness" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 37: 484-498. doi: 10.1016/j.shpsc.2006.06.009
1. Cobb, A., Nadkarni, N., Ramsey, G., and Svoboda, A. J. (2001) "Recolonization of bigleaf maple branches by epiphytic bryophytes following experimental disturbance" *The Canadian Journal of Botany* 79: 1-8. doi: 10.1139/b00-134

### **Publications – Book Reviews**

4. Hollocher, C. H. Pence, G. Ramsey, and M. M. Wirth. (2013) "A path to success? A Review of *Evolution, Development, and the Predictable Genome* by David L. Stern." *Evolution and Development* 15(1): 80–82. doi: 10.1111/ede.12016
3. Hollocher, H., A. Fuentes, C. H. Pence, G. Ramsey, D. J. Sportiello, and M. M. Wirth. (2011) "[Review of] *On the Origin of Stories: Evolution, Cognition, and Fiction.*" *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 86(2): 137-138. doi: 10.1086/659913
2. Pence, C. H., H. Hollocher, R. Nichols, G. Ramsey, E. Siu, and D. J. Sportiello. (2011) "[Review of] *Did Darwin Write the Origin Backwards? Philosophical Essays on Darwin's Theory.*" *Philosophy of Science* 78(4): 705-709. doi: 10.1086/661775
1. Ramsey, G., H. Hollocher, A. Fuentes, C. H. Pence, and E. Siu. (2010) "[Review of] *Darwinian Populations and Natural Selection.*" *The Quarterly Review of Biology* 85(4): 499-500. doi: 10.1086/656856

### **Publications – Books (as editor)**

- Ramsey, G. and Pence, C. (Under contract) *Chance in Evolution*, University of Chicago Press.

### **Publications – Books (as illustrator)**

- Lombardi, Angel. (1998) *Respecting the Knowledge: Ethnobotany of Western Washington*. Olympia: Washington State Capital Museum.  
(Illustrated by Grant Ramsey)

### **Online Publications**

- Ramsey, G., Longino, J., and Kugler, C. (1998) Formicidae: *Rogeria crieghtoni* [www.evergreen.edu/user/serv\\_res/research/arthropod/GENERA/Rogeria/SPECIES/crieghtoni/crieghtoni.html](http://www.evergreen.edu/user/serv_res/research/arthropod/GENERA/Rogeria/SPECIES/crieghtoni/crieghtoni.html). (One of 13 published web pages on the ant genus *Rogeria*.)

### **Presentations**

37. "The evoText project" Invited symposium talk (with Charles Pence). In the symposium titled "Quantitative textual analysis and philosophy: Hypothesis-testing and data-mining philosophical ideas" at the Annual

- Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, Vancouver, BC. April 4, 2015.
36. "The structure of evolutionary theory" Invited colloquium talk. Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. December 19, 2014.
  35. "Anthropomorphism and anthropodenial" Invited debate with Frans de Waal. KU Leuven, Belgium, December 4, 2014.
  34. "Is cultural fitness hopelessly confused?" Invited colloquium talk. Meeting of the Southern California Philosophy of Biology, University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA. November 22, 2014.
  33. "The causal structure of evolutionary theory" Invited colloquium talk. Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of Irvine, Irvine, CA. November 21, 2014.
  32. "Guilt as an evolutionary problem" Symposium talk (with Michael Deem). Biennial Meeting of Philosophy of Science Association, Chicago, IL. November 8, 2014.
  31. "The possibility of altruism" Invited colloquium talk. Department of Philosophy, University of Leuven, Belgium. October 28, 2014.
  30. "Is cultural fitness hopelessly confused?" Invited plenary talk. Human Evolution and Behavior Network, University of Antwerpen, Belgium. October 23, 2014.
  29. "Human Nature, culture, and the human sciences" Conference talk. Transfusion and Transformation: The Creative Potential of Interdisciplinary Knowledge Exchange, Institute for Advanced Study, Durham University, UK, July 16, 2014.
  28. "Is organismic fitness at the basis of evolutionary theory?" Conference talk. British Society for the Philosophy of Science Meetings, Cambridge University, UK, July 10, 2014.
  27. "Using evoText to plumb the depths of the evolutionary literature" Invited talk (with Charles Pence). The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, May 8, 2014.
  26. "Guilt by Association?" Conference talk (with Michael Deem). Georgetown Conference on Emotions and Emotionality, April 12, 2014.
  25. "Is human nature the subject of the human sciences?" Conference talk. Human Nature(s) Conference, University of Notre Dame, April 5, 2014.
  24. "Is human nature the subject of the human sciences?" Invited talk. Department of Philosophy, Duke University, February 28, 2014.
  23. "Is human nature the subject of the human sciences?" Invited talk. Center for Professional and Applied Ethics, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, February 11, 2014.
  22. "Can Altruism be Unified?" Submitted conference talk. International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Biannual Meeting, Montpellier, France. July 9, 2013.
  21. "Guilt by Association?" Invited talk (with Michael Deem). Cultural Evolution and the Emotions Conference, Leuven, Belgium, May 29, 2013.

20. "Fitness, Selection, and the Causes of Evolution" Invited talk. Center for Philosophical Psychology. University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium, May 22, 2013.
19. "Human Nature in a Post-Essentialist World." Invited talk. Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park. March 7, 2013.
18. "Human Nature in a Post-Essentialist World." Submitted conference talk. Department of Philosophy, University of Mississippi. February 2013.
17. "Human Nature in a Post-Essentialist World." Submitted conference talk. Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting. November 15, 2012.
16. "Human Nature in a Post-Essentialist World." Invited talk. Department of Philosophy, University of Leuven, Belgium. October 19, 2012.
15. "Culture in Humans and Other Animals." Invited keynote talk. Human Evolution and Behavior Network, University of Leuven, Belgium. October 18, 2012.
14. "What is Cultural Fitness?" Invited talk. Center for the Philosophy and History of Science, Boston University. December 2, 2011.
13. "Sameness in Biology" Invited talk. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois, Chicago. October 25, 2011.
12. "Can Homology be Unified?" Submitted conference talk. International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Biannual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah. July 12, 2011.
11. "Drift as an individual-level process" Symposium talk. Pacific APA. Commentators: Mohan Matthen, Sarah Roe, and Vadim Keyser. April 22, 2011.
10. "Drift as an individual-level process" Invited talk. Metaphysics of Microevolution Workshop, University of Alabama, Birmingham. April 8, 2011.
9. "Can fitness differences be a cause of evolution?" Invited talk. Department of Philosophy, University of Leuven, Belgium. September 16, 2010.
8. "Human behavior and the disunity of fitness." Invited keynote talk. Human Evolution and Behavior Network, University of Leuven, Belgium. September 9, 2010.
7. "Solving and Dissolving the Problems of Fitness" Invited talk. Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Indiana, Bloomington. April 16, 2010.
6. "Biological Altruism Reconsidered" Submitted conference talk. International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Biannual Meeting, Brisbane, Australia, 2009.
5. "You Can't Get Teleology From Development Alone: A Reply to Dennis Walsh" Invited talk. Meeting of the Four University Consortium on the Philosophy of Biology, Montreal, Quebec, 2006.
4. "Why is it Good to be Cultured?" Submitted conference talk. International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Biannual Meeting, Guelph, Ontario, 2005.
3. "Conceptual Foundations of Dual-Inheritance Theory: An Introduction to the Work of Peter Richerson" The Evolution of Cognition: Niche Construction, Culture, and Environmental Complexity (Fourth Annual

- Conference on Recent Work in Biology and Philosophy), Durham, North Carolina, 2005.
2. "Fitness and the Fitness Environment" Submitted conference talk. International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Biannual Meeting, Vienna, Austria, 2003.
  1. "Recolonization of Big-leaf Maple Branches by Epiphytic Bryophytes Following Experimental Disturbance: Evidence for Autogenic Factors in Early Succession" Submitted conference poster. 2nd International Forest Canopy Conference "Forest Canopies '98: Global Perspectives." Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida, 1998.

### **Other Awards and Fellowships**

ISLA (Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts) Exploratory Seminar: Evolution Working Group 2012  
ISLA Digital Humanities Working Group 2011  
Henkels Lecture Series grant 2010  
Provost's Initiative on Building Intellectual Community 2011  
Provost's Initiative on Building Intellectual Community 2009  
ISLA International Travel Grant  
ISLA RA Funding Grant  
Duke University Conference Travel Grant 2006  
Duke University Graduate Fellowship 2000 – 2007  
Duke University Summer Research Fellowship 2005  
Duke University Conference Travel Grant 2005  
Vienna International Summer University Travel Grant and Tuition 2003  
Vienna International Summer University Travel Grant and Tuition 2001

### **Teaching Experience**

*At Notre Dame:*

In Search of Utopia (College Seminar, undergrad), Spring 2015  
The Life and Work of Darwin (400-level, undergrad), Spring 2015  
Image Makers / Image Takers (College Seminar, undergrad), Fall 2014  
Philosophy of Biology (graduate level), Fall 2014  
Image Makers / Image Takers (College Seminar, undergrad), Fall 2013  
The Life and Work of Darwin (400-level, undergrad), Fall 2013  
Scientific Images of Humanity (400-level, undergrad), Spring 2012  
In Search of Utopia (College Seminar, undergrad), Spring 2013  
Image Makers / Image Takers (College Seminar, undergrad), Fall 2012  
Philosophy of Biology (graduate level), Fall 2012  
Darwin, Philosophy, and Theology (400-level, undergrad), Spring 2012  
In Search of Utopia (College Seminar, undergrad), Spring 2012  
Image Makers / Image Takers (College Seminar, undergrad), Fall 2011  
The Life and Work of Darwin (400-level, undergrad), Fall 2011

Philosophy of Science, Fall 2010

Heaven on Earth? Utopian Ideals and Human Nature (College Seminar, undergrad), Fall 2010

Chance and Evolution (graduate level), Spring 2010

Heaven on Earth? Utopian Ideals and Human Nature (College Seminar, undergrad), Spring 2010

Scientific Images of Humanity (200-level, undergrad), Fall 2009

Darwin, Philosophy, and Religion (400-level, undergrad), Fall 2009

Darwin in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (graduate level), Spring 2009

The Life and Work of Darwin (400-level, undergrad), Spring 2009

Scientific Images of Humanity (200-level, undergrad), Fall 2008

Philosophy of Biology (graduate level), Spring 2008

Philosophy of Biology (200-level, undergrad), Fall 2007

*At Duke University:*

Philosophy of Human Nature, Spring 2007

Philosophy of Biology, Summer 2006

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2005

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2004

Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2004

Philosophy of Law, Fall 2003, *Teaching assistant for professor Martin Golding.*

Aristotle, Spring 2003, *Teaching assistant for professor Michael Ferejohn.*

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2002, *Teaching assistant for professor Owen Flanagan.*

Modern Philosophy, Fall 2001, *Teaching assistant for professor Tad Schmaltz.*

### **Professional Review and Editorial Activities**

Reviewer for the journals *American Naturalist*, *Biology & Philosophy*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophy and Technology*, *Philosophy and Theory in Biology*, *Philosophy of Science*, and *Theoria*.

Editorial Board, *Philosophy Compass* (Fall 2011 – present)

National Science Foundation grant proposal reviewer.

### **Professional Organizational Activities**

*Organizer:* The Evolution Working Group, Fall 2009 – present.

*Co-organizer:* “Chance and Evolution” Sixth Annual Conference on Recent Work in Biology and Philosophy, Spring 2007, supported by the Duke University Center for the Philosophy of Biology,  
<http://www.duke.edu/philosophy/bio/conference>.



Co-organizer: “The Evolution of Cognition: Niche Construction, Culture, and Environmental Complexity” Fourth Annual Conference on Recent Work in Biology and Philosophy, April 2005, supported by the Duke University Center for the Philosophy of Biology,  
<http://www.duke.edu/philosophy/bio/conference>.

Graduate Student Representative: Duke University Philosophy Department, August 2004 – August 2005.

### **Employment and Research (before earning PhD)**

*Biology Researcher:* Fieldworker and data analyst. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Biology, Robert Peet Lab, May-December 1999.

*Biology Researcher:* Designed and implemented study of herbivore deterrence in the *Pseudomyrmex* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) – *Triplaris* (Polygonaceae) ant-plant symbiosis in lowland Amazonian rain forest. Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru, March-June 1998

*Biology Researcher:* Fieldworker and data analyst. Designed and implemented ecological study of epiphyte recolonization in big-leaf maple canopies. This research was published in *The Canadian Journal of Botany* (see citation above). International Canopy Network, Olympia, Washington, August 1997 - March 1998.

*Editor:* Layout Editor and Assistant Copy Editor. “What’s Up: Newsletter of the International Canopy Network.” International Canopy Network, Olympia, Washington, August 1997 - March 1998.

*Biology Researcher:* Designed and implemented study of the *Myrmelachista* – *Ocotea* cloud forest ant-plant mutualism. Monteverde, Costa Rica, December 1995-March 1996.

### **Professional Associations**

American Academy for the Advancement of Science  
American Philosophical Association  
British Society for the Philosophy of Science  
International Society for the History, Philosophy, & Social Studies of Biology  
Philosophy of Science Association