

*Curriculum Vitae*

**Grant Ramsey**

Department of Philosophy  
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University of Notre Dame  
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**Area of Specialization:** Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science

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

**Present Positions**

*Assistant Professor*

Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

Program in History and Philosophy of Science, University of Notre Dame

*Fellow*

The Riley 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*

**Dissertation Topic**

*Culture from Infrahumans to Humans: An Essay in the Philosophy of Biology*

It has become increasingly common to explain the behavior of animals—from sperm whales to songbirds—in terms of culture. But what is animal culture, what is its relationship to other biological concepts and to human culture, and what impact does culture have on a species' evolution and ecology? My dissertation is an attempt to answer these questions.

**Dissertation Committee**

Robert Brandon and Alexander Rosenberg (co-advisors)

Owen Flanagan, Güven Güzeldere, and Daniel McShea

**Prizes**

2013 Sir Karl Popper Essay Prize

*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

## **Publications – Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

17. De Block, A. and Ramsey, G. (forthcoming) "The organism-centered approach to cultural evolution" *Topoi*.
16. Ramsey, G. (2013) "Human nature in a post-essentialist world" *Philosophy of Science* 80(5): 983-993.
15. 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.
14. Ramsey, G. and Pence, C. (2013) "Fitness: philosophical problems" eLS. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/9780470015902.a0003443.pub2>.
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
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**

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.

## **Awards and Fellowships**

National Evolutionary Synthesis Center sabbatical spring 2014  
F+ Fellowship, KU Leuven, Belgium (summer visiting faculty position) 2013  
ISLA 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  
Bass Instructorship 2006  
Duke University Conference Travel Grant 2006  
Duke University Graduate Fellowship 2000 – present  
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:*

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*, *Philosophy and Technology*, *Theoria*, *Philosophy and Theory in Biology*, *Philosophy of Science*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*.

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

National Science Foundation grant proposal reviewer.

### **Professional Organizational Activities**

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

*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