

SAMUEL NEWLANDS
CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Philosophy
University of Notre Dame
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EMPLOYMENT

- 2022 – PRESENT Carl E. Koch Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- 2022 – PRESENT Chairperson, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- 2018 – 2022 Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- 2013 – 2018 William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Collegiate Associate Professor of Philosophy
- 2012 – 2018 Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- 2006 – 2012 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Philosophy, Yale University (2006)
- B.A. in Philosophy, Wake Forest University (2000)

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Early modern philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics; Philosophy of religion

BOOKS AND VOLUMES

- (1) *Modality: A Conceptual History*, edited with Yitzhak Melamed (Oxford University Press, 2024)

- (2) *Reconceiving Spinoza* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Reviewed in *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Mind*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Review*, *3AM*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Philosophy*, *Archives de Philosophie*; Author-critics sessions in Paris, Philadelphia, and Chicago

- (3) *New Essays on Leibniz's Theodicy*, edited with Larry M. Jorgensen, with “Introduction” (Oxford University Press, 2014)
- (4) *Metaphysics and the Good: Themes from the Philosophy of Robert Merrihew Adams*, edited with Larry M. Jorgensen, with “Introduction,” (Oxford University Press, 2009)

PAPERS AND CHAPTERS

- (1) “Monism, Idealism and Panentheism,” *The Monist*, forthcoming
- (2) “Malebranche on the Metaphysics and Ethics of Evil,” in *Oxford Handbook to Malebranche*, ed. Colin Chamberlin, Eric Stencil, and Julie Walsh (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- (3) “Leibniz’s Modal Theories,” in *Modality: A Conceptual History*, edited with Yitzhak Melamed (Oxford University Press, 2024)
- (4) “Regis’ Sweeping and Costly Anti-Spinozism,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 62:2 (2024), 211–238
- (5) “Baumgarten’s Steps Towards Spinozism,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 60:4 (2022), 609–633
- (6) “From Theism to Idealism to Monism: A Leibnizian Path Not Taken,” *Philosophical Studies*, 178:4 (2021), 1143–1162
- (7) “Spinozistic Selves,” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 6:1 (2020), 16–35
- (8) “Backing into Spinozism,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93:3 (2016), 511–537
- (9) “Leibniz on Privations, Limitations, and the Metaphysics of Evil,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 52 (2014), 281–308*

* Named one of the “Top 10” articles in philosophy in 2014 by *The Philosopher’s Annual*

- (10) “Leibniz and the Ground of Possibility,” *The Philosophical Review* 122:2 (2013), 155-187
- (11) “Thinking, Conceiving, and Idealism in Spinoza,” *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 94:1 (2012), 31-52
- (12) “Hegel’s Idealist Reading of Spinoza,” *Philosophy Compass*, 6:2 (2011), 100-108
- (13) “More Recent Idealist Readings of Spinoza,” *Philosophy Compass*, 6:2 (2011), 109-119
- (14) “Another Kind of Spinozistic Monism,” *Noûs*, 44:3 (2010), 469-502
- (15) “The Harmony of Spinoza and Leibniz,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 81:1 (2010), 64-104
- (16) “Spinoza’s Modal Metaphysics,” Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (16,000 words; August 2007; substantial rewrite, 2013 and 2018; <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/spinoza-modal/>)
- (17) “Spinoza and The Metaphysics of Perfection,” in *Spinoza’s Ethics: A Critical Guide*, ed. Yitzhak Melamed (Cambridge University Press, 2018)
- (18) “Spinoza’s Relevance to Contemporary Metaphysics,” in *Oxford Handbook to Spinoza*, ed. Michael Della Rocca (Oxford University Press, 2012 [in print 2018])
- (19) “Spinoza’s Early Anti-Abstractionism,” in *The Young Spinoza: A Metaphysician in the Making*, ed. Yitzhak Melamed (Oxford University Press, 2015)
- (20) “Spinoza on Universals,” for *The Problem of Universals in Modern Philosophy*, edited by Stefano Di Bella and Tad Schmaltz (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)
- (21) “Hume on Evil,” *Oxford Handbook on David Hume*, ed. Paul Russell (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015)
- (22) “Evils, Privations, and the Early Moderns,” in *Evil*, eds. Scott MacDonald and Andrew Chignell (Oxford University Press, 2012 [in print 2018])
- (23) “El replanteamiento de la modalidad en Spinoza y Leibniz,” in *Leibniz frente a Spinoza: Una interpretación panorámica*, ed. Oscar Esquisabel and trans. Leticia Cabañas (Editorial Comares, 2014)

- (24) “The Problem of Evil,” in *Routledge Companion to Seventeenth-Century Philosophy*, ed. Dan Kaufman (Routledge, submitted 2008, in print 2018)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- (25) “Spinoza as Idealist, Acosmist, Pantheist”
(26) “Early Modern Metaphysics of Evil: Pitfalls and Prospects”
(27) “Regis’s Exemplarist Account of Mind-Body Relations”
(28) *Evils Among the Early Moderns*
(29) *No Cheating! A Spinozistic Reading of Early Modern Metaphysics*

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- (30) “Adams, Robert Merrihew,” a short dictionary entry for *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, ed. by Robert Audi (2015)
(31) “Natural Disasters and the Wrath of God,” a short piece on Leibniz’s theodicy that was published in the *Wall Street Journal*, April 9, 2010
(32) Review of *Theism and Ultimate Explanation: The Necessary Shape of Contingency* by Timothy O’Connor (*Philosophical Quarterly*, 60:239 (2010))

FELLOWSHIPS

- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (full year), 2021-2022
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (full year), 2008-2009
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Research Fellowship, 2005

RESEARCH GRANTS (TOTAL EXTERNAL AWARDS AS PI: \$12.5 MILLION)

“Narrative Conceptions of the Self: A Planning Grant,” a \$214,000 planning grant to support preliminary research on the empirical support (especially in various branches of psychology and neuroscience) for narrative conceptions of the self, as part of a larger

projected project on the nature of the self. Funding through the John Templeton Foundation. Co-directed with Michael Rea, 2017-2018

“Explainer Video Series,” a \$270,000 grant to design and produce ten animated shorts explaining the philosophical contributions of Alvin Plantinga to a wider public audience. Funding through the John Templeton Foundation. Co-directed with Michael Rea, 2017-2018

“Hope and Optimism: Conceptual and Empirical Investigations,” a 3 year, \$4.9 million research initiative supporting new work in philosophy, psychology, sociology, and analytic theology on the nature and norms of hope and optimism, including lab support, fellowships, workshops, conferences, and large public events and prizes. Most of the funding is through the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from the University of Notre Dame and Cornell University. Co-directed with Andrew Chignell, 2014-2017

“The Experience Project,” a 3 year, \$5.1 million research initiative sponsoring new work in philosophy, psychology, sociology, and religious studies on the nature of transformative and religious experiences. Funding through the John Templeton Foundation and the University of Notre Dame. Co-directed with Laurie Paul and Michael Rea, 2014-2017

“Optimism, Rational Hope, and Human Nature (planning grant),” a \$200,000 grant to support preliminary research on the empirical component of a larger research project on rational optimism and hope. Funding from the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from the University of Notre Dame and Cornell University. Co-directed with Andrew Chignell, 2012-2013.

“The Problem of Evil in Modern and Contemporary Thought,” a 4 year, \$1.4 million research initiative supporting research fellowships, national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, translations, and an essay prize. Funding from the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from the University of Notre Dame. Co-directed with Michael Rea, 2010-2013.

“Pain and the Nature of Minds,” a \$340,000 supplemental grant from the John Templeton Foundation adding an additional, concurrent two-year component to the “Problem of Evil in Modern and Contemporary Thought” project. Co-directed with Michael Rea, 2011-2013.

“Supplemental Funding,” \$158,000 supplemental grant for additional components of “Analytic Theology: The Convergence of Philosophy and Theology” and “The Problem of Evil in Modern and Contemporary Thought,” from the John Templeton Foundation. Co-administered with Michael Rea.

International Travel Grant (ISLA; 2007 and 2008)

Miscellaneous Materials and Research Grant (ISLA; 2008)

Exploratory Seminar on Integrative Scholarship (ISLA; 2008-2012)

TALKS [EXCLUDING UPCOMING EVENTS]

“Monism, Idealism and Panentheism,” Harvard University Metaphysics and Theology workshop, 2025

“Monism, Idealism and Panentheism,” Lehigh University Monism workshop, 2025

“Why (Not) to Read Spinoza’s Ethics,” UC-Berkeley, 2025

“An Early Modern Metaphysics of Evil,” Assos, Turkey, June 2024

“A Leibnizian Metaphysics of Evil,” Ohio State, April 2024

“An Early Modern Metaphysics of Evil,” University of Kansas, Nov 2023

“An Early Modern Metaphysics of Evil,” NC State, September 2023

“Regis’s Sweeping and Costly Anti-Spinozism,” UCSD History of Philosophy Roundtable, April 2022

“Regis’s Sweeping and Costly Anti-Spinozism,” Chicago Modern Philosophy Roundtable, March 2022

“Early Modern Metaphysics of Evil: Pitfalls and Prospects,” The Nature of Evil conference, Universidad de Navarra, Spain, August 2021

“Baumgarten’s Steps Towards Spinozism,” Yale University colloquium, December 2020

“Response to Critics,” APA Author-Meets-Critics session on *Reconceiving Spinoza*, Chicago, February 2020

“Response to Critics,” APA Author-Meets-Critics session on *Reconceiving Spinoza*, Philadelphia, January 2020

“Response to Critics,” Séminaire Descartes, a Franco-American symposium session on *Reconceiving Spinoza*, ENS-Paris, June 2019

“Spinozistic Selves,” Chicago Modern Philosophy Roundtable, March 2019

“Spinozistic Selves,” University of Washington, November 2018

“Leibniz on Modality,” Modality: A Conceptual History workshop, Johns Hopkins University, October 2018

“On Doing Public Philosophy Comically,” panel member at the Franco-American Early Modern Workshop, University of Michigan, June 2018

“Spinozistic Selves,” Tahoe Early Modern Workshop, May 2018

“From Theism to Idealism to Monism,” conference on the Principle of Sufficient Reason, Simon Fraser University, April 2018

“On Betz on Diller on Barth: A Response to the Possibility of Theological Knowledge,” Wake Forest University, Feb 2017

“Spinoza and the Metaphysics of Perfection,” University of South Carolina, Feb 2016

“Monism and Perfection,” University of Wyoming, November 2015

“Spinoza, Leibniz, and the Metaphysics of Perfection,” University of Toronto Early Modern Group, March 2015

“Schaffer’s Orchards,” Reed College, January 2015

“Spinoza, Leibniz and the Metaphysics of Perfection,” Spinoza and Leibniz workshop, Michigan State University, January 2015

“Backing into Spinozism,” Early Modern Workshop, Nevada, May 2014

“Backing into Spinozism,” CSU-Long Beach, November 2014

“Backing into Spinozism,” UC-Irvine, Scientia Series, November 2014

“Backing into Spinozism,” Tahoe Early Modern Workshop, May 2014

“Melamed on Spinoza”, author-meets-critics session at Pacific APA, April 2014

“‘Eminent Containment’ and Other Dubious Attempts to Avoid Spinozism,” Rice University, March 2014

“‘Eminence’ and Other Dubious Attempts to Avoid Spinozism”, University of Chicago
Modern Speaker Series, April 2013

“Eminence and Other Dubious Attempts to Avoid Spinozism”, Texas A&M University,
Spring Early Modern Workshop, April 2013

“God and Evil: What *Not* to Say?” Wheaton College, September 2012

“Evils and the Early Moderns,” *Concept of Evil* workshop, Columbia University, April 2012

“Spinoza on Universals,” *The Problem of Universals in Modern Philosophy*, Scuola Normale
Superiore di Pisa, Italy, November 2011

“Spinoza’s Early Anti-Abstractionism,” *The Young Spinoza* conference, Johns Hopkins
University, September 2011

“Leibniz on the Ground of Possibility,” Leibniz Society of North America conference,
December 2010

“Leibniz on the Ground of Possibility,” *7th Annual NYU Conference on Issues in the History
of Modern Philosophy*, New York University, November 2010

“God, modality, and some long-dead folks,” Logos Conference, Rutgers University, May
2010

“God, Grounding, and Modality,” Metaphysics Old and New conference, Society of
Christian Philosophers, March 2010

“Evils, Privations, and the Early Moderns,” The 2009 Rukavina Lecture, Gonzaga
University, February 2009

“Theodicies and the Recognition of Goods,” Philosophy of Religion conference, Baylor
University, February 2009

“Thinking, Conceiving, and Idealism in Spinoza,” International Symposium on Spinoza,
Leibniz, and Laws, Leiden University, Netherlands, November 2008

“Another Kind of Spinozistic Monism,” Oxford Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy,
Oxford University, October 2007

“Spinoza, Leibniz and the Modalities of Perfection,” Spinoza and Leibniz conference,
Princeton University, September 2007

“Spinoza and the Ethics of Individuation,” PCWC Early Modern Philosophy Conference,
March 2007

“Spinoza and the Ethics of Individuation,” University of Chicago Modern Group, Feb 2007

“The Harmony of Spinoza and Leibniz,” New England Early Modern Seminar, Harvard
University, June 2006

“Augustine and Kierkegaard on Normative Freedom,” *Persons and Freedom* conference,
Indiana University-Bloomington, September 2002

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES

“Reckoning with Evil: A Philosophical Dialogue,” University of Montana, April 2018

“Reckoning with Evil: A Philosophical Dialogue,” Indiana University, February 2018

“Hope, Evil, and Death,” Montana State University, February 2017

“Reckoning with Evil,” University of Wyoming, November 2015

“Reckoning with Evil: Pessimism and Hope,” Reed College, November 2014

“Is Religion Reasonable?” University of Waterloo, January 2014

“Is Religion Reasonable?” McMasters University, January 2014

“Is Religion Reasonable?” University of Guelph, January 2014

EVENT ORGANIZATION [EXCLUDING CENTER FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION EVENTS]

“The Metaphysics of the Material World,” a workshop on Tad Schmaltz’s forthcoming book
on Suarez, Descartes, and Spinoza, April 2020 [sadly cancelled due to pandemic]

“Modality: A Conceptual History,” a co-organized workshop at Johns Hopkins featuring
contributors to our *Necessity* volume, October 2018

“Narrative Conceptions of the Self,” co-organizer of cross-disciplinary workshop, in Key
Largo Florida, January 2018

“Los Angeles Hope Festival,” co-organizer of large public event in Los Angeles that
included prominent keynote speakers, research presentations, public art, a world premier
of our prize-winning play, musical acts, and an extensive filming project, May 2017

“Hope and Optimism Midpoint Collaboratory,” co-organizer of main project conference in Estes Park Colorado, June 2016

“Hope and Optimism Workshop,” co-organizer of philosophy workshop at Notre Dame, April 2016

“Hope and Optimism: New Research,” main workshop organizer, Ft. Myers Florida, January 2013

“Leibniz’s *Theodicy*: Reception and Relevance,” main conference organizer, Lisbon Portugal, October 2012

“The Problem of Evil and the Scottish Enlightenment,” main workshop organizer, Notre Dame, March 2011

“Leibniz’s *Theodicy*: Content and Context,” main conference organizer, Notre Dame, September 2010

“Bayle on the Problem of Evil,” main workshop organizer, Notre Dame, September 2010

Graduate Summer Seminar on the Problem of Evil in Early Modern Philosophy, co-creator and director, Skidmore NY, June 2010

PARTIAL LIST OF REFEREE WORK

National Endowment for the Humanities, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Israeli Science Foundation, Foundation for Polish Science, John Templeton Foundation, Mind, Noûs, The Philosophical Review, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Journal for the History of Philosophy, Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy, Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, Philosopher’s Imprint, Faith and Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Philosophical Studies

COURSES TAUGHT

Early Modern Metaphysics of Evil (graduate)

Leibniz (graduate)

Between Being and Non-Being: Then and Now (graduate, with Kris McDaniel)

Spinozism: Then and Now (graduate)

The Principle of Sufficient Reason: Then and Now (graduate)

Metaphysical Idealism: Then and Now (graduate)

Alternative Views of Modality (graduate, with Meghan Sullivan)

Early Modern Metaphysics: Ontology (graduate)

Early Modern Metaphysics: Modality (graduate)

Early Modern Metaphysics: Evil (graduate)

Spinoza (graduate)

Monism in Contemporary Metaphysics (graduate)

Philosophy and Technology (400-level)

Faith and Reason (co-taught with John Betz in Theology department, 400-level)

God, Evil, and the Early Moderns (400-level)

The Scientific Self: Body and Soul in 17th Century Europe (co-taught with Katherine Brading, 400-level)

The Rationalists (400-level)

Themes from Existentialism (300-level)

History of Modern Philosophy (300-level)

Philosophy of Religion (200-level)

University Seminar in Philosophy (100-level)

TEACHING SERVICE

Graduate Supervisor:

Michael Rauschenbach, *Spinoza's Isolationism* (2018)

Tobias Flattery, *Independence in Leibniz's Metaphysics* (2019)

Graham Clay, *Hume Applied* (2019)

Malte Bischof, *Engaging Spinoza and Spinozism* (2021)

John Hanson, *Descartes on Mental Representation* (w/ Katherine Brading, 2021)

Layne Hancock, *Saving Jonathan Edwards's Ethics* (w/ Gerald McKenny, 2024)

Huimin Liu, *Spinoza's Metaphysics of Mind* (2025)

Dissertations committee member on 17+ committees in modern philosophy, metaphysics, medieval, nineteenth century, and philosophy of religion

Oral exams chair (8) in modern philosophy

Oral exams committee member on 20+ committees in modern philosophy, metaphysics, medieval, and philosophy of religion

Prospectus exams committee member on 17+ committees in modern philosophy, metaphysics, medieval, nineteenth century and philosophy of religion

Directed four senior honors theses

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Department chairperson (2022 – Present)

University Task Force on Free Speech (2025)

Center for Philosophy of Religion, Director (2011 – 2021); Associate (2009 – 2011)

College Council Representative (2018 – 2022)

Faculty Recruitment Coordinator (2016 – 2019)

Search Committee Member (lots)

Philosophy Department Graduate Committee (2016 – 2018, 2012 – 2014, 2007 – 2008)

Committee on Advancement and Promotion (2013 – 2015)

Philosophy Department Graduate Admissions (2012, 2013, 2016, 2019)

Undergraduate Philosophy Club, Faculty Advisor (2011 – 2015)

Philosophy Department Library Representative (2006 – 2013)