

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Areas of Specialization

Aesthetics & philosophy of art, philosophy of mind, global ethics, feminist perspectives in philosophy

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of science, Philosophy of religion

Dissertation (ABD)

Dangerous Pleasures: On a certain practice of listening (Hanslick's invention of absolute music)

Advisor: Robert Yanal; Committee: Karl Braunschweig, Larry Lombard, and William Stine
My dissertation clock ran out as I had to stop the writing and take care of my parents at different times in 2000s.

Education

ABD. Wayne State University, Philosophy Department
Advisor: Robert Yanal

M.A. Philosophy and Economics, Eastern Michigan University (1995)

Thesis: Justice in a Community of Persons

Advisor: John Edgren; Committee: William Miller and Alfred Esposito

B.A. Philosophy and Economics, Eastern Michigan University (1993)

Graduate Coursework in Philosophy / Wayne State University (Total graduate credit hours: 113.5)

Fall 1998

Phil 5230 Philosophy of Science (4)

Phil 5350 Logical Systems I (4)

Phil 7839 Seminar in Aesthetics: Paradoxes of Emotion and Fiction (5)

Winter 1999

Phi 5050 Advanced Symbolic Logic (4)

Phil 7870 Seminar in Logic: Models of Rationality & Decision Theory (5)

Fall 1999

Phil 5460 Kant (4)

Phil 5550 Philosophy of Mind (4)

Phil 5999 Directed Reading: Contemporary Epistemology (5)

Winter 1999

□ Withdrew due to my dad's hospitalization and rehabilitation and also withdrew completely from PhD studies in Economics for the same reason.

Fall 2000

Phil 5280 History of Ethics (4)

Phil 7860 Seminar in Metaphysics: Event Theory (5)

Winter 2001

Phil 5400 Presocratic Philosophy (4)

Phil 7850 Seminar in Epistemology: Locke-Berkeley-Hume (5)

Fall 2001

Phil 5630 20th Century Analytic Philosophy I: Frege-Russell-Wittgenstein, et. al. (4)

Art History 6700 19th Century European Painting (4)

Winter 2002

Phil 7870 Seminar in Logic: The idea of proof-theory in mathematics (5)

Art History 7700 Seminar in Modern Art: Contemporary Theory & the Visual Arts (5)

Fall 2002

Phil 5800 Philosophy of Mathematics (4)

Phil 5999 Directed Reading: Emotion and the Aesthetics of Music (5)

Winter 2003

Phil 9991 Dissertation Research I (7.5)

Fall 2003

Phil 9992 Dissertation Research II (7.5)

Winter 2004

Phil 9993 Dissertation Research III (7.5)

Fall 2004

Phil 9994 Dissertation Research IV (7.5)

Winter 2005

Winter 2006 Dissertation Research and Writing (7.5)

PHILOSOPHY / RESEARCH INTERESTS

[1] **Aesthetics and philosophy of art** Overall, my work focuses on the relations between the aesthetic and the broadly moral dimensions of our lives. I am concerned with the emotional, cognitive, and moral values of the arts across our personal and social lives. Bringing together ethics and aesthetics requires moving beyond consequentialist and deontological theories and exploring theories in virtue ethics. Another area of research involves work on the semantics/pragmatics of expressive predicates in aesthetic judgements and criticism, requiring investigations into the nature of aesthetic judgements and whether or not they are best seen as truth-evaluable claims in the strong sense. A third area of work is directed to developing the significance of nonconceptual representational content in aesthetic experience.

[2] **Philosophy of mind** My work here focuses on the nature of phenomenal [or nonconceptual] intentionality and reference in perceptual experience and the related issue of perceptual content. At this point, I'm writing about perceptual content with respect to its non-conceptual dimensions. I am exploring the idea that perception can be content-involving without being concept-involving and so demonstrative reference need not require concept possession. The issue of 'demonstrative concepts' and their claimed capacity to handle reference to some classes of perceptual content [thus eliminating the need for the idea of nonconceptual content] is another active area of research. Finally, in my work on consciousness I am struck, like others, by the fact of consciousness and our apparent inability at present to account for it.

[3] **Ethics** Work here is on a theory of moral judgement that incorporates the concept of moral emotions and so incorporates emotion itself as a central epistemic resource in such judgement. I explore the hypothesis that emotion and cognition are two dimensions of experience that are ineliminably interdependent, rather than two modular components of such experience.

[4] **Feminist and modern philosophy** Work here involves developing dialogues between them to bring out the nature of the challenges feminist philosophers bring to the tradition. Philosophical understanding of the concepts of gender, gendered theory, feminist theory, and social construction is central to this project. I also explore the work of postmodern and poststructural feminist philosophers. I began work on developing this kind of dialogue in the Fall of 2003 by teaching feminist philosophy to students. The work continues because the teaching does.

[5] **Philosophy of science** I am interested in the nature of empirical confirmation of theories in aesthetics, especially the aesthetics of music and the visual arts. I also explore the following questions: what kind of theory is an aesthetic theory, why is it needed, and is it achievable, in principle.

[6] **Philosophy of religion** Work focuses on: the nature and role of faith in formulating the idea of religious epistemology, the idea of a normative ontology of communities of faith / communities of sacred encounter. I also explore the nature of moral epistemology within the context of communities of faith.

ECONOMICS In addition to a masters in economics from EMU, I also completed one year of PhD theory coursework in micro- and macro- economics at Wayne State University, 1998 to 1999 before having to put aside plans for a PhD in economics due to my dad's hospitalisation. I was also working on a PhD in philosophy at the time.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

[1] **Political economy and theories of distributive justice.** Developing frameworks for moral evaluation of theories of distributive justice.

[2] **Ethics and Economics in Contemporary capitalism** Research includes developing a theoretical framework that can help us understand the nature and role of actually existing non-market coordinating mechanisms in contemporary American capitalism. Strategies for maintaining and enhancing the dynamic and inherently ethical role of trust in buyer/seller relationships in maintaining markets is a second primary area of research.

[3] **Neoclassical economics** Focus of research stems from my masters thesis and investigates the consequences of a central flaw in the theoretical core of neoclassical economics: if the basic needs of agents go unmet, they cannot become rational maximisers and so cannot satisfy the behavioral equations of the model, thus blocking summation over agents to get correct general equilibrium results. Also working with the concept of preference and its critically assumed stability in neoclassical models, as well as its individuation and identity conditions.

[4] **Environmental economics, development economics, community economics** Research involves philosophical, ethical, and gender analyses of the adequacy of theoretical economics to model actually existing economic and social processes in order to evaluate its fitness for social policy analyses. The ontology and epistemology of theoretical economics is a central focus throughout, especially regarding the concepts of corporation, market, agency, and community.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

1998 – present, Part-Time Faculty, Wayne State University, Philosophy Dept

2006 – 2009 Part-Time Faculty, Eastern Michigan

2004 – 2005 Part-Time Faculty, Siena Heights University

2002 – 2004 Part-Time Faculty, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI

2001 – Fall Part-Time Faculty, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI

2000 – 2005 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Wayne State University

1997 – 1998 Part-Time Faculty, Lawrence Technological Institute, Southfield, MI

1998 – Fall Part-Time Faculty, Cleary College, Ann Arbor, MI

1997 – 2000 Part-Time Faculty, Monroe Community College, Monroe, MI

1997 – 1998 Part-Time Faculty, Jackson Community College, Jackson, MI

TEACHING EXPERIENCE - UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Aesthetics / Philosophy of Art

This course introduces students to the several contemporary theories of the arts [across expression, representation, formalist, institutionalist, feminist, pragmatist, and postmodernist] by way of investigating our purposes and interests behind such theory; art as a dynamic cultural activity; the roles of the audience, the arts, and artists in contemporary life; the role of ethical evaluation in aesthetic appraisal. Course explores such media as architecture, dance, film, installation art, literature, music, painting, performance art, sculpture, and theatre. Formation and elaboration of theory is motivated by close attention to artistic practices and proceeds from the bottom up.

Comparative Religion

This course examines the essential metaphysical and ethical doctrines of, as well as the nature of ritual in, several world religious traditions. Focus is on the enduring and characteristic features of each tradition and their essential meanings as a worldview and way of life. Also explored is how each tradition helps us understand the nature of religion. Finally, we explore the spiritual and ethical resources that each tradition brings to an interfaith dialogue on world peace, social and economic justice, women in religion, and religious pluralism.

Critical Thinking

This course covers the basic elements of inductive and deductive logic and argument. Students develop skills in argument reconstruction and evaluation and then apply them to legal, scientific, and philosophic reasoning. Central focus is on the complex interrelationships between total evidence, rationality, and belief within the context of epistemic communities. So-called postmodern challenges to critical thinking as traditionally conceived is included. Beginning with the Fall of 2003, I now regularly include work in feminist epistemology and philosophy of science.

Philosophical and Applied Ethics

Course explores the central grounds of various ethical theories [consequentialist ethics, rights ethics, ethics of care, virtue ethics] and their associated moral ontology and moral epistemology. Application of these theories to broad social issues across bioethics, environmental ethics, professional ethics in the workplace, and obligations of citizenship and multinational corporations. Course is also an introduction to the variety of feminist ethics.

Introduction to Philosophical Problems (Ancient, Modern, Contemporary)

This course introduces students to aesthetics, ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science through the writings of select philosophers. Central focus is on both the goodness of the arguments as well as on developing a strong appreciation for the nature of the fundamental intuitions the various areas appeal to. Dialogues with feminist philosophy are a regular part of all my courses.

Introduction to Philosophical Systems (Ancient, Modern, Contemporary)

This course covers philosophical theories such as empiricism, rationalism, pragmatism, and phenomenology in the writings of select philosophers from Plato to Rorty. Tensions between different theoretical frameworks are explored. Dialogues with feminist philosophy are regular part of all my courses.

Logic

The study of what follows correctly from what. Course introduces students to propositional, categorical, and first-order predicate logic by first exploring some semantics and pragmatics of natural language. The concept and plausibility of the idea of logical form is motivated by the study of inductive and deductive reasoning together with a brief look at the traditional sets of necessary and sufficient conditions for something to be a logical constant. Natural deduction techniques are introduced to give students the opportunity to work with the syntactical validity of formal systems. Some discussion of modal, epistemic, and deontic logics. We do some work with the concepts of names and predicates, reference and meaning, thing and process, and the all-important concept of logical consequence. First-order predicate logic requires the metaphysical framework of discrete particulars and, given sufficient time, we explore the idea of a world of such particulars over against a process ontology.

Microeconomics / Macroeconomics [Political Economy]

These courses cover the basic political economy of systems of distributive justice across the spectrum of economic institutions (families to multinationals to international development institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund). I cover standard formulations of neoclassical theory of market coordinating mechanisms in micro- and macroeconomics

and contemporary work in non-market coordinating mechanisms. I am very much interested in behavioral economics and pursue it when I have the time.

My own work in theoretical economics has shown that individuals need to have their basic needs met if they are to operate optimally in all markets - if, that is, they are to satisfy the behavioral constraints in neoclassical theory. Otherwise, the general equilibrium results of neoclassical models are without theoretical support. That severely weakens the link between such models and the validity of their use in developing social policy. As always, dialogues with feminist philosophy and economics are a regular feature in any economics course I teach. Application of models of distributive justice to current social and economic forms of inequality across gender, color, class.

ACTIVITIES, HONORS, & AWARDS

2004 - Organized and am holding a first-time course in feminist aesthetics at Wayne State University

2004 - Organized and am holding a first-time course in feminist social ethics at Siena Heights University

2003 - Organized and participated in "Forum on Iraq" in April 2003, held at Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI. I addressed the topic "The White House's new National Security Strategy and Just War Theory".

2003 - Organized the first course in feminist philosophy at Washtenaw

Community College. Course is offered as a special section of Philosophy 101 and carried the title "Dialogues between Feminist and Traditional Philosophy".

2000 – present GTA appointment, Wayne State University

1999 – 2000 Graduate Professional Scholarship, Wayne State University

1996 Graduate Dean's Award for Research Excellence, 2nd Place, Master Thesis in Political Economy (Justice in a Community of Persons), Eastern Michigan University.

UNPUBLISHED PAPERS

"A sense of natural order: Theory choice and the evidential indistinguishability thesis" (1998)

"Kendall Walton on suspense" (1998)

"David Novitz on the 'anaesthetics of emotion in art' " (1998)

"Immanuel Kant's Supreme Principle of morality: Linking the good will, duty, rationality, and freedom" (2000)

"Skeptical doubt and the 'order of reasons' in Descartes' Meditations" (1999)

"Kant's argument for the a priority of space: Is positionality primitive?" (2000)

WORK IN PROGRESS – a sample

"Practices of Listening: Hanslick and the Invention of Absolute Music" (Dissertation in progress)

"Non-conceptual representation and aesthetic judgements"

"Thinking with the body: grounding the self in action"

"Representation, participation, and epistemic fields"

"Valued rationality: The bounds of logic in practical thinking"

"Metaphysics of social events"

"Karma-Dharma-Moksha in Hinduism: On a Certain Vital Tension"

"Religious ethics and religious violence"

"Convergence theology: Essential unities across Judaism, Christianity, and Islam"

Teaching History – From 1997 to the Present, courses taught at area colleges and universities

[] Microeconomics and Macroeconomics – EMU & WCC

[] Labor economics – Monroe Community College

[] International Economics – Cleary University

[] Philosophy of Art - WSU

[] Critical Thinking - WSU

[] Global Ethics – Oakland Community College (OCC)

[] Ethics, Political Philosophy - WSU

[] Logic, formal and informal – WSU & OCC

[] Introduction to Philosophy – WSU & OCC

[] Philosophy of Religion – WSU & EMU

[] Macroeconomics and Microeconomics – EMU & WCC