

SAMUEL NEWLANDS  
CURRICULUM VITAE

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**EMPLOYMENT**

- 2013 – PRESENT William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Associate Professor of Philosophy  
2012 – PRESENT 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 EDITED VOLUMES**

- (1) *Reconceiving Spinoza* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- (2) *Necessity: A Conceptual History*, edited with Yitzhak Melamed (intended for Oxford University Press series on philosophical concepts, in progress)

- (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

- (5) "Backing into Spinozism," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (forthcoming)
- (6) "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*
- (7) "Leibniz and the Ground of Possibility," *The Philosophical Review* 122:2 (2013), 155-187
- (8) "Thinking, Conceiving, and Idealism in Spinoza," *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 94:1 (2012), 31-52
- (9) "Hegel's Idealist Reading of Spinoza," *Philosophy Compass*, 6:2 (2011), 100-108
- (10) "More Recent Idealist Readings of Spinoza," *Philosophy Compass*, 6:2 (2011), 109-119
- (11) "Another Kind of Spinozistic Monism," *Noûs*, 44:3 (2010), 469-502
- (12) "The Harmony of Spinoza and Leibniz," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 81:1 (2010), 64-104
- (13) "Spinoza's Modal Metaphysics," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (16,000 words; August 2007; substantial rewrite, 2013; <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/spinoza-modal/>)
- (14) "Malebranche on the Metaphysics and Ethics of Evil," in *Oxford Handbook to Malebranche*, ed. Sean Greenberg (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- (15) "Spinoza and The Metaphysics of Perfection," in *Cambridge Critical Guide to Spinoza*, ed. Yitzhak Melamed (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming)

- (16) “Spinoza’s Relevance to Contemporary Metaphysics,” in *Oxford Handbook to Spinoza*, ed. Michael Della Rocca (Oxford University Press, 2012)
- (17) “Spinoza’s Early Anti-Abstractionism,” in *The Young Spinoza: A Metaphysician in the Making*, ed. Yitzhak Melamed (Oxford University Press, 2015)
- (18) “Spinoza on Universals,” for *The Problem of Universals in Modern Philosophy*, edited by Stefano Di Bella and Tad Schmaltz (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)
- (19) “Hume on Evil,” *Oxford Handbook on David Hume*, ed. Paul Russell (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015)
- (20) “Evils, Privations, and the Early Moderns,” in *Evil*, eds. Scott MacDonald and Andrew Chignell (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- (21) “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)
- (22) “The Problem of Evil,” in *Routledge Companion to Seventeenth-Century Philosophy*, ed. Dan Kaufman (Routledge, forthcoming, submitted in 2008)

#### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

- (23) “From Theism to Idealism to Monism: A Leibnizian Path Not Taken” (drafted)
- (24) “Leibnizian Intentional Objects” (in progress)
- (25) “Spinozistic Selves” (in progress)
- (26) “Reading Moderns Systematically, or: How To Became a Hegelian” (drafted)
- (27) *Backing into Spinozism: A Spinozistic Reading of Early Modern Metaphysics* (book project, in process)
- (28) *Evil Among the Early Moderns* (book ms, in process)

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- (29) “Adams, Robert Merrihew,” a short dictionary entry for *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, ed. by Robert Audi (2015)
- (30) “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 (invited)
- (31) 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), 2008-2009

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Research Fellowship, 2005

## **RESEARCH GRANTS (TOTAL EXTERNAL AWARDS AS PI: \$12 MILLION)**

“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, starting Fall 2008)

#### **INVITED TALKS**

“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

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

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

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

“Leibniz on the Ground of Possibility,” *7th Annual NYU Conference on Issues in the History of Modern Philosophy*, New York University, November 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, Feb 2009

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

### **INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES**

“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

### **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

TBD, conference on the Principle of Sufficient Reason, University of Hamburg, Germany (October 2017, invited)

“The Modal Status of the PSR,” comments at the North American Leibniz Society Meeting, Ohio State University (October 2015, invited)

“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, invited)

- “Melamed on Spinoza”, author-meets-critics session at Pacific APA (April 2014, invited)
- “Eminence and Other Dubious Attempts to Avoid Spinozism”, Texas A&M University, Spring Early Modern Workshop, April 2013 (invited)
- “Evils and the Early Moderns,” *Concept of Evil* workshop, Columbia University, April 2012 (invited)
- “Spinoza on Universals,” *The Problem of Universals in Modern Philosophy* international conference, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Italy, November 2011 (invited)
- “Spinoza’s Early Anti-Abstractionism,” *The Young Spinoza* conference, Johns Hopkins University, September 2011 (invited)
- “Leibniz on the Ground of Possibility,” Leibniz Society of North America conference, December 2010
- “God, modality, and some long-dead folks,” Logos Conference, Rutgers University, May 2010 (invited)
- “Theodicies and the Recognition of Goods,” Philosophy of Religion conference, Baylor University, February 2009 (invited)
- “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 (invited)
- “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 (invited)
- “The Same and Yet Distinct,” a reply to Eugene Marshall, APA Eastern, December 2006 (invited)
- “The Harmony of Spinoza and Leibniz,” New England Early Modern Seminar, Harvard University, June 2006

“Spinoza on Conceivability, Extension, and Mereology,” a reply to Shannon Dea, APA Central, April 2006 (invited)

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

#### **SPONSORED ACTIVITIES [EXCLUDING CENTER FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION EVENTS]**

“Los Angeles Hope Festival,” co-organizer of large public event in Los Angeles that includes 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 CO, June 2016

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

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

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

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

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

“Bayle on the Problem of Evil,” main workshop organizer, Sept. 2010 at Notre Dame

Graduate Summer Seminar on the Problem of Evil in Early Modern Philosophy, creator and director, June 2010 at Skidmore College

#### **RECENT REFEREE WORK**

*National Endowment for the Humanities, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Mind, Noûs, The Philosophical Review, Philosophy and Philosophical Research, Journal for the History of Philosophy, Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy, Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, Philosopher’s Imprint, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, History of Philosophy Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Faith and Philosophy, John Templeton Foundation, Israeli Science Foundation, Foundation for Polish Science*

## **COURSES TAUGHT (ALL AT NOTRE DAME)**

*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)

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

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

*The Rationalists* (400-level)

*History of Modern Philosophy* (300-level)

*Philosophy of Religion* (200-level)

*University Seminar in Philosophy* (100-level)

## **TEACHING SERVICE**

Graduate Supervisor (all students are still in the PhD program):

Michael Rauschenbach, *Spinoza: Skeptical Problems, Attribute Parallelism, and Contemporary Metaphysics of Mind*

Tobias Flattery, *Essential Independence in Leibniz's Metaphysics*

Graham Clay, *Hume Applied*

John Hanson (co-directed with Katherine Brading), HPS project on Descartes

Matthias Bischoff, early stages of project on Leibniz and Kant

Dissertations committee member on 12+ committees in modern philosophy, metaphysics, medieval, nineteenth century, and philosophy of religion

Oral exams chair (4) in modern philosophy

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

Prospectus exams committee member on 12+ committees in modern philosophy, metaphysics, medieval, nineteenth century and philosophy of religion

Directed three senior honors thesis

#### **DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Center for Philosophy of Religion, Co-Director (2012 – Present)

Committee on Advancement and Promotion, member (2013 – 2015)

Center for Philosophy of Religion, Associate Director (2009 – 2012)

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

Philosophy Department Graduate Admissions (2012 – 2013)

Undergraduate Philosophy Club, Faculty Advisor (2011 – 2016)

Philosophy Department Library Representative (2006 – 2013)

Organizer of early modern working group (2011 – Present)