
Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin

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Areas of Specialization

Ethics, Philosophy of Action

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Law, Philosophy of Mind, Biomedical Ethics, Logic

Employment

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Sam Houston State University
July 2015 - Present

Postdoc, The Immortality Project, Dept. of Philosophy, UCR
Aug 2012 – June 2015

Education

University of California, Riverside PhD June 2012

Boston College MA May 2007

Residential College BA December 2002
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
(Major: Creative Writing and Literature) (w/ Honors)

Book

Near-Death Experiences: Understanding Visions of the Afterlife (w/ John Martin Fischer),
Oxford University Press (June 2016)

Articles

8. "Unraveling the Knot: On Race, Racism, and Human History," forthcoming in
Think.

7. "S5 for Aristotelian Actualists" (w/ Michael Nelson), *Philosophical Studies* 173
(June 2016): 1537-1569

6. "Deep Reflection: In Defense of Korsgaard's Orthodox Kantianism," *Res
Philosophica* 93 (Jan. 2016): 1-25

5. "Aligning with the Good," *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy* (July 2015): 1-8
4. "The Platonic Model: Statement, Clarification and Defense," *Philosophical Explorations* 18 (Sept. 2015): 378-392
3. "Immortality and Boredom," (w/John Martin Fischer) *The Journal of Ethics* 18 (Dec. 2014): 353-372
2. "The Near-Death Experience Argument Against Physicalism: A Critique," (w/ John Martin Fischer) *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 21 (Jul./ Aug. 2014): 158-183
1. "In Defense of the Platonic Model: A Reply to Buss," *Ethics* 124 (Jan. 2014): 342-357

Book Chapters

2. "(Not) Riding into the Sunset: The Significance of Endings," (w/ John Martin Fischer) in Zachary Goldberg, ed., *reflections on responsibility: Essays in Honor of Peter French*, Springer (forthcoming)
1. "The Significance of an Afterlife," in John Davis, ed., *Ethics at the End of Life: New Issues and Arguments*, Routledge (forthcoming)

Book Reviews

2. "Review of Randolph Clarke, Michael McKenna, and Angela Smith, eds., *The Nature of Moral Responsibility: New Essays*," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (Jan. 2016)
1. "Review of Robert N. Johnson's *Self-Improvement: An Essay in Kantian Ethics*," *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 11 (June 2014): 535-538

Edited Volume

"Immortality," (w/ John Martin Fischer) special issue of *The Journal of Ethics* (Dec. 2015)

Writing for a Popular Audience

[Life, Death, and the Self](#) (a blog at *Psychology Today*)

["Science, sincerity, and transformation of near-death experiences"](#) (at the OUP Blog)

Select Media Interviews

["The Case for Treating Near-Death Experiences Like Acid Trips,"](#) *Religion Dispatches* (Aug. 2016)

["Beyond the Dark Podcast,"](#) *Radio City Talk* (Aug. 2016)

"UCR Researchers Examine the Nearly Dead," *The Press Enterprise* (July 2016)

Honors and Awards

Outstanding Teaching Assistant (UCR, Spring, 2012)
Dissertation Year Fellowship (UCR, Fall, 2011- Winter, 2012)
Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Finalist (2011)
Travel Grant (UCR Department of Philosophy, 2011, 2010)
Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowship (UCR, Fall 2007-Spring 2008)
Robertson Award (excellence in creative writing) (UM Residential College 2003)
University Honors (UM 2002)

Select Presentations

Invited panelist for "When the Bell Tolls," a Bookend Event of the 2016 Brooklyn Book Festival, September 17, 2016

Author-meets-critic session on *Near-Death Experiences* at the 2016 Conference of the International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying, Syracuse University, May 18, 2016

Invited contributor to "The History of Mortality: Interdisciplinary Perspectives," the University of California Humanities Research Institute, January 23, 2015

"Human Agency and Values," Univ. of Redlands, October 1, 2014 (colloquium); DePauw Univ., February 18, 2015; Sam Houston St. Univ., March 5, 2015

"Comments on Buehler's 'Attention, and Agential Control of Bodily Action'" Pacific APA, April 2014

"Comments on Davis and Rantanen," California Polytechnic University, Pomona, Mini-Conference on Radical Life Extension, March 2014

"How Not to Argue about Self-Governance," Univ. of San Francisco, Aug. 2013

"Two Interpretations of Contractualist Moral Agency" Pacific APA, March 2013

"Comments on Robinson's 'The Limits of "Limited-Blockage" Frankfurt-Style Cases'" Pacific APA, April 2012

"Self-Governance, Moral Responsibility and Weakness of Will: In Defense of the Platonic Model" Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Aug. 2011

"Self-Governance and Moral Responsibility," Moral Responsibility: Analytic Approaches, Substantive Accounts and Case Studies, Ghent, Belgium, Oct. 2010

"Comments on Eason's 'The Ownership Condition of Guidance Control: Responding to Empirical Challenges'" Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Aug. 2010

"Might Intentions Be Reasons?" NYU/Columbia Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Columbia University, April 2010

"A Dilemma for Setiya's Virtue Theory of Reasons" Action, Agency, and Explanation, University of Toronto, May 2009

"Two Worries about Current Methodology in Empirical Moral Psychology" Ohio State University Philosophy Graduate Conference, Ohio State University, May 2008

"Disambiguating All-Things-Considered-'Ought' Statements," Society for Student Philosophers, Pacific APA, March, 2008; FSU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Florida State University, Sept. 2007

"Comments on Coffey's 'The Mere Means Principle and the Expressive Nature of Treating: How Parfit Got it Wrong,'" FSU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Florida State University, Sept. 2007

"Agent-Based Virtues: Fundamental Moral Concepts and the Human Agent," Boston College Philosopher's Forum, Boston College, February, 2007

"Practical Moral Luck and Future Success," Hawaii International Conference on the Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 2007

"Agent-Based Virtues: Fundamental Moral Concepts and the Human Agent," REALIA Summer Conference, Burlington, Vermont, Aug. 2006

"Who is Coco Bryce?: A Case Study in Personal Identity," Gateway Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Missouri, St. Louis, May 2006

"Counter-Intuitionist: A Defense of Classical Quantifier Exchange," Kent State University May 4th Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Kent State University, March 2006

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association
Society for Philosophy of Agency

Professional Service

Referee

European Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Explorations, Disputatio, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Res Philosophica, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Studies, Mind, Philosophia, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Law and Philosophy, Consciousness and Cognition, Southern Journal of Philosophy

Session Chair at the Pacific APA (April 2011; April 2010)

Graduate Representative, UCR Department of Philosophy (Fall, 2008-Spring 2010)

Member of BC Phil Grad Student Conference selection committee (Spring 2006)

Editorial and Professional Activities

Background materials for the Immortality Project (sptimmortalityproject.com)

Author of *Companion Site* materials for S. M. Cahn's *Exploring Philosophy* (4th Ed.)

Research Assistant for development of *Oxford Scholarship Online* abstracts for Gary Watson's *Agency and Answerability*

Teaching Experience

SHSU, Department of Psychology & Philosophy

Contemporary Moral Issues (Summer 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2016)

Death and Dying (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Fall 2016)

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2015, Summer 2016, Fall 2016)

UCR, Department of Philosophy

Biomedical Ethics (Fall 2014)

Ethics (Fall 2013)

Ethics and the Meaning of Life (Summer 2012)

Philosophy of Law (Summer 2011, Summer 2010)

Introduction to Logic (Summer 2009)

Ethics Seminar: Contemporary Virtue Ethics (Summer 2009)

Languages

German (reading)

Spanish (reading, writing, speaking)