

Robert Smithson

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Employment

University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Fall 2018- Associate Professor

Rollins College

Fall 2017-
Spring 2018 Visiting Assistant Professor

Duke University

Spring 2017 Visiting Lecturer

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Fall 2016,
SS2 2017 Visiting Lecturer

Education

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

2016 Ph.D. in Philosophy
Dissertation: “Paradise Regained: Naive Semantics and Regulative Metaphysics”
Committee: Thomas Hofweber (chair), Marc Lange, Ram Neta, Laurie Paul,
John Roberts

2012 M.A. in Philosophy
Thesis: “Apriority, Super-Rigidity, and Fregean Content”
Committee: Bill Lycan (chair), Keith Simmons, John Roberts

University of Virginia

2010 B.A. in Physics, Economics (Highest Honors)

Areas of specialization

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Philosophy of Language

Areas of competence

Early Modern Philosophy, Logic, History of Analytic Philosophy

Publications

- 2023 In Defense of Macroidealism. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. (forthcoming)
- 2023 Edenic Idealism. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 101:1, 16-33.
- 2022 Non-Humean Laws and Scientific Practice. *Erkenntnis*. 87 (6):2871-2895.
- 2021 Idealism and Illusions. *European Journal of Philosophy*. 29 (1):137-151.
- 2021 Conceptual Cartography. *Inquiry*. Special issue on “The Foundations of Conceptual Engineering.” 64: 97-122.
- 2020 Metaphysical and Conceptual Grounding. *Erkenntnis*. 85: 1501-1525.
- 2019 An Idealist Critique of Naturalism. *Inquiry*. Special issue on “Idealism and the Metaphilosophy of Mind.” 62:5, 504-526.
- 2018 A New Epistemic Argument for Idealism. In Goldschmidt and Pearce (eds.), *Idealism: New Essays in Metaphysics*. Oxford University Press. 17-33.
- 2017 Newman’s Objection and the No Miracles Argument. *Erkenntnis*. 82(5), 993-1014.
- 2015 The Principle of Indifference and Inductive Scepticism. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 68(1), 253–272.

Teaching

Introduction to Philosophy (19 sections)

Introduction to Logic (11 sections)

Early Modern Philosophy (7 sections)

Philosophy of Science (3 sections)

Philosophy of Mind (3 sections)

Introduction to Ethics (3 sections)

Knowledge and Democracy (social epistemology) (2 sections)

Epistemology (2 sections)

Philosophy of Art (2 sections)

For course descriptions and syllabi, see
www.robertsmithsonphilosophy.com

Advanced Logic and Metatheory

Metaphysics

Philosophy of Language

Critical Reasoning

Philosophy of Time and Space

Bioethics

History of Analytic Philosophy

Contemporary Thought: Iris Murdoch

Presentations

- 2023 “A Hard Gemlike Flame: Murdoch’s Ontological Argument” (with Vida Yao)
Central APA, Chicago, IL
- 2023 “Idealism and Illusions”
Illusion of the Fortnight, University of Glasgow
- 2022 “Idealism and the Coherence Objection”
Central APA, Chicago, IL
- 2021 “Macroidealism and the Knowledge Argument”
Central APA, online
- 2020 “In Defense of Macroidealism”
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 2020 “Macroidealism and the Explanatory Gap”
Central APA, Chicago, IL
- 2019 “Edenic Idealism”

- University of Miami, Miami, FL
- 2018 “Logic and Ordinary Reasoning”
University of Central Oklahoma, Edmund, OK
- 2018 “Edenic Idealism”
St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI
- 2018 “Platonic Justice and the Well-Ordered Soul”
St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI
- 2018 “Edenic Idealism”
UNC-Wilmington, Wilmington, NC
- 2018 “Three Levels of Skepticism”
UNC-Wilmington, Wilmington, NC
- 2018 “Paradise Regained: An Argument for Idealism”
Symposium on Idealism at the Central APA, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018 “Water, Games, and Causes: A Decision Procedure for Essence Hunters”
Eastern APA, Savannah, GA
- 2017 “Escaping the Cartesian Cricle”
Rollins College, Orlando, FL
- 2017 “Paradise Regained: An Argument for Idealism”
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2017 “Kantian Value and the Motive of Duty”
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2017 “Edenic Idealism”
North Carolina Philosophical Society, Wilmington, NC
- 2016 “An Idealist Critique of Naturalism”
Idealism and the Metaphilosophy of Mind Conference, London, England
- 2016 “Edenic Idealism”
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- 2016 “Three Levels of Skepticism”
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
- 2016 “Edenic Idealism”
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
- 2016 “Three Levels of Skepticism”
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
- 2015 “Edenic Idealism”
Tübingen Masterclass in Theoretical Philosophy, Tübingen, Germany
- 2013 “An Alternative Picture of Concept-Driven Metaphysics”
Rudolf-Carnap Lectures, Bochum, Germany

Professional Activities and Service

- 2023 Workgroup on Supporting Artificial Intelligence in Learning and Research (SAILR), UNCW
- 2023 Search Committee, Philosophy and Religion Department, UNCW
- 2023 Artificial Intelligence Committee, Philosophy and Religion Department, UNCW
- 2022- Recruitment Committee, Philosophy and Religion Department, UNCW
- 2021- Faculty Advisor, Philosophy and Religion Society, UNCW
- 2021 Policy Revision Committee, Philosophy and Religion Department, UNCW
- 2020 Chair, Philosophy Search Committee, Philosophy and Religion Department, UNCW
- 2019 Search Committee, Philosophy and Religion Department, UNCW
- 2017 Guest Coach, Rollins College Debate Team
- 2016, 2017 Judge and case writer, National High School Ethics Bowl
- 2015 Panelist, Teaching Workshop on Student Evaluations, UNC-CH
- 2015 Judge, NC and National High School Ethics Bowl
- 2015 Climate Survey Committee, UNC-CH

2014-2016 Graduate Student Committee, UNC-CH
2014 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
2014 Panelist, Teaching Workshop on Fostering Discussion, UNC-CH
2010-2011 Coach, NC School of Science and Math Ethics Bowl Team (2nd place- NCHS Ethics Bowl)
Referee—*Nous*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *European Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Analysis*, *Erkenntnis*, *Ergo*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *Thought*, *Philosophia*, OUP, Routledge.

References

Thomas Hofweber

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Matthew Kotzen

Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Associate Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
(919) 962-2486
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John Roberts

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(919) 962-4885
jtrosap@email.unc.edu

Andrew Janiak (teaching reference)

Creed C. Black Professor of Philosophy, Duke University
(919) 660-3057
janiak@duke.edu

Scott Rubarth (teaching reference)

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(407) 691-1062
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