

Robert Smithson

Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies
Rollins College
French House, 1000 Holt Ave. — 2773
Winter Park, FL 32789

Phone: 919-815-1175

Email: rsmithson@rollins.edu

Website: www.robertsmithsonphilosophy.com

Employment

Rollins College

Fall 2017- Visiting Assistant Professor

Duke University

Spring 2017 Visiting Lecturer

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Fall 2016,
Summer 2017 Visiting Lecturer

Education

University of North Carolina at 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

Areas of competence

Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Early Modern Philosophy, Logic, Bioethics, Feminist Philosophy (teaching experience in all AOSs, AOCs)

Publications

forthcoming “An Idealist Critique of Naturalism.” *Inquiry*. Forthcoming in special issue on “Idealism and the Metaphilosophy of Mind.”

forthcoming “A New Epistemic Argument for Idealism.” Forthcoming in Goldschmidt and Pearce (eds.), *Idealism: New Essays in Metaphysics*. Oxford University Press.

- 2016 “Newman’s Objection and the No Miracles Argument.” *Erkenntnis*. doi: 10.1007/s10670-016-9855-1.
- 2015 “The Principle of Indifference and Inductive Scepticism.”
British Journal for the Philosophy of Science. doi: 10.1093/bjps/axv029

Under Review

- “Edenic Idealism” (revise and resubmit at *PPR*)
 “A New Epistemic Argument for Humean Laws”
 “Metaphysical and Conceptual Grounding” (revise and resubmit at *Erkenntnis*)
 “The Context Principle and Ontologese Gambits”
 “Water, Games, and Causes: A Decision Procedure for Essence Hunters”
 “Semantic Idealism and Scientific Representation”
 “Conceptual Cartography”
 “Idealism and Illusions”

Works In Progress

- “Idealism and the Incompleteness Objection”
 “Apriority and Fregean Content”

Teaching

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- Spring 2018 PHIL 311: Philosophy of Science
 Spring 2018 PHIL 178: Knowledge and Democracy (feminist epistemology)
 Spring 2018 PHIL 223: Introduction to Formal Logic
 Fall 2017 PHIL 398: Philosophy of Language
 Fall 2017 PHIL 348: Philosophy of Mind
 Fall 2017 PHIL 231: History of Modern Philosophy
 Fall 2017 PHIL 103: Intro to Philosophy
 Summer 2017 PHIL 165: Bioethics
 Spring 2017 PHIL 411: Philosophy of Time and Space For course descriptions and syllabi, see
 Spring 2017 PHIL 210: Knowledge and Certainty www.robertsmithsonphilosophy.com/teaching.
 Fall 2016 PHIL 105: Critical Reasoning
 Summer 2016 PHIL 230: Experience and Reality (metaphysics)
 Spring 2016 PHIL 220: Early Modern Philosophy
 Spring 2014 PHIL 220: Early Modern Philosophy
 Summer 2013 PHIL 105: Introduction to Mathematical Logic
 Fall 2012 PHIL 105: Introduction to Mathematical Logic
 Summer 2012 PHIL 220: Early Modern Philosophy

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Fall 2013 PHIL 102: Making Sense of Ourselves (Intro)
 Spring 2013 PHIL 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic
 Spring 2012 PHIL 155: Introduction to Mathematical Logic
 Fall 2011 PHIL 102: Making Sense of Ourselves (Intro)

Presentations

- 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

Honors, Awards & Fellowships

- 2015 Mary Taylor Williams Fellowship, UNC-CH
- 2014-2015 Bertha Colton Williams Fellowship, UNC-CH
- 2014 Robert Rock Summer Research Fellowship, UNC-CH
- 2013 UNC Philosophy Travel Grant
- 2010-2011 Mary Taylor Williams Fellowship, UNC-CH
- 2006-2010 Ernest Ern Jefferson Scholarship, UVA

Professional Activities and Service

- 2017 Case Writer, National High School Ethics Bowl
- 2017 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
- 2016 Case Writer, National High School Ethics Bowl
- 2016 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
- 2016 Judge, North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl
- 2015-2016 Graduate Student Committee, UNC-CH
- 2015 Invited Panelist, Teaching Workshop on Student Evaluations, UNC-CH
- 2015 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
- 2015 Judge, North Carolina High School Ethics Bowl
- 2015 Climate Survey Committee, UNC-CH
- 2014-2015 Graduate Student Committee, UNC-CH
- 2014 Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl
- 2014 Invited 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—*Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*, *Ergo*
Member, American Philosophical Association

References

Thomas Hofweber

Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
(919) 843-4501
hofweber@unc.edu

Matthew Kotzen

Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Associate Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
(919) 962-2486
kotzen@email.unc.edu

Ram Neta

Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
(919) 962-3321
neta@email.unc.edu

Michael Pelczar

Associate Professor, National University of Singapore
+65 6516-3894
phimwp@nus.edu.sg

John Roberts

Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
(919) 962-4885
jtrosap@email.unc.edu

David Reeve (teaching reference)

Delta Kappa Epsilon Distinguished Professor, UNC Chapel Hill
(919) 962-3318
cdcreeve@email.unc.edu