

10 September 2020

Curriculum Vitae of Derek Baker

Lingnan University Department of Philosophy
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Tuen Mun, New Territories
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Employment

Lingnan University Associate Professor of Philosophy, August 2015 – present.
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, August 2009 – August 2015.

Education

Princeton University – Ph.D. in Philosophy, July 2009
University of California, Berkeley – B.A. in Philosophy, with honors, May 2002

Research and Teaching Interests

Areas of Specialization: Metaethics, Moral Psychology, Ethics
Areas of Competence: Political Philosophy, Epistemology (especially Self-Knowledge), Metaphysics,
Philosophy of Language, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche

Fellowships and Grants

Hong Kong Research Grants Council General Research Fund Grant: ‘Skepticism about Practical Reason’ – January 2021 - December 2022
Hong Kong Research Grants Council General Research Fund Grant: ‘Expressivism about Modals and Reasoning’ (with Jack Woods, University of Leeds) – January 2019 - December 2019
Lingnan University Knowledge Transfer Project Fund: ‘Education Outreach: Lecture and Workshop Series’ (with Simon Goldstein and Dan Waxman) – June 2018 - August 2019
Lingnan University Faculty Sabbatical Approved for a Semester-Long Research Project in Metaethics – September 2018 - December 2018
Hong Kong Research Grants Council Early Career Scheme Grant: ‘Autonomy as Self-Interpretation?’ – Jan 2013 - Dec 2014
Princeton University Center for Human Values Graduate Fellowship – AY 2008 - 2009

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Quasirealism as Semantic Dispensability,” *Philosophical Studies*, forthcoming.
“If You’re Quasi-Explaining, You’re Quasi-Losing,” *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 16, (ed.) R. Shafer-Landau, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

Articles and Chapters, *continued*

“Skepticism about Ought *Simpliciter*,” *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 13, (ed.) R. Shafer-Landau, Oxford University Press (2018): 230-52.

“Expression and Guidance in Schroeder’s Expressivist Semantics,” *Erkenntnis* 83 (2018): 829-52.

“The Varieties of Normativity,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Metaethics*, (eds.) T. McPherson and D. Plunkett, Routledge (2017): 567-81.

“The Verdictive Organization of Desire,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 47 (2017): 589-612.

“Deliberators Must Be Imperfect,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93 (2016): 321-47.

“Intuitions about Disagreement Do Not Support the Normativity of Meaning,” *dialectica* 70 (2016): 65-84.

“On Rationally Valuing One’s Life,” special issue of *Asian Bioethics Review*, (ed.) B. Steinbock, 8 (2016): 1-16.

“Why Transparency Undermines Economy,” *Synthese* 192 (2015): 3037-3050.

“Akrasia and the Problem of the Unity of Reason,” *Ratio* 28 (2015): 65-80.

“How Expressivists Can and Should Explain Inconsistency,” (coauthored with Jack Woods) *Ethics* 125 (2015): 391-424.

* Topic of an online symposium at PEA Soup (www.peasoup.typepad.com) with critical *précis* by Mark Schroeder, January 2015.

“The Abductive Case for Humeanism over Quasi-Perceptual Theories of Desire,” *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 8 (2014): 1-29.

“Knowing Yourself—and Giving up on Your Own Agency in the Process,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 90 (2012): 641-56.

“Ambivalent Desires and the Problem with Reduction,” *Philosophical Studies* 150 (2010): 37-47.

Book Reviews

Free Will and Action Explanation, by Scott Sehon, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 96 (2018): 411-13.

Motivational Internalism, eds. G. Björnsson, C. Strandberg, R. Francén Olinder, J. Eriksson, and F. Björklund, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 94 (2016): 814-16.

Selected Works in Progress

“A Real Marketplace of Ideas and Disincentivized Speech,” in progress.

“Metaethical Contextualism and the Dispositional Theory of Value,” in progress.

“Handling Rejection,” (coauthor Jack Woods) in progress.

“Deflating the Many Attitudes Problem,” under review.

Miscellaneous

Author's Discussion of "Skepticism about Ought *Simpliciter*" with Ohio State University Graduate Seminar, Normative Realism and Normative Authority, instructed by Tristram McPherson, February 2018. (Discussion conducted via Skype.)

Comments on Derek Shiller's "The Unity of the Moral Attitudes," Third Annual Minds Online Conference, at *Philosophy of Brains*, <http://mindsonline.philosophyofbrains.com/minds-online-2017-program/>, September 2017.

"Why Bad People Will Find It Hard to Be Patriotic," featured philosophers post at *PEA Soup*, <http://peasoup.us/2017/08/bad-people-will-find-hard-patriotic-featured-philosopher-derek-baker/>, August 2017.

* One of the five most-viewed *PEA Soup* featured-philosopher, NPDR, or journal discussions for 2017 (<http://peasoup.us/2017/12/top-viewed-2017-posts-teaser-upcoming-kit-wellman-forum/>).

Discussion of "How Expressivists Can and Should Explain Inconsistency," *Ethics* discussions at *PEA Soup*, (with Jack Woods, and a critical *precis* by Mark Schroeder), <http://peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/2015/01/ethics-discussions-at-pea-soup-baker-and-woods-how-expressivists-can-and-should-explain-inconsistency-with-precis-by-schroede.html>, January 2015.

Presentations

"Deliberation without Authority"

–SNUIP Conference: Normativity in Philosophy, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea, January 2020.

–Tokyo Workshop on Agency and Rationality, University of Tokyo, Japan, December 2019.

"A Real Marketplace of Ideas Will Constrain Speech—and That's a Good Thing"

–Murphy Center for Ethics and Public Affairs Seminar, Tulane University, Louisiana, USA, September 2019.

"If You're Quasi-Explaining, You're Quasi-Losing"*

–14th Annual Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison, September 2019.

–Wuhan University International Conference on Explanation in Philosophy, Wuhan, China, May 2019.

"Reasoning without an Object, and the Advantages of WEIRD Morality"

–Political Philosophy Workshop, Sun Yatsen University, Zhuhai Campus, Zhuhai China, May 2019.

"Are Desires Presentations of Value?"

– 3rd International Conference on Natural Cognition, University of Macau, Macau, November 2018.

"Mill, the Freedom to Sanction, and Freedom from Sanction"

– International Workshop on Mill and Punishment: Themes from the Work of C.L. Ten, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, October 2018.

* *Refereed Presentation.*

Presentations, *continued*

- “Metaethical Contextualism and the Dispositional Theory of Value”
- The Ohio State University, Philosophy Department Colloquium, October 2018.
 - University of Kansas, Philosophy Department Public Lecture, October 2018.
- “Dynamic Expressivism, van Roojen’s Problem, and the Unity of Negation”
- Lingnan University Public Philosophy Seminar, February 2018.
 - Wuhan University Public Philosophy Lecture, May 2017.
 - Bowling Green State University Public Philosophy Seminar, January 2017.
- Comments on Spencer Case’s “Is Nihilism Self-Defeating?”
- American Philosophical Association Colloquium, Eastern Division, Savannah, January 2018.
- “The Guise of the Good, Sympathetic Intelligibility, and the Limits of Charity”
- Third Annual Taiwan Metaphysics Conference, National Taiwan University, November 2017.
- “Skepticism about Ought *Simpliciter*”
- Chapel Hill Metaethics Workshop, North Carolina, September 2016.
- “Handling Rejection” (coauthored with Jack Woods)
- Lingnan Expressivism Conference, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, June 2016.
- “The Humean Normative Project”
- Bowling Green State University Public Philosophy Seminar, Ohio, January 2016.
 - Rice University Public Seminar, Houston, Texas, January 2016.
 - University of Hong Kong Public Philosophy Seminar, September 2015.
- “Self-Reflection and the Verdictive Organization of Desires”
- University of Macau Conference on Rationality and Its Rivals, Macau, December 2015.
 - National University of Singapore Public Philosophy Seminar, March 2014.
- “Explanation and Instrumentalism”
- National Taiwan University, Taiwan Metaphysics Colloquium, November 2015.
 - Global Themes in Naturalism: International Workshop in Honor of Chad Hansen, National University of Singapore, June 2011.
- “On Rationally Valuing One’s Life”
- Chinese University of Hong Kong Centre for Bioethics Workshop on Dying Well: Physician Assisted Suicide, Voluntary Euthanasia, and Advance Directives, November 2015.
- “Negation as an Attitude Modifier”
- Trinity College Dublin Philosophy Seminar, July 2015.
- “Legislative versus Judicial Models of Self-Knowledge”
- University College Dublin Philosophy Seminar, May 2015.
- “Verdictive Rationalism about Self-Knowledge”
- UNESCO World Philosophy Day Conference, Bilkent University, Ankara, November 2014.
 - Australasian Association of Philosophy, Australia National University, Canberra, July 2014.
 - Yonsei Philosophy Summer Conference, Yonsei International Campus, Seoul, June 2014.

Presentations, *continued*

- “Why Response-Dependent Accounts of Normative Properties Can and Must Idealize”
– Yonsei University Work-in-Progress Seminar, Seoul, November 2014.
– University of Hong Kong Public Seminar, November 2014.
– University of Melbourne Public Seminar, October 2014.
- “Intuitions about Disagreement Do Not Support the Normativity of Meaning”
– American Philosophical Association Colloquium, Pacific Division, San Diego, April 2014.*
- Discussion of Draft Chapters for *An Almost Unified Theory of the Self* (book project)
– National University of Singapore, Moral Psychology Reading Group, March 2014.
- “Why Should I—If You Can’t Explain Normativity?”
– Conference on Metaethics and Grounding, Bogazici University, Istanbul, October 2013.*
– Virginia Tech Philosophy Colloquium October 2013.
– Australia National University MSPT Seminar, September 2013.
– University of Western Australia Public Seminar, September 2013.
- “Omniscient Agents Might Be Conceptually Impossible”
– University of Hong Kong Public Seminar, October 2012.
– Chinese University of Hong Kong Public Seminar, May 2012.
- “Inconsistent Attitudes and Inconsistent Contents: A Defense of B-type Inconsistency” (coauthored with Jack Woods)
– Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2012.
- “How to Reconcile Devitt’s Obviously Correct Position on the Psychology of Know How with the Semantics of Stanley and Williamson”
– Conference on the Work of Michael Devitt, Lingnan University, May 2012.
- “Why You Should Lack Parfit’s Concept of a Reason (or a Defense of Analytic Subjectivism)”
– University of Miami Public Colloquium, October 2011.
- Comments on Dale Dorsey’s “The Supererogatory: How to Accommodate It”
– Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2010.
- “Knowing Yourself, and Giving Up on Your Own Agency in the Process”
– Australasian Association of Philosophy, July 2010.
– Hong Kong University, February 2010.
- “The Strength of Desire, Reflection, and the Formation of the Will”
– Chinese University of Hong Kong Public Seminar, February 2009.
- “Ambivalence and Consistency”
– Australasian Association of Philosophy, La Trobe University, Melbourne, July 2008.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Courses Taught at Lingnan

Final-Year Research Seminar (Topic: Evolution and Ethics) – Required seminar for final-year students, teaching skills for conducting independent research and completing a research paper.

* *Refereed Presentation.*

Teaching, *continued*

Philosophy of Law – Elective course on basic issue in Philosophy of Law.

Bioethics – Elective course on problems in Biomedical Ethics.

Applied Ethics – Elective course on problems in applied ethics.

Theory and Practice of Autonomy – Advanced course on the nature of autonomy, practical identification, freedom, and responsibility.

Western Political Philosophy – Survey course providing students with an overview of the key debates in political philosophy in the western tradition.

Advanced Western Ethics – Survey course providing students with an overview of the key philosophical problems of the western ethical tradition and their historical development.

Theories of Justice – Advanced course on Political Philosophy, covering both key figures in the history of Western political thought and contemporary problems in political philosophy.

Schopenhauer and Nietzsche – Advanced course in history of philosophy.

Understanding Morality – Introductory course in moral philosophy.

Ethics: The Western Tradition – Course in moral philosophy for philosophy majors, covering both the history of western ethical thought and contemporary problems in moral philosophy.

Understanding Knowledge – Introduction to epistemology for non-majors.

Value Theory – Advanced course in contemporary metaethics.

Undergraduate Directed Research Projects – Supervised the following year-long undergraduate theses:

- Kitty Tang Hau Ying, “An Empirical Account: Rejecting the Dogmatic All-or-None Picture of Responsibility for Emotions,” AY 2018 – 2019.
- Chai Randan, “Defending Democracy against Epistocracy,” AY 2017 – 2018.
- Ogre Lam Dao Yau, “Moral Darwinism and Altruistic Behaviour,” AY 2016 – 2017.
- William Chan Wai Chuen, “The Self in Liberalism and Communitarianism,” AY 2015 – 2016.
- Choy Tsz Chun, “Rawls on Public Political Culture,” AY 2013 – 2014.
- Ip Ka Ho, “The Nature of Personal Integrity,” AY 2011 – 2012.
- Ng Suet Yi, “Forgiveness as a Loving Attitude,” AY 2011 – 2012.

Master of Arts in Practical Philosophy Courses

Decision and Rational Choice – Course on decision theory and its applications to issues in philosophy for the department-affiliated Masters of Arts in Practical Philosophy program.

Schopenhauer and Nietzsche – Course in history of philosophy for the department-affiliated Masters of Arts in Practical Philosophy program.

Graduate Supervision

Primary Supervisor for

- Kyle York
PhD Candidate, thesis topic to be decided, in progress since January 2019.

Graduate Supervision, *continued*

Primary Supervisor for

- Zhang Jian
PhD Candidate, *Morality and Reason in Sociobiology and Ethics*, September 2018 – June 2020 (left program to pursue PhD at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore).
- Wang Zheng
MPhil Thesis, *A Defense of Subjectivism about Normative Reasons*, September 2018 – August 2020. Completed.
- Ezechiele Thibaud
PhD Candidate, *Republican Autonomy: Extending Freedom as Non-Domination*, in progress since September 2017.
- Emile Chan Chun Nam
MPhil Thesis, *Neo-Sentimentalism and the Bodily Attitude Theory of Emotions*, September 2014 – October 2016. Completed.
- Choy Tsz Chun
MPhil Thesis, *The Two Faces of Equality*, September 2014 – September 2016. Completed. Exam committee decided thesis was “outstanding.”

Exam Committee Member for

- Chan Chi Yin, Lingnan University MPhil Thesis, *The Distinction Problem of Self-Deception*, April 2021.
- Chau Ho Yan, Lingnan University MPhil Thesis (History), *Cold War Strategies, Immigration Reform, and “Assimilationism”: A Study of U.S. Policies towards Japanese War Brides*, June 2018.
- Wang Qin, University of Hong Kong PhD Dissertation, *Taste Versus Moral Fiction*, August 2017.
- Lam Hung Nin, Lingnan University MPhil Thesis, *The Nature of Intuitions: What Theories of Intuition Ought to Be*, May 2015.

Professional Service

Associate Editor, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, March 2012 – present.

Referee for Oxford University Press,* Analysis,* Ethics, Noûs,* Mind, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophical Studies,* Australasian Journal of Philosophy,* Philosophical Quarterly,* Synthese,* Canadian Journal of Philosophy,* Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy,* Erkenntnis,* Journal of Moral Philosophy, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Social Theory and Practice,* Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Philosophical Papers, Minds Online Conference, Grazer Philosophische Studien, Philosophical Psychology, Acta Analytica, Routledge,* Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Journal of Ethics, Journal of Philosophical Research.

Member, American Philosophical Association, Fall 2008 – present.

Co-organizer, Lingnan Expressivism Conference, June 2016.

Co-organizer, Hong Kong Metaethics Conference at Lingnan University, May 2013.

* Multiple times refereeing.

Service to University and Department

Associate Head of Department, Department of Philosophy, August 2020 – present.

Chair, Committee for Preparing the Five-Year Departmental Review, August 2020 – present.

Faculty Representative, University Core Curriculum and General Education Committee, September 2019 – present.

Chair, Department Committee on Research Impact, September 2018 – present.

Department Representative, University Grants Council, Research Funding (R-portion) Focus Group, August 2019.

Mentor, to Assistant Professor Dan Waxman, January 2018 – present.

Mentor, to Assistant Professor Dan Marshall, September 2016 – present.

Member, Postgraduate Admissions Committee, September 2018 – present.

Member, Subcommittee for Designing Final Year Undergraduate Research Seminar, September 2018 – November 2018.

Member, Academic Committee for Lingnan Community College and Lingnan Institute for Further Education, September 2017 – August 2018.

Member, Subcommittee for Designing “Ethics East and West” course, September 2017 – August 2018.

Seminar Coordinator, Department of Philosophy Public Seminars, September 2017 – August 2018.

Member, Faculty Search Committee, AY 2016 - 2017.

Departmental Core Curriculum Course Coordinator, October 2013 – August 2017.

Faculty of Arts Representative, University Academic Senate, September 2015 – August 2017.

Panel Member, Office of Mainland and Internationalisation Programme Interview Panel, September 2015 – August 2017.

Representative of the Dean of Arts, Undergraduate Examinations Board, September 2015 – June 2016.

Philosophy Department Representative, University Taskforce for the Four-year Curriculum, September 2015 – April 2016.

Moderator, Report on Examination Questions and Answers (Before Examination) for Associate Degree and Higher Diploma Programmes, April 2016.

Member, Departmental Committee on Revising Philosophy Journal List, September 2015 – January 2016.

Acting Head of Department, Department of Philosophy, December 2015 – January 2016.

Department Library Liaison, AY 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Department Representative, the Research and Postgraduate Studies Committee in Arts, AY 2014/15.

Panel Member, the Research Proposal Scoring Panel in the Arts, AY 2014/15.

Panel Member, Interview Committee for Post of Visiting Senior Lecturer/Visiting Lecturer in Philosophy, May 2014.

Search Committee Member, Faculty Search Committee, AY 2013/14.

Course Coordinator, Understanding Morality, March 2011 – October 2013.

Service to University and Department, *continued*

Seminar Coordinator, Philosophy Public Seminars, AY 2012/13.

Panel Member, Admission Panel for Postgraduate Programme, AY 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Panel Member, Philosophy Department Curriculum Committee, Spring 2010.

Faculty of Arts Representative, Task Force on Definitions for Academic Quality Assurance, AY 2009/10.

Secretary, Lingnan Philosophy Department, AY 2009/10.