

Avery Snelson

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
Seattle University
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Seattle, WA 98122

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Academic Employment

Lecturer, Seattle University September 2021-Present
Lecturer, University of California, Riverside September 2020-July 2021

Areas of Specialization

Nineteenth-Century Continental Philosophy (esp. Nietzsche), Ethics, Moral Psychology

Areas of Competence

Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy, Applied Ethics (Environmental and Biomedical), Kant
Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Religion, Existentialism, Critical Thinking

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of California, Riverside (June 2020)

Dissertation: *An Animal That is "Permitted to Promise:" Nietzsche's Way of Naturalizing
Responsibility*

Committee: Maudemarie Clark (chair), Pamela Hieronymi, Coleen Macnamara, Michael
Nelson, Eric Schwitzgebel

Abstract: I argue that the second essay of Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morality* (GM II) provides a naturalistic account of responsible agency. Specifically, I argue that GM II's account of the development of conscience, bad conscience, and guilt explains why human beings are, in general, appropriate targets of blame. I appeal to contemporary reactive attitude theories of blame to show that Nietzsche analyzes responsibility in terms of the *practice* of holding oneself and others to affectively charged expectations, which he calls "reactive affects." I argue that the legitimacy of this practice does not depend on having the ability to do otherwise, but on the ability to govern one's behavior in accordance with moral motives, as well as the ability to hold oneself responsible. Both abilities are conferred by the development of conscience; in particular, the capacity to feel guilt, which is an expression of moral culpability and a condition of blaming others. Finally, I apply this framework to develop a Nietzschean account of trust, in connection to the "sovereign individual."

M.A. in Philosophy, University of British Columbia (2010)

B.A. in Philosophy and Religion, Drury University (2007)

Publications

- 2021 "Nietzsche's Strawsonian Reversal," *Journal of Nietzsche Studies*, Forthcoming.
2021 "Review of *Moral Psychology with Nietzsche* by Brian Leiter," *Ethics*, 132(1): 256-261.
2019 "Nietzsche on the Origin of Conscience and Obligation." *The Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 50 (2): 310-331.
2017 "The History, Origin, and Meaning of Nietzsche's Slave Revolt in Morality." *Inquiry*. 60(1-2): 1-30.

Presentations

- 2021 "Nietzsche's Critique of Guilt," Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Portland, OR, March 2021
2020 "Nietzsche's Critique of Guilt," UCR Philosophy Club, University of California, Riverside, October 28
2018 "Nietzsche on the Origin of Conscience and Obligation," North American Society for Nietzsche Studies, Stanford, CA, October 6
2018 "Nietzsche on the Origin of Conscience and Obligation," Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, San Diego, CA, March 30
2016 "The Greeks: A Model for a Superior Moral Psychology?," Bernard Williams and the Ancients, Cambridge University, UK, September 20
2016 "The History, Origin, and Meaning of Nietzsche's Slave Revolt in Morality," International Society for Nietzsche Studies, University of Bonn, Germany, June 24
2015 "The Riddle of the Genealogy's First Essay," History of Philosophy Workshop, University of California, Riverside, February 6
2014 "The Will to Power, Blame, and the Creation of *Ressentiment* Values," Agency Workshop, University of California, Riverside, August 22

Awards and Honors

- 2019 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of California, Riverside
2018 Graduate Student Prize, North American Nietzsche Society Conference, Stanford
2017 Teaching Fellow, University Writing Program, University of California, Riverside
2012 Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowship, University of California, Riverside
2010 Faculty of Arts Graduate Award, University of British Columbia (from 2008-2010)

Professional Service

- 2018 UCR Graduate Student Conference, planning committee member
Journal Referee, *The Journal of Nietzsche Studies*

Languages

German (reading knowledge)

Teaching Experience

Primary Instructor (* indicates online course)

Seattle University

2021 UCOR 2900: Ethical Reasoning (Fall)

2021 UCOR 2500: Philosophy of the Human Person (Winter)

University of California, Riverside

2021 *Phil 117: Environmental Ethics (Summer)

*Phil 121Q: Nietzsche (Winter)

*Phil 003: Ethics and the Meaning of Life (Spring)

2020 *Phil 117: Environmental Ethics (Fall)

*Phil 121Q: Nietzsche (Spring)

2019 Phil 117: Environmental Ethics (Fall)

2018 Engl 007: Writing Across the Curriculum for Ethics and the Meaning of Life (Fall)

Engl 001B: Intermediate Composition (Winter)

2017 Phil 151: Existentialism (Summer)

Engl 001A: Intermediate Composition (Fall)

Engl 001B: Intermediate Composition (Winter)

Teaching Assistant

University of California, Riverside

2017 Phil 001: Introduction to Philosophy (Winter, Spring)

2016 Phil 001: Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2016)

Phil 008: Introduction to Logic (Winter)

Phil 007: Critical Thinking (Spring)

2015 Phil 009: Biomedical Ethics (Fall)

Phil 003: Ethics and the Meaning of Life (Winter)

Phil 005: Evil (Spring)

2014 Phil 005: Evil (Fall, Winter)

Phil 007: Critical Thinking (Spring)

University of British Columbia (Teaching Assistant)

2010 Phil 100: Introduction to Philosophy (Spring)

2009 Phil 349: Philosophy of Religion (Fall, Spring)

2008 Phil 349: Philosophy of Religion (Fall)

Graduate Coursework (*indicates audited course)

2018 Nietzsche: *Beyond Good and Evil*, Maudemarie Clark*

2017 Nietzsche on Nihilism, Maudemarie Clark*

2016 Nietzsche: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Maudemarie Clark*

Heidegger, Mark Wrathall*

Internality and Care, Agnieszka Jaworska*

Nietzsche and Blame, Directed Study with Maudemarie Clark*

2015 Kant's First Critique, Pierre Keller*

Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Andreja Novakovic*

- Martin Buber, Howard Wettstein*
Nietzsche on Morality, Maudemarie Clark*
The Jewish Prophets, *Ressentiment*, and Blame, Directed Study with Howard Wettstein
- 2014 Kant: *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Andrews Reath
Advanced logic, Erich Reck
Thomas Kuhn, Larry Wright*
Nietzsche: *Beyond Good and Evil* and *The Genealogy of Morality*, Maudemarie Clark
Kierkegaard, Mark Wrathall
Nietzsche's Moral Psychology, Directed Study with Maudemarie Clark
- 2013 Affective Faith, Directed Study with Howard Wettstein
Free Will, John Martin Fischer
Nietzsche and Freud, Maudemarie Clark
Epistemology, Peter Graham
Ancient Philosophy, Jozef Müller
Wittgenstein, Larry Wright and Howard Wettstein
T.M. Scanlon's *What We Owe to Each Other*, Andrews Reath
- 2012 Heidegger, Mark Wrathall
The Significance of Religious Experience, Howard Wettstein
Moral Philosophy, Andrews Reath

References

Available upon request