

Andrew Brenner

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Appointments

Assistant Professor, Hong Kong Baptist University, January 2020 - present
Post-Doctor, Wuhan University, September 2019 - December 2019
Post-Doctoral Researcher, Metaphysical Explanation Research Project, University of Gothenburg, January 2018 - July 2019
Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame, August 2017 - December 2017
Post-Doctoral Teaching Scholar, University of Notre Dame, June 2016 - May 2017

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, 2016
Dissertation: *A Defense of Mereological Nihilism*
Committee: Peter van Inwagen (adviser), Anjan Chakravartty, Cian Dorr (external), Michael Rea
M.A. Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, 2013
B.A. Philosophy (*Magna Cum Laude, Honors*), University of North Florida, 2011

Area of Specialization

Metaphysics

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mind
Philosophy of Science
Philosophy of Religion
Ethics
Buddhist Philosophy

Publications

Journal Articles

17. "Metaphysical Foundationalism and Theoretical Unification." *Erkenntnis*. Forthcoming
16. "How to be a Mereological Anti-Realist." *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion*. Forthcoming. (Runner-up, 2019 Sanders Prize in Philosophy of Religion.)
15. "Explaining Why There Is Something Rather Than Nothing." *Erkenntnis*. Forthcoming
14. "Mereology and Ideology." *Synthese*. Forthcoming

13. "How Does God Know That $2+2=4$?" *Religious Studies*. Vol. 57, Issue 2 (June 2021), pp.301-316
12. "Why Composition Matters." *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*. Vol. 50, Issue 8 (November 2020), pp.934-949 (with Andrew Bailey)
11. "Rejoinder to Kris McDaniel." *Philosophy East and West*. Vol. 70, Issue 2 (April 2020), pp.565-569
10. "Ontological Pluralism, Abhidharma Metaphysics, and the Two Truths: A Response to Kris McDaniel." *Philosophy East and West*. Vol. 70, Issue 2 (April 2020), pp.543-557
9. "Easy Ontology, Application Conditions and Infinite Regress." *Analysis*. Vol. 78, Issue 4 (October 2018), pp.605-614
8. "Theism and Explanationist Defenses of Moral Realism." *Faith and Philosophy*. Vol. 35, Issue 4 (October 2018), pp.447-463
7. "Science and the Special Composition Question." *Synthese*. Vol. 195, Issue 2 (February 2018), pp.657-678
6. "Simplicity as a Criterion of Theory Choice in Metaphysics." *Philosophical Studies*. Vol. 174, Issue 11 (November 2017), pp.2687-2707
5. "Mereological Nihilism and Personal Ontology." *The Philosophical Quarterly*. Vol. 67, Issue 268 (July 2017), pp.464-485
4. "What Do We Mean When We Ask 'Why Is There Something Rather Than Nothing?'" *Erkenntnis*. Vol. 81, Issue 6 (December 2016), pp.1305-1322
3. "Mereological Nihilism and Theoretical Unification." *Analytic Philosophy*. Vol. 56, Issue 4 (December 2015), pp.318-337
2. "Mereological Nihilism and the Special Arrangement Question." *Synthese*. Vol. 192, Issue 5 (May 2015), pp.1295-1314
1. "Aquinas on Eternity, Tense, and Temporal Becoming." *The Florida Philosophical Review*. Vol. 10, Issue 1 (2010), pp.16-24. (Note: published as award for winning the "2009 Florida Philosophical Association Gerrit and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Philosophy Paper in a Four-Year College or University.")

Other Publications

2. "Metaphysical Explanation." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Forthcoming (with Anna-Sofia Maurin, Alex Skiles, Robin Stenwall, and Naomi Thompson)
1. "The Metaphysics of Composition." *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 2018.

Conference and Colloquium Presentations

21. Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Division Meeting. "Arguments For Substance Dualism Transformed Into Arguments Against Substance Dualism." October 2021
20. Between Formal and Informal Methods in Philosophy Workshop, University of Warsaw. "Theoretical Virtues and the Methodological Analogy Between Science and Metaphysics." September 2021 (rescheduled due to COVID-19 pandemic)
19. Seminar in the Department of Philosophy, Lingnan University (with Hong Kong University and National University of Singapore). "Arguments Against Substance Dualism Transformed Into Arguments Against Our Being Composite Physical Objects." November 2020 (invited)
18. Research Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy, Linguistics, and Theory of Science, University of Gothenburg. "Presupposition Failure and Compatibilist Semantics in Ontology." September 2020 (invited)

17. Wuhan University Lecture Series in Philosophy of Religion, Wuhan University. "How To Be A Mereological Anti-Realist." November 2019 (invited)
16. Thinking About Theory Choice: A Wuhan-Leeds Workshop in Philosophy, Wuhan University. "In Defense of Theoretical Virtues." October 2019 (invited)
15. The 2019 Swedish Congress of Philosophy, Umeå University. "Explaining Why There Is Something Rather Than Nothing." June 2019
14. Wuhan University International Conference on Explanation in Philosophy, Wuhan University. "Explanation and Complex vs Simple Accounts of Personal Identity Over Time." May 2019
13. Colloquium in the Department of Philosophy, the University of Hamburg. "Conditional Probabilities and Symmetric Grounding." May 2019 (invited)
12. Research Colloquium in Theoretical Analytical Philosophy, Aarhus University. "Explaining Why There Is Something Rather Than Nothing." November 2018 (invited)
11. Metaphysical Explanation Workshop, Lund University. "Explanation and Simple vs Complex Accounts of Personal Identity Over Time." August 2018 (invited)
10. Eastern APA. "Living and Dying in Four Dimensions." January 2018 (accepted, not presented due to weather)
9. Metaphysical Explanation Workshop, University of Gothenburg. "The Mereological Pairing Problem." September 2017 (invited)
8. 'Nothing Over and Above' Workshop, University of Helsinki. "Mereological Laws, Ontological Innocence, and Theory Choice." August 2017
7. Pacific APA. "Theism and Explanationist Defenses of Moral Realism." April 2017
6. Metaphysics and Epistemology Workshop, University of North Florida. "Mereological Nihilism and Personal Ontology." September 2016 (invited)
5. Pacific APA. "Composition and Personal Ontology." March 2016
4. Central APA. "Quantifier Variance and Ontological Deflationism." February 2015
3. *Ellen C Wagner Lecture*, 16th Annual UNF Student Philosophy Conference. "Parfit On Free Will and Desert." March 2013 (invited)
2. Society of Christian Philosophers Eastern Regional Meeting. "Aquinas on Eternity, Tense, and Temporal Becoming." March 2010
1. Florida Philosophical Association Meeting. "Aquinas on Eternity, Tense, and Temporal Becoming." November 2009

Invited Commentaries

2. FraMEPhys/Gothenburg Conference on Metaphysical Explanation in Science, University of Birmingham. Comments on "The Problem of Meta-Causation" by David Mark Kovacs. January 2019
1. Metaphysical Explanation II: Unionism or Separatism, University of Gothenburg. Comments on "Grounding For Theists" by Einar Duenger Bøhn. February 2018

Teaching

Primary Instructor

At Hong Kong Baptist University

Philosophy of Religion. Fall 2021

Matters of Life and Death. Spring 2021 x 2
Mind in Chinese Buddhist Philosophy. Fall 2020
Happiness East and West. Spring 2020

At the University of Notre Dame

Introduction to Philosophy. Fall 2017 x 3
Buddhist Philosophy. Spring 2017
Ethics. Fall 2016
Minds, Brains and Persons. Spring 2015

Teaching Assistant

At the University of Notre Dame

God and the Good Life. Summer 2017 (online course)
Medical Ethics. Fall 2014
Paradoxes. Spring 2014
Introduction to Philosophy. Fall 2013, Fall 2012
Philosophical Theology. Spring 2013

Honors, Awards, and Grants

6. Hong Kong Research Grants Council Early Career Scheme (ECS) (HKD 150,000 [approximately USD 19,318]): "The Mystery of Personal Identity". Project number: 22602521. July 2021-June 2023.
5. Runner-Up, 2019 Sanders Prize in Philosophy of Religion
4. UNF 2011 Robert W. Loftin Prize for Outstanding Graduate in Philosophy, April 2011
3. UNF 2010 Philosophy Paper Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper, April 2010
2. 2009 Florida Philosophical Association Gerrit and Edith Schipper Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Philosophy Paper in a Four-Year College or University, November 2009
1. UNF 2009 Philosophy Paper Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper, April 2009

Service

At Hong Kong Baptist University

Member of the Major Committee, Department of Religion and Philosophy (Spring 2020 - present)
Research Coordinator, Department of Religion and Philosophy (academic year 2020/21)
Recording Secretary for the Arts Faculty Board meetings (academic year 2020/21 and the 1st Arts Faculty Board meeting, 2021/22)
Honours Project Second Examiner: "Concerning the Promotion of Animal Rights and Ethics in Hong Kong" (Spring 2021); "The Buddhist Understanding of the Psychological Dimension of Depression" (Spring 2021); "A Critical Evaluation of the Metaethics and Metaphysics of David Gauthier's Contractarianism" (Spring 2020); "The Argument From Miracles: A Case Study on the Resurrection of Jesus in Recent Research" (Spring 2020); "Is the Human Race Constantly Progressing? An Analysis of the Views of Kant and His Critics" (Spring 2020)

At the University of Notre Dame

MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) Undergraduate Mentoring Program (Spring 2017, Fall 2017)

Referee Service

Article referee for: *Acta Analytica*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis* x 3, *Analytic Philosophy* x 2, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* x 4, *Croatian Journal of Philosophy*, *dialectica* x 2, *Disputatio*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis* x 9, *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, *The Journal of Ethics*, *Kriterion*, *Manuscrito*, *Mind* x 2, *The Philosophical Quarterly* x 2, *Philosophical Studies* x 6, *Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophy East and West*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese* x 7, *Theory of Science*, *Thought*

Book referee for: Routledge

Conference referee for: FraMEPhys/Gothenburg Conference on Metaphysical Explanation in Science, University of Birmingham (January 2019); Metaphysical Explanation III, Lund University (January 2020)

Last updated: July 12, 2021