

SAMUEL NEWLANDS  
CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Philosophy  
University of Notre Dame  
100 Malloy Hall  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

snewlands@nd.edu  
574.631.2866

---

**EMPLOYMENT**

- 2018 – PRESENT Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- 2013 – 2018 William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Collegiate Associate Professor of Philosophy
- 2012 – 2018 Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- 2006 – 2012 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. in Philosophy, Yale University (2006)
- B.A. in Philosophy, Wake Forest University (2000)

**AREA OF SPECIALIZATION**

Early modern philosophy

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Metaphysics; Philosophy of religion

**BOOKS AND VOLUMES**

- (1) *Reconceiving Spinoza* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

*Reviewed in The Times Literary Supplement, Mind, Journal of the History of Philosophy, Philosophical Review, 3AM, Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, British*

*Journal for the History of Philosophy, Philosophy, Archives de Philosophie*; Author-critics sessions in Paris, Philadelphia, and Chicago

- (2) *Modality: A Conceptual History*, edited with Yitzhak Melamed (Oxford University Press, under contract)
- (3) *New Essays on Leibniz's Theodicy*, edited with Larry M. Jorgensen, with "Introduction" (Oxford University Press, 2014)
- (4) *Metaphysics and the Good: Themes from the Philosophy of Robert Merrihew Adams*, edited with Larry M. Jorgensen, with "Introduction," (Oxford University Press, 2009)

#### PAPERS AND CHAPTERS

- (1) "Baumgarten's Steps Towards Spinozism," *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, forthcoming
- (2) "From Theism to Idealism to Monism: A Leibnizian Path Not Taken," *Philosophical Studies*, 178:4 (2021), 1143-1162
- (3) "Spinozistic Selves," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 6:1 (2020), 16-35
- (4) "Backing into Spinozism," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93:3 (2016), 511-537
- (5) "Leibniz on Privations, Limitations, and the Metaphysics of Evil," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 52 (2014), 281-308\*

\* Named one of the "Top 10" articles in philosophy in 2014 by *The Philosopher's Annual*

- (6) "Leibniz and the Ground of Possibility," *The Philosophical Review* 122:2 (2013), 155-187
- (7) "Thinking, Conceiving, and Idealism in Spinoza," *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 94:1 (2012), 31-52
- (8) "Hegel's Idealist Reading of Spinoza," *Philosophy Compass*, 6:2 (2011), 100-108
- (9) "More Recent Idealist Readings of Spinoza," *Philosophy Compass*, 6:2 (2011), 109-119

- (10) "Another Kind of Spinozistic Monism," *Noûs*, 44:3 (2010), 469-502
- (11) "The Harmony of Spinoza and Leibniz," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 81:1 (2010), 64-104
- (12) "Spinoza's Modal Metaphysics," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (16,000 words; August 2007; substantial rewrite, 2013 and 2018; <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/spinoza-modal/>)
- (13) "Leibniz on Modality," in *Modality: A Conceptual History*, edited with Yitzhak Melamed (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- (14) "Malebranche on the Metaphysics and Ethics of Evil," in *Oxford Handbook to Malebranche*, ed. Sean Greenberg (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- (15) "Spinoza and The Metaphysics of Perfection," in *Spinoza's Ethics: A Critical Guide*, ed. Yitzhak Melamed (Cambridge University Press, 2018)
- (16) "Spinoza's Relevance to Contemporary Metaphysics," in *Oxford Handbook to Spinoza*, ed. Michael Della Rocca (Oxford University Press, 2012 [in print 2018])
- (17) "Spinoza's Early Anti-Abstractionism," in *The Young Spinoza: A Metaphysician in the Making*, ed. Yitzhak Melamed (Oxford University Press, 2015)
- (18) "Spinoza on Universals," for *The Problem of Universals in Modern Philosophy*, edited by Stefano Di Bella and Tad Schmaltz (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)
- (19) "Hume on Evil," *Oxford Handbook on David Hume*, ed. Paul Russell (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015)
- (20) "Evils, Privations, and the Early Moderns," in *Evil*, eds. Scott MacDonald and Andrew Chignell (Oxford University Press, 2012 [in print 2018])
- (21) "El replanteamiento de la modalidad en Spinoza y Leibniz," in *Leibniz frente a Spinoza: Una interpretación panorámica*, ed. Oscar Esquisabel and trans. Leticia Cabañas (Editorial Comares, 2014)
- (22) "The Problem of Evil," in *Routledge Companion to Seventeenth-Century Philosophy*, ed. Dan Kaufman (Routledge, submitted 2008, in print 2018)

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

- (23) “Kant’s Youthful Modal Realism” (under review)
- (24) “Early Modern Metaphysics of Evil: Pitfalls and Prospects” (drafted)
- (25) “Baumgarten on Existence and Actuality” (in process)
- (26) *No Cheating! A Spinozistic Reading of Early Modern Metaphysics* (book project, in process)

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- (27) “Adams, Robert Merrihew,” a short dictionary entry for *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, ed. by Robert Audi (2015)
- (28) “Natural Disasters and the Wrath of God,” a short piece on Leibniz’s theodicy that was published in the *Wall Street Journal*, April 9, 2010
- (29) Review of *Theism and Ultimate Explanation: The Necessary Shape of Contingency* by Timothy O’Connor (*Philosophical Quarterly*, 60:239 (2010))

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (full year), 2021-2022
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (full year), 2008-2009
- Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Research Fellowship, 2005

## **RESEARCH GRANTS (TOTAL EXTERNAL AWARDS AS PI: \$12.5 MILLION)**

- “Narrative Conceptions of the Self: A Planning Grant,” a \$214,000 planning grant to support preliminary research on the empirical support (especially in various branches of psychology and neuroscience) for narrative conceptions of the self, as part of a larger projected project on the nature of the self. Funding through the John Templeton Foundation. Co-directed with Michael Rea, 2017-2018
- “Explainer Video Series,” a \$270,000 grant to design and produce ten animated shorts explaining the philosophical contributions of Alvin Plantinga to a wider public audience.

Funding through the John Templeton Foundation. Co-directed with Michael Rea, 2017-2018

“Hope and Optimism: Conceptual and Empirical Investigations,” a 3 year, \$4.9 million research initiative supporting new work in philosophy, psychology, sociology, and analytic theology on the nature and norms of hope and optimism, including lab support, fellowships, workshops, conferences, and large public events and prizes. Most of the funding is through the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from the University of Notre Dame and Cornell University. Co-directed with Andrew Chignell, 2014-2017

“The Experience Project,” a 3 year, \$5.1 million research initiative sponsoring new work in philosophy, psychology, sociology, and religious studies on the nature of transformative and religious experiences. Funding through the John Templeton Foundation and the University of Notre Dame. Co-directed with Laurie Paul and Michael Rea, 2014-2017

“Optimism, Rational Hope, and Human Nature (planning grant),” a \$200,000 grant to support preliminary research on the empirical component of a larger research project on rational optimism and hope. Funding from the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from the University of Notre Dame and Cornell University. Co-directed with Andrew Chignell, 2012-2013.

“The Problem of Evil in Modern and Contemporary Thought,” a 4 year, \$1.4 million research initiative supporting research fellowships, national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, translations, and an essay prize. Funding from the John Templeton Foundation, with additional support from the University of Notre Dame. Co-directed with Michael Rea, 2010-2013.

“Pain and the Nature of Minds,” a \$340,000 supplemental grant from the John Templeton Foundation adding an additional, concurrent two-year component to the “Problem of Evil in Modern and Contemporary Thought” project. Co-directed with Michael Rea, 2011-2013.

“Supplemental Funding,” \$158,000 supplemental grant for additional components of “Analytic Theology: The Convergence of Philosophy and Theology” and “The Problem of Evil in Modern and Contemporary Thought,” from the John Templeton Foundation. Co-administered with Michael Rea.

International Travel Grant (ISLA; 2007 and 2008)

Miscellaneous Materials and Research Grant (ISLA; 2008)

Exploratory Seminar on Integrative Scholarship (ISLA; 2008-2012)

## TALKS

“Baumgarten’s Steps Towards Spinozism”, Yale University colloquium, December 2020

“Early Modern Metaphysics of Evil: Pitfalls and Prospects,” The Nature of Evil conference, Universidad de Navarra, Spain, August 2021

“Response to Critics,” APA Author-Meets-Critics session on *Reconceiving Spinoza*, Chicago, February 2020

“Response to Critics,” APA Author-Meets-Critics session on *Reconceiving Spinoza*, Philadelphia, January 2020

“Response to Critics,” Séminaire Descartes, a Franco-American symposium session on *Reconceiving Spinoza*, ENS-Paris, June 2019

“Spinozistic Selves,” Chicago Modern Philosophy Roundtable, March 2019

“Spinozistic Selves,” University of Washington, November 2018

“Leibniz on Modality,” Modality: A Conceptual History workshop, Johns Hopkins University, October 2018

“On Doing Public Philosophy Comically,” panel member at the Franco-American Early Modern Workshop, University of Michigan, June 2018

“Spinozistic Selves,” Tahoe Early Modern Workshop, May 2018

“From Theism to Idealism to Monism,” conference on the Principle of Sufficient Reason, Simon Fraser University, April 2018

“On Betz on Diller on Barth: A Response to the Possibility of Theological Knowledge,” Wake Forest University, Feb 2017

“Spinoza and the Metaphysics of Perfection,” University of South Carolina, Feb 2016

“Monism and Perfection,” University of Wyoming, November 2015

“Spinoza, Leibniz, and the Metaphysics of Perfection,” University of Toronto Early Modern Group, March 2015

“Schaffer’s Orchards,” Reed College, January 2015

- “Spinoza, Leibniz and the Metaphysics of Perfection,” Spinoza and Leibniz workshop, Michigan State University, January 2015
- “Backing into Spinozism,” Early Modern Workshop, Nevada, May 2014
- “Backing into Spinozism,” CSU-Long Beach, November 2014
- “Backing into Spinozism,” UC-Irvine, Scientia Series, November 2014
- “Backing into Spinozism,” Tahoe Early Modern Workshop, May 2014
- “Melamed on Spinoza”, author-meets-critics session at Pacific APA, April 2014
- “‘Eminent Containment’ and Other Dubious Attempts to Avoid Spinozism,” Rice University, March 2014
- “‘Eminence’ and Other Dubious Attempts to Avoid Spinozism”, University of Chicago Modern Speaker Series, April 2013
- “Eminence and Other Dubious Attempts to Avoid Spinozism”, Texas A&M University, Spring Early Modern Workshop, April 2013
- “God and Evil: What *Not* to Say?” Wheaton College, September 2012
- “Evils and the Early Moderns,” *Concept of Evil* workshop, Columbia University, April 2012
- “Spinoza on Universals,” *The Problem of Universals in Modern Philosophy*, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Italy, November 2011
- “Spinoza’s Early Anti-Abstractionism,” *The Young Spinoza* conference, Johns Hopkins University, September 2011
- “Leibniz on the Ground of Possibility,” Leibniz Society of North America conference, December 2010
- “Leibniz on the Ground of Possibility,” *7th Annual NYU Conference on Issues in the History of Modern Philosophy*, New York University, November 2010
- “God, modality, and some long-dead folks,” Logos Conference, Rutgers University, May 2010

“God, Grounding, and Modality,” Metaphysics Old and New conference, Society of Christian Philosophers, March 2010

“Evils, Privations, and the Early Moderns,” The 2009 Rukavina Lecture, Gonzaga University, February 2009

“Theodicies and the Recognition of Goods,” Philosophy of Religion conference, Baylor University, February 2009

“Thinking, Conceiving, and Idealism in Spinoza,” International Symposium on Spinoza, Leibniz, and Laws, Leiden University, Netherlands, November 2008

“Another Kind of Spinozistic Monism,” Oxford Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Oxford University, October 2007

“Spinoza, Leibniz and the Modalities of Perfection,” Spinoza and Leibniz conference, Princeton University, September 2007

“Spinoza and the Ethics of Individuation,” PCWC Early Modern Philosophy Conference, March 2007

“Spinoza and the Ethics of Individuation,” University of Chicago Modern Group, Feb 2007

The Harmony of Spinoza and Leibniz,” New England Early Modern Seminar, Harvard University, June 2006

“Augustine and Kierkegaard on Normative Freedom,” *Persons and Freedom* conference, Indiana University-Bloomington, September 2002

#### **EVENT ORGANIZATION [EXCLUDING CENTER FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION EVENTS]**

“The Metaphysics of the Material World,” a workshop on Tad Schmaltz’s forthcoming book on Suarez, Descartes, and Spinoza, April 2020 [postponed due to covid]

“Modality: A Conceptual History,” a co-organized workshop at Johns Hopkins featuring contributors to our *Necessity* volume, October 2018

“Narrative Conceptions of the Self,” co-organizer of cross-disciplinary workshop, in Key Largo Florida, January 2018

“Los Angeles Hope Festival,” co-organizer of large public event in Los Angeles that included prominent keynote speakers, research presentations, public art, a world premier of our prize-winning play, musical acts, and an extensive filming project, May 2017



- “Hope and Optimism Midpoint Collaboratory,” co-organizer of main project conference in Estes Park Colorado, June 2016
- “Hope and Optimism Workshop,” co-organizer of philosophy workshop at Notre Dame, April 2016
- “Hope and Optimism: New Research,” main workshop organizer, Ft. Myers Florida, January 2013
- “Leibniz’s *Theodicy*: Reception and Relevance,” main conference organizer, Lisbon Portugal, October 2012
- “The Problem of Evil and the Scottish Enlightenment,” main workshop organizer, Notre Dame, March 2011
- “Leibniz’s *Theodicy*: Content and Context,” main conference organizer, Notre Dame, September 2010
- “Bayle on the Problem of Evil,” main workshop organizer, Notre Dame, September 2010
- Graduate Summer Seminar on the Problem of Evil in Early Modern Philosophy, co-creator and director, Skidmore NY, June 2010

#### **PARTIAL LIST OF REFEREE WORK**

*National Endowment for the Humanities, John Templeton Foundation, Israeli Science Foundation, Foundation for Polish Science, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Routledge, Mind, Noûs, The Philosophical Review, Philosophy and Philosophical Research, Journal for the History of Philosophy, Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy, Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, Philosopher’s Imprint, Faith and Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Philosophical Studies*

#### **COURSES TAUGHT**

- Between Being and Non-Being: Then and Now* (graduate, with Kris McDaniel)
- Spinozism: Then and Now* (graduate)
- The Principle of Sufficient Reason: Then and Now* (graduate)
- Metaphysical Idealism: Then and Now* (graduate)
- Alternative Views of Modality* (graduate, with Meghan Sullivan)

*Early Modern Metaphysics: Ontology* (graduate)

*Early Modern Metaphysics: Modality* (graduate)

*Early Modern Metaphysics: Evil* (graduate)

*Spinoza* (graduate)

*Monism in Contemporary Metaphysics* (graduate)

*Philosophy and Technology* (400-level)

*Faith and Reason* (co-taught with John Betz in Theology department, 400-level)

*God, Evil, and the Early Moderns* (400-level)

*The Scientific Self: Body and Soul in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Europe* (co-taught with Katherine Brading, 400-level)

*The Rationalists* (400-level)

*Themes from Existentialism* (300-level)

*History of Modern Philosophy* (300-level)

*Philosophy of Religion* (200-level)

*University Seminar in Philosophy* (100-level)

## TEACHING SERVICE

Graduate Supervisor:

Michael Rauschenbach, *Spinoza's Isolationism* (defended 2018)

Tobias Flattery, *Independence in Leibniz's Metaphysics* (defended 2019)

Graham Clay, *Hume Applied* (defended 2019)

Malte Bischof, *Engaging Spinoza and Spinozism* (defended 2021)

John Hanson, *Descartes on Mental Representation* (in process, co-directed with Katherine Brading)

Huimin Liu, project in early modern

Dissertations committee member on 15+ committees in modern philosophy, metaphysics, medieval, nineteenth century, and philosophy of religion

Oral exams chair (7) in modern philosophy

Oral exams committee member on 20+ committees in modern philosophy, metaphysics, medieval, and philosophy of religion

Prospectus exams committee member on 15+ committees in modern philosophy, metaphysics, medieval, nineteenth century and philosophy of religion

Directed four senior honors thesis

#### **DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Center for Philosophy of Religion, Director (2012 – Present); Associate (2009-2012)

College Council Representative (2018 – Present)

Faculty Recruitment Coordinator (2016 – 2019)

Search Committee Member (many, including current [2020] endowed professor search)

Philosophy Department Graduate Committee (2016 – 2018, 2012 – 2014, 2007 – 2008)

Committee on Advancement and Promotion (2013 – 2015)

Philosophy Department Graduate Admissions (2012, 2013, 2016, 2019)

Undergraduate Philosophy Club, Faculty Advisor (2011 – 2015)

Philosophy Department Library Representative (2006 – 2013)