

Sarah McGrath

209 Marx Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

(609)258-4308
smcgrath@princeton.edu

Employment

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University, 2016-present
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University, 2007-2016
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Brandeis, 2005-2007
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, College of the Holy Cross, 2002-2005

Area of Specialization

Metaethics, Moral Epistemology

Areas of Competence

Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Ph.D. in Philosophy, September 2002
Tufts University, M.A. in Philosophy, May 1997
University of Arizona, B.A. in English, with Departmental and University Honors,
May 1993

Recent Honors, Fellowships, and Grants

Behrman Fellow in the Humanities, Princeton University, 2016-
American Council of Learned Societies, Summer Stipend, 2015
Charles A. Ryskamp Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2014-2015
John Templeton Foundation grant, "Intellectual Humility and Moral Expertise"
(\$100,000 grant), 2014-2015

Western Michigan University Distinguished Ethics Scholar for 2014-2015

Laurence S. Rockefeller University Preceptor, Princeton, 2011-2014

Laurence S. Rockefeller Faculty Fellow, University Center for Human Values,
Princeton, 2008-2009

Research

(i) Book

Moral Knowledge, forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

(ii) Papers:

- 1) "What's Weird About Moral Deference?" forthcoming in Gideon Rosen et al (eds.) *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy* 2nd edition (Norton Publishers).
- 2) "Moral Perception and Its Rivals" in R. Cowan and A. Bergqvist (eds.) *Evaluative Perception* (Oxford University Press 2017).
- 3) "Are There Any Successful Philosophical Arguments?" in John Keller (ed.) *Being, Freedom and Method: Themes from van Inwagen* (Oxford University Press 2017): 324-339 (co-authored with Thomas Kelly).
- 4) "Soames and Moore on Method in Ethics and Epistemology" *Philosophical Studies* 172, 6 (2016): 1661-1670 (co-authored with Thomas Kelly).
- 5) "Forgetting the Difference Between Right And Wrong," in S.G. Chappell (ed.) *Intuition, Theory, and Anti-Theory* (Oxford University Press 2015): 104-126.
- 6) "Relax? Don't Do It! Why Moral Realism Won't Come Cheap," *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 9 (2014): 186-214.

*Nominated for inclusion in the 2014 *Philosopher's Annual*, as one of the ten best philosophy papers published that year.

- 7) "On Hastings Rashdall's 'The Limits of Casuistry'," *Ethics* vol. 125, No.1 (Oct. 2014): 196-199.
- 8) "Moral Perception," in Hugh LaFollete (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013): 3832-3839.
- 9) "Moral Realism without Convergence," *Philosophical Topics* vol.38, no.2

- (2013/2010): 59-90.
- 10) “Skepticism about Moral Expertise as a Puzzle for Moral Realism,” *The Journal of Philosophy*, 108 (2011): 111-137.
- *Nominated for inclusion in the 2011 *Philosopher’s Annual*, as one of the ten best philosophy papers published that year.
- 11) “Normative Ethics, Conversion, and Pictures as Tools of Moral Persuasion,” *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* 1 (2011): 268-294.
- 12) “Moral Knowledge and Experience,” *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 6 (2011): 107-127.
- 13) “Reply to King,” *Journal of Philosophical Research* 36 (2011): 235-241.
- 14) “Is Reflective Equilibrium Enough?” *Philosophical Perspectives* 24 (2010): 325-359 (co-authored with Thomas Kelly).
- *To be anthologized in a forthcoming OUP collection devoted to contemporary discussions of themes from the work of John Rawls, edited by Sarah Roberts-Cady.
- 15) “The Puzzle of Pure Moral Deference,” *Philosophical Perspectives*, 23 (2009): 321-344.
- 16) “Moral Disagreement and Moral Expertise,” *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 3: (2008): 87-108.

Papers published before coming to Princeton University

- 17) “Organ Procurement, Altruism, and Autonomy,” *Journal of Value Inquiry* 40 (2006): 297-309.
- 18) “Causation by Omission: A Dilemma,” *Philosophical Studies*, 123 (2005): 125-148.
- 19) “Moral Knowledge by Perception,” *Philosophical Perspectives*, 18 (2004): 209-228.
- 20) “Causation and the Making/Allowing Distinction,” *Philosophical Studies*, 114 (2003): 81-106.

(iii) Reviews, dictionary and short encyclopedia entries, etc.

- (1) “Expertise,” In Robert Audi (ed.) *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, 3rd edition. (Cambridge University Press 2015): 345-346.
- (2) Review of Hilary Putnam, *Ethics without Ontology*. *Philosophical Review*, 115 (2006): 533-535.
- (3) “Judith Jarvis Thomson,” *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, MacMillan, (2005).

Talks (* denotes keynote address; ** denotes endowed/named lecture)

2017

- 1) “Moral Perception and Its Rivals.” Virginia Tech.
- 2) “The Methodological Significance of Levels of Generality.” Georgetown University.
- 3) * “Moral Perception and Its Rivals.” University of Texas at Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference (keynote).
- 4) “Moral Perception and Its Rivals.” Brown University.
- 5) “Moral Perception and Its Rivals.” Oberlin, The Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy.
- 6) “Moral Perception and Its Rivals.” Pacific APA Symposium.
- 7) “Moral Perception and Its Rivals.” Princeton University. (Paper Tigers)

2016

- 1) “Hurka’s History,” Pacific APA Symposium on Thomas Hurka’s *British Ethical Theorists from Sidgwick to Ewing*, with Stephen Darwall and Thomas Hurka.
- 2) “How Do Levels of Generality Matter for Philosophical Theorizing?” University of Nebraska (Lincoln) Chambers Philosophy Conference, invited speaker.
- 3) “Reflective Equilibrium, Its Virtues and Its Limits.” Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, Murphy Institute, Tulane University.
- 4) “How Do Levels of Generality Matter for Philosophical Theorizing?” *Realism in Ethics Conference*, Sheffield University.

- 5) "Reflective Equilibrium, Its Virtues and Its Limits." University of Alabama at Birmingham. (1st of 2 lectures)
- 6) "Should We Believe in Moral Experts?" University of Alabama at Birmingham. (2nd of 2 lectures)
- 7) "Should We Believe in Moral Experts?" Human Values Forum, Princeton University.

2015

- 1) "Philosophical Methodology: How Does Level of Generality Matter?" USC Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 2) "Philosophical Methodology: How Does Level of Generality Matter?" Rice University Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 3) "Philosophical Methodology: How Does Level of Generality Matter?" Claremont McKenna Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 4) "Intellectual Humility and Moral Expertise." Intellectual Humility Summer Seminar, Pasadena, CA.
- 5) "Intellectual Humility and Moral Expertise." Intellectual Humility Capstone Conference, Catalina, CA.

2014

- 1) "Equilibrium in Ethics and Epistemology." University of Pittsburgh Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 2) "Reflective Equilibrium and the Epistemology of the Normative," NYU. (For a meeting of the New York Institute of Philosophy project on the epistemology of normative domains.)
- 3) "Relaxed Realism." University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) Metaethics Seminar.
- 4) **Western Michigan University, "Should We Believe in Moral Experts?" Western Michigan University, *WMU Distinguished Ethics Scholar Lecture for 2014-2015*.
- 5) *Western Michigan University Philosophy Conference, "Equilibrium in Ethics and Epistemology."
- 6) **"Equilibrium in Ethics and Epistemology," Syracuse Graduate Conference.

- 7) **“Equilibrium in Ethics and Epistemology,”* University of Utah Graduate Conference.
- 8) *“Prospects for Moral Perception.”* Central New York Ethics Reading Group.
- 9) **“Prospects for Moral Perception,”* Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference.
- 10) Comments on Tristram McPherson, *“The Truth in Constitutivism,”* CRNAP Workshop on The Varieties of Normativity, Princeton University.

2013

- 1) **“Prospects for Moral Perception.”* Evaluative Perception Conference at the University of Glasgow.
- 2) *“Equilibrium in Ethics and Epistemology.”* The CRNAP Moral Epistemology Conference, Princeton University.
- 3) **“Equilibrium in Ethics and Epistemology.”* The 16th Annual Northeast Florida Philosophy Conference.
- 4) *“Forgetting the Difference Between Right And Wrong,”* University of Nebraska (Lincoln) Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 5) *“Forgetting the Difference Between Right and Wrong,”* University of Rochester Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 6) Comments on Peter Graham, *“Actualism and Possibilism”*, Ethicist Workshop, Princeton University.

2012

- 1) *“Relax? Don’t Do It! Why Moral Realism Won’t Come Cheap.”* 9th Annual University of Wisconsin (Madison) Metaethics Workshop.
- 2) *“Moral Realism Without Convergence”* SPAWN Conference, Syracuse University.
- 3) *“Replies to Kolodny and Schapiro.”* Ethicists Network, Princeton University.
- 4) *“Relax? Don’t Do It! Why Moral Realism Won’t Come Cheap.”* Fordham University.
- 5) *“Relax? Don’t Do It! Why Moral Realism Won’t Come Cheap.”* SUNY Buffalo Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.

- 6) "Relax? Don't Do It! Why Moral Realism Won't Come Cheap." Princeton Paper Tigers Forum, Princeton University.
- 7) "Forgetting the Difference Between Right And Wrong" Princeton Theological Seminary.

2011

- 1) "Realism without Convergence," Symposium on Disagreement in Ethics and Epistemology at California State University, Fullerton.
- 2) "Moral Expertise, Metaethics, and Forgetting the Difference Between Right and Wrong," Brown-Princeton Workshop on Moral Expertise.
- 3) Comments on Sharon Street, "How To Be A Relativist About Normativity." Ethicist Workshop, Princeton University.

2010

- 1) "Skepticism about Moral Expertise as a Puzzle for Moral Realism." University of Nebraska (Omaha) Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 2) "Normative Ethics, Conversion, and Pictures as Tools of Moral Persuasion." University of Arizona Normative Ethics Workshop.
- 3) "Skepticism about Moral Deference as a Puzzle for Moral Realism." Bellingham Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University.
- 4) "Deflationary Conceptions of Moral Expertise." Cardiff Conference on Moral Expertise.

2009

- 1) "Moral Knowledge and Experience." University of Wisconsin (Madison) Metaethics Workshop.
- 2) "Skepticism about Moral Deference as a Puzzle for Moral Realism." Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association.
- 3) "Skepticism about Moral Deference as a Puzzle for Moral Realism." Princeton University Center for Human Values LSR Seminar Presentation.
- 4) "Skepticism about Moral Deference as a Puzzle for Moral Realism." Princeton Philosophy Paper Tigers Presentation.

- 5) Comments on Sigrún Svavarsdóttir, “Practical Rationality and the Metaphysics of Value.” Princeton University Center for Human Values LSR Seminar.

2008

- 1) “Should We Believe in Moral Experts?” University of Notre Dame Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 2) “Should We Believe in Moral Experts?” Temple University Philosophy Department Colloquium.
- 3) Comments on Derk Pereboom, “A Compatibilist Account of the Beliefs Required for Deliberation.” Florida State University Werkmeister Conference on Free Will and Science.

2007

- 1) “Uneventful Causation.” University of Arizona Ontology Conference.
- 2) “Organ Procurement, Altruism, and Autonomy.” Princeton University.
- 3) “Uneventful Causation.” Russell Mini-Conference in Philosophy.
- 4) Contribution to Author Meets Critics Session on Alfred Mele, *Free Will and Luck*. Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association.

2006

- 1) “Uneventful Causation.” New York University La Pietra Conference on Causation.
- 2) “Autonomy and Choice.” Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, May 2006.
- 3) Comments on Adam Elga, “Reflection and Disagreement.” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University.
- 4) Comments on Michele Montague, “Pro-attitudes, Propositionalism, and Psychological Disharmony.” Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association.
- 5) Comments on Karen Bennett, “Composition, Coincidence, and Metaontology.” Arizona Ontology Conference.

2005

- 1) "Moral Disagreement." University of Wisconsin (Madison) Metaethics Workshop.
- 2) "Autonomy and Choice". The University of Colorado (Boulder) Philosophy Dept. Colloquium.
- 3) "Moral Disagreement." Colgate University Philosophy Department Colloquium.
- 4) "Uneventful Causation." Australian National University.
- 5) "Uneventful Causation." Macquarie University.
- 6) "Moral Disagreement." Metaphysics and Epistemology Conference at the Inter University Centre, Dubrovnik.
- 7) "Autonomy and Choice." MITing of the Minds Conference, MIT.
- 8) "What's Wrong with Bullshit?" (with Elizabeth Harman). The Northwest Student Philosophy Conference.
- 9) "Is Hip Hop Culture Bad for Women?" (with Lidet Tilahun). Boston Area Workshop on Gender and Philosophy.
- 10) Comments on Kadri Vihvelin and Terrance Tomkow, "The Dif." Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2005.
- 11) Comments on Eric Olson's "Timeless and Dated Assertions." Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, April 2005.
- 12) Comments on Michael Otsuka's "Should We Save the Greater Number?: A Defense of Taurek Against Scanlon and Kamm." Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, March 2005.

2004

- 1) "Moral Knowledge." Cornell University.
- 2) "Moral Knowledge." Tufts University.
- 3) "Moral Knowledge." Auburn University.
- 4) "Moral Knowledge." Western Washington University.
- 5) "Moral Knowledge." Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, May 2004.
- 6) "Cloning and Harm" (with Brian Weatherson). The International Symposium on

Theoretical and Applied Ethics, February 2004.

- 7) Comments on Jennifer Wright's "The Problem with Principles: Toward an Alternative Conception of Mature Moral Agency." Northwest Philosophy Conference.
- 8) Comments on Eric Moore's "Getting a Clue about Consequences: Counterfactual Semantics, Agent Ability, and the Epistemic Objection." Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Western Washington University.
- 9) Comments on Bryan Frances, "Universal Skepticism." Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association.
- 10) Comments on Paul Anand's "Arrow's Theorem: the Logic and Dictatorship of Social Choice." The International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Ethics.
- 11) Comments on Christopher Hitchcock's "Conceptual Analysis Naturalized? The Case of Causation." Werkmeister Conference on Folk Concepts: Psychological and Philosophical Perspectives, Florida State University, January 2004.

2003

- 1) "Causation by Omission." University of Texas at Austin.
- 2) "Causation by Omission." Arizona State University.
- 3) "Organ Donation, Altruism, and Autonomy." Boston Workshop on Gender and Philosophy
- 4) "Uneventful Causation." Metaphysics and Epistemology Conference at the Inter University Centre, Dubrovnik.
- 5) "Causation by Omission." Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference.
- 6) "Organ Donation, Altruism, and Autonomy." The International Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Ethics, March 2003.
- 7) Comments on Gillett's "The Metaphysics of Realization, Multiple Realizability and the Special Sciences." Society for Philosophy and Psychology, June 2003.
- 8) Comments on John Carroll's "What are the Pragmatics of Explanation?" Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, May 2003.

Earlier Presentations

- 1) "Causation and the Making/Allowing Distinction." Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference (2002).
- 2) "Causation by Omission." Brown University Graduate Student Conference, February (2002).
- 3) "Your Kids: Whose Problem?" Boston Workshop on Gender and Philosophy (2001).
- 4) "Causation and Disconnection." Brown University Graduate Student Reading Group (2001).
- 5) "Did Gore Cause the recount? Facts, Events, and the Causal Relata." Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference (2001).
- 6) "Did Gore cause the recount? Facts, Events, and the Causal Relata." Syracuse University Graduate Philosophy Conference (2001).
- 7) "Did Gore cause the recount? Facts, Events, and the Causal Relata." Princeton-Rutgers graduate philosophy conference (2001).
- 8) "Oops! I did it again! Lies, Misleadings, and Other Deliberate Deceptions" (with Elizabeth Harman). MIT Independent Activities Period (2001).

Teaching Experience

At Princeton University.

Analytic Philosophy. (The first year seminar for graduate students.) Fall 2016, Fall 2017.

Introduction to Moral Philosophy. Spring 2016, Spring 2017.

Moral Epistemology (two junior seminars) Fall 2016, Fall 2009.

Topics in Recent and Contemporary Philosophy: Bias and Objectivity (a graduate seminar co-taught with Thomas Kelly), Spring 2016.

Systematic Ethics (an upper-level undergraduate Metaethics survey), Spring 2016, Fall 2011 (with Michael Smith), Fall 2009, Spring 2008.

Systematic Ethics: Recent Work in Metaethics (graduate seminar), Spring 2014.

Normative Ethics: Ethics and the Empirical (a graduate seminar co-taught with Elizabeth Harman and Sarah-Jane Leslie), Spring 2013.

Topics in Normative Ethics (two junior seminars) Fall 2011, Fall 2012.

Dissertation Seminar (the philosophy department's graduate dissertation workshop), Spring 2011.

Ethics and ... (a graduate seminar co-taught co-taught with Elizabeth Harman), Spring 2011.

Moral Epistemology (a graduate seminar co-taught with Thomas Kelly) Spring 2010.

Assistant Professor, Brandeis Department of Philosophy

Metaethics (an undergraduate seminar), Spring 2005 and Spring 2006

Ethics (an undergraduate introduction to ethics), Spring 2006

Contested Commodities (an undergraduate applied ethics course), Fall 2006

Current Ethical Debates (a freshman seminar), Fall 2005 and Fall 2006

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2005

Assistant Professor, Holy Cross Department of Philosophy

Topics in Metaphysics (an upper-level undergraduate seminar)

Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar: The Human Mind (with Charles Locurto (Psychology) and Joe DeStefano (Computer Science)), Spring 2004

Freedom and Responsibility (an undergraduate course in metaphysics and ethics), Fall 2003

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2002, Spring 2003, Fall 2003, and Fall 2004

Philosophy of Mind, Spring 2003 and Spring 2004

Theory of Knowledge, Fall 2002 and Spring 2005

Service at Princeton University

Service to the University and the Profession

Faculty Mentor for Athena in Action (2016). Athena in Action is a networking and mentoring workshop for graduate student women in philosophy. The goal of the workshop is to improve the experiences of graduate student women in philosophy, to help them stay in philosophy and thrive in the field.

Faculty Research Mentor for PSURE (Princeton Summer Research Experience), a summer program aimed at diversifying the pool of successful applicants to PhD programs. Met with Alexander White, an African-American student from the University of Washington throughout the summer of 2015 to help him develop his writing sample (on the topic of moral disagreement and belief polarization) and to help him prepare for presentations at upcoming conferences.

Faculty Fellow for the women's cross country and track and field teams, 2013-current.

I occasionally serve (on an *ad hoc* basis) as an external reader and evaluator of philosophy applications for the Princeton Society of Fellows.

Service to the Department of Philosophy

Placement Director (2017-2018). Oversaw preparation and placement efforts for twenty total (and six first time) job candidates.

Seminar/Colloquium Committee 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

Appointments Committee, 2012-2013, 2015-2016, 2017-2018.

Graduate Committee, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2017-2018.

Graduate Admissions, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

Participated in junior hiring searches, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2016, and 2017.

Cooperative Research Network in Analytic Philosophy (CRNAP) Committee, 2013-2014.

Ad hoc Committee on the Experience of Women in the Department, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

Co-organized dinners for women in philosophy, 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012.

Princeton organizer for Brown-Princeton conference on moral expertise, Spring 2011.

Co-organized the Ethicists Network (three years).

Panelist, “Getting the Most Out of Graduate School” (Spring 2009, Fall 2011, Fall 2016.)

Panelist, “Advice on Teaching” (Fall 2012).