

THOMAS D. BONTLY, PH.D.
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy, U-2054
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind and Language

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics & Epistemology, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Cognitive Science, Applied Ethics, Environmental Ethics

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin

Ph.D. (Philosophy), May 1998

Dissertation: *Intentionality, Analysis, and Naturalism* (D. Stampe, supervisor)

Minor: Cognitive Science

M.A. (Philosophy), May 1995

University of Arizona

Visiting graduate student, August 1993 – December 1994

Stanford University

A.B. (Philosophy), June 1990

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Connecticut

Associate Professor, August 2004 – present

Assistant Professor, August 1998 – July 2004

University of Wisconsin

Research Assistant, January 1998 – May 1998

Lecturer, January 1995 – May 1996, August 1997 – December 1997

Teaching Assistant, August 1991 – May 1993

University of Arizona

Visiting scholar, August 1996 – December 1996

Graduate Assistant, August 1993 – December 1994

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

- “What Is an Empirical Analysis of Causation?”, *Synthese* 151 (2006): 177-200.
- “Modified Occam’s Razor: Parsimony, Pragmatics, and the Acquisition of Word Meaning”, *Mind and Language* 20, 3 (June 2005): 288-312.
- “Conversational Implicature and the Referential Use of Descriptions”, *Philosophical Studies* 125, 1 (July 2005): 1-25.
- “Exclusion, Overdetermination, and the Nature of Causation”, *Journal of Philosophical Research* 30 (2005).
- “Proportionality, Causation, and Exclusion”, *Philosophia* 32, 1-4 (2005): 331-348.
- “The Supervenience Argument Generalizes”, *Philosophical Studies* 109, 1 (2002): 75-96.
- “Should Intentionality be Naturalized?” in D. Walsh, *Naturalism, Evolution, and Mind* (Cambridge University Press, July 2001: 43-60).
- “Individualism and the Nature of Syntactic States”, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 49, 4 (1998): 557-574.

Book Reviews

- “Review of Stephen Schiffer’s *The Things We Mean*”, *Review of Metaphysics* 58, 4 (June 2005): 916-917.
- “Review of John Bickle’s *Psychoneural Reduction*”, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 51, 4 (December 2000): 901-905.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- “How to Be a Causal Compatibilist”, University of Cincinnati Philosophy Department Colloquium, February 9, 2007 (invited).
- “Teleology and the Temporal Orientation of Intentional States”, *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Charleston, SC, April 14, 2006 (refereed).
- “Not Wrong, Just Different: Comments on Ken Ferguson’s ‘Meaning and Malfunction’”, *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Charleston, SC, April 14, 2006 (invited).
- “In Search of the Red Herring: Comments on Mark Phelan’s ‘The Red Herring of Compositionality and Beyond’”, *Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association*, Portland, OR, March 22, 2006 (invited).
- “Comments on Alyssa Ney’s ‘Can an Appeal to Constitution Solve the Exclusion Problem?’”, *Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association*, San Francisco, CA, March 2005 (invited).
- “Implicature, Acquisition, and the Referential/Attributive Distinction”, *Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association*, Washington DC, December 2003 (refereed).

- “Physicalist Theories of Causation”, Connecticut College, Philosophy Department Colloquium, November 2003 (invited).
- “Yablo on Proportionality, Causation, and Exclusion”, *Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association*, Cleveland, OH, April 2003 (refereed).
- “Modified Occam’s Razor”,
Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, CA, March 2003 (refereed);
Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Edmonton, AB, June 2002 (refereed).
- “Two Approaches to the Study of Causation”, *Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association*, Chicago, IL, May 2002 (refereed).
- “Comments on Gillett and Rives’ ‘The Argument from Realization’”, *Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association*, Albuquerque, NM, April 2000 (invited).
- “In Defense of Naturalizing”, *Royal Institute of Philosophy Conference*, Edinburgh, UK, July 1999 (refereed).
- “Reductionism and Multiple Realizability,” *Cognitive Science Conference*, Storrs, CT, April 1998 (invited).
- “Ethical Naturalism Meets the New Open Question Argument,” *Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association*, Chicago, May 1998 (refereed).
- “Moral Properties, Natural Kinds, and Twin Earth,” *Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin*, September 1997 (invited).
- “Nonindividualistic Syntactic Engines,” *Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association*, Pittsburgh, April 1997 (refereed).

HONORS AND AWARDS

- New Faculty Research Grant, University of Connecticut Research Foundation, 2000
- Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1996
- Steenbock Summer Dissertation Award, 1996
- The Oliver Prize (graduate essay competition, University of Wisconsin), 1995

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

Problems of Philosophy, Philosophy and Social Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Language, Environmental Ethics, Contemporary Moral Issues

Graduate

Mental Causation, Mental Content, Causation, Philosophy of Biology (the latter co-taught with Dr. Kent Holsinger, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Connecticut

Rhodes and Marshall Scholarship Committee (2004 – 2005)

UConn AAUP Executive Committee (2006 – present)

Vice President of UConn AAUP (2007-2008)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Director of Cognitive Science and Chair of Steering Committee (2006 – present)

Cognitive Science Steering Committee (2000 – present)

Cognitive Science Colloquium Committee (2000 – 2006)

Committee on Curriculum and Courses (1999 – 2001)

Subcommittee on General Education Reform, CLAS C&C (Summer 2001)

Philosophy Department

Acting Director of Undergraduate Studies (Fall 2005)

Graduate; Undergraduate; Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment; Search; and Public Relations Committees (many years)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Nous*, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Synthese*, *Dialectica*, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*

Manuscript reviewer for Blackwell Press, W. W. Norton

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Philosophy of Science Association, British Society for the Philosophy of Science, Mind Association

REFERENCES

Dr. Jaegwon Kim, *Department of Philosophy, Brown University, P.O. Box 1918, Providence, RI 02912, (401) 863-2718, Jaegwon_Kim@brown.edu.*

Dr. Michael Lynch, *Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, Box U-2054, Storrs, CT 06269-2054, (860) 486-4416, mplynch@uconn.edu.*

Dr. Ruth Millikan, *Department of Philosophy, University of Connecticut, U-2054, Storrs, CT 06269-2054, (860) 486-4592, ruth.millikan@uconn.edu.*

Dr. Larry Shapiro, *Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, 5185 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706, (608) 263-3700, lshapiro@wisc.edu.*

Dr. Elliott Sober, *Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, 5185 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706 (608) 263-3700, ersoer@wisc.edu.*

Dr. Dennis Stampe, *Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, 5185 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706, (608) 263-3700, dwstampe@wisc.edu.*