

# D. GENE WITMER

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Philosophy  
University of Florida  
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### Education

Ph.D. Rutgers University, New Brunswick. 1997.

B.A. in Philosophy. New College of the University of South Florida. 1990.

### Academic positions

Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Florida. 2009-2017.

Associate Professor, University of Florida. 2004-present.

Assistant Professor, University of Florida. 1997-2004.

### Areas of specialization

Metaphysics and philosophy of mind.

### Areas of competence

Epistemology, meta-philosophy, philosophy of religion, philosophy of language, meta-ethics

### Publications: Papers

"Dual Carving and Minimal Rationalism."

*Analytic Philosophy* 62: 223-234. August 2021.

"Full and Partial Grounding." Co-authored with Kelly Trogdon.

*Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 7 (2): 252-270. Summer 2021.

"Physicalism UnBlocked."

*Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 50 (7): 890-904. October 2020.

"Physicality for Physicalists."

*Topoi* 37 (3): 457-472. September 2018. Special issue "The Character of Physicalism" edited by Andreas Elpidorou.

"Platonistic Physicalism without Tears."

*Journal of Consciousness Studies* 24 (9-10): 72-90. 2017. Part of a collection of papers responding to Susan Schneider's "Does the Mathematical Nature of Physics Undermine Physicalism?"

- "Chudnoff on our Awareness of Abstract Objects."  
*Florida Philosophical Review* 16 (1): 105-116. Winter 2016.  
<https://fpr.cah.ucf.edu/article/chudnoff-on-the-awareness-of-abstract-objects/>
- "A Simple Theory of Intrinsicity."  
 In Robert M. Francescotti, ed., *Companion to Intrinsic Properties*. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2014.  
 Pages 111-138.
- "Necessity, Identity, and A Priori Access."  
*Philosophical Topics* 35 (1-2): 241-263. Spring/Fall 2007.
- "How To Be A (Sort of) A Priori Physicalist."  
*Philosophical Studies* 131 (1): 185-225. October 2006.
- "Intrinsicity without Naturalness." Co-authored with William Butchard and Kelly Trogdon.  
*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 70 (2): 326-350. March 2005.
- "Multiple Realizability and Psychological Laws: Evaluating Kim's Challenge."  
 In Sven Walter and Heinz-Dieter Heckmann, eds., *Physicalism and Mental Causation: The Metaphysics of Mind*. Imprint Academic Publishers, UK. 2003. Pages 59-84.
- "Functionalism and Causal Exclusion."  
*Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 84 (2): 198-214. June 2003.
- "Dupré's Anti-Essentialist Objection to Reductionism."  
*The Philosophical Quarterly* 53 (211): 181-200. April 2003.
- "Sufficiency Claims and Physicalism: A Formulation."  
 In Carl Gillett and Barry Loewer, eds., *Physicalism and Its Discontents*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2001. Pages 57-73.
- "A 'Physical' Need? Physicalism and the Via Negativa." Co-authored with Carl Gillett.  
*Analysis* 61: 302-308. October 2001.
- "Conceptual Analysis, Circularity, and the Commitments of Physicalism."  
*Acta Analytica* 16: 119-133. April 2001.
- "Experience, Appearance, and Hidden Features."  
*PSYCHE* 7 (09), July 2001. Critical commentary on Charles Siewert's *The Significance of Consciousness*. <http://journalpsyche.org/files/0xaa95.pdf>
- "Locating the Overdetermination Problem."  
*The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 51: 273-286. June 2000.
- "Supervenience Physicalism and the Problem of Extras."  
*The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 37: 315-331. Summer 1999.

"What is Wrong with the Manifestability Argument for Supervenience."  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 76 (1), 84-89. March 1998.

"Is Natural Kindness a Natural Kind?" Co-authored with John Sarnecki.  
*Philosophical Studies* 90 (3), 245-264. June 1998.

## **Publications: Reviews**

Review of Robert Kirk, *The Conceptual Link from Physical to Mental* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

*Analysis* 74 (3): 552-556. July 2014.

Review of Jens Kipper, *A Two-Dimensionalist Guide to Conceptual Analysis* (Ontos Verlag, 2012).

*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. January 11, 2013. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/36731/>

"Stalking the Elusive Physicalist Thesis." Review of Daniel Stoljar, *Physicalism* (Routledge, 2010).

*Metascience* 21: 71-75. 2012.

Review of Jakob Howhy and Jesper Kallestrup, eds., *Being Reduced: New Essays on Reduction, Explanation, and Causation* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

*Mind* 120 (479): 882-888. July 2011.

Review of Timothy Williamson, *The Philosophy of Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2007).

*Metaphilosophy* (2011) 42: 155-160.

Review of Christopher Peacocke, *Truly Understood* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, June 1, 2009.

<http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=16266>

Review of Steven Horst, *Beyond Reduction: Philosophy of Mind and Post-Reductionist Philosophy of Science* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, April 10, 2008.

<http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=12863>

Review of Jaegwon Kim, *Physicalism, or Something Near Enough* (Princeton University Press, 2005).

*Mind* 115 (460): 1136-1141. October 2006.

Review of Andrew Melnyk, *A Physicalist Manifesto: Thoroughly Modern Materialism* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, June 4, 2004. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=1442>

Review of Christopher S. Hill, *Thought and World: An Austere Portrayal of Truth, Reference, and Semantic Correspondence* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).  
*Philosophical Inquiry*: 26 (4) 142-145. Fall 2004.

Review of Michael Rea, *World Without Design: The Consequences of Naturalism* (Oxford University Press, 2002).  
*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 81: 605-607. July 2003.

Review of Brad Hooker and Margaret Little, eds., *Moral Particularism* (Oxford University Press, 2000). Co-authored with Crystal Thorpe.  
*Utilitas* 13: 369-371. November 2001.

Review of Frank Jackson, *From Metaphysics to Ethics: A Defence of Conceptual Analysis* (Oxford University Press, 1998).  
*The Philosophical Review* 109 (3): 459 - 462. July 2000.

Review of Tim Crane, ed. *The Contents of Experience* (Cambridge University Press, 1992). Co-authored with Brian McLaughlin.  
*Canadian Philosophical Reviews* 13: 9-14. February 1993.

## **Publications: Other**

"Physicalism."

In Brian McLaughlin, ed., *Philosophy: Mind*. Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks. New York: Cengage Learning, 2017.

"Physicalism and Metaphysical Naturalism."

*Oxford Bibliographies Online*. Published March 31, 2015.  
[www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396577/obo-9780195396577-0258.xml](http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396577/obo-9780195396577-0258.xml)

"Determinism and Intervention: A Reply to Scott Sehon." Co-authored with Andreas Falke.

Accepted for publication by *Philo* in 2015 and scheduled for publication later that year but never published. Financial problems caused the journal to shut down prior to publication. Available on request.

"Naturalism and Physicalism."

In Robert Barnard and Neil Manson, eds., *A Companion to Metaphysics*. Continuum Publishing (later Bloomsbury), 2012.

"On Making Everything Boring." Presidential Address of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Florida Philosophical Association, 2010.

*Florida Philosophical Review* 11 (1): 1-16. Summer 2011.  
<https://cah.ucf.edu/fpr/article/on-making-everything-boring/>

"Philosophy of Mind."

In Daniel Borchert, General Editor, *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Volume 7), 2nd Edition. Detroit: Macmillan Reference 2006, pp. 467-473.

"Physicalism" and "Supervenience."

In Jessica Pfeifer and Sahotra Sarkar, eds., *The Philosophy of Science: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group), 2006, pp. 558-568 and 815-820.

"Ontology" and "Identity Theory."

In the online *Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind* ([sites.google.com/site/minddict/](http://sites.google.com/site/minddict/)). January 1998.

## Academic Presentations

Comments on Torrance Fung, "Naive Realism and Color Primitivism."

- January 15, 2024. Eastern Division, American Philosophical Association. New York City, New York.

Comments on Ryan Miller, "Artifacts: Ontology as Easy as it Gets." Part of an invited symposium on Miller's paper.

- January 6, 2023. Eastern Division, American Philosophical Association. Montreal, Canada.

"Now You See It, Now You Don't: What Matters in Disputes over Multiple Realization." Part of an invited symposium, "Multiple Realization in Fact and Theory."

- February 24, 2022. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL.

Comments on Daniel Giberman and David Kovacs, "Property Dualism (not?) for Property Nominalists."

- February 26, 2020. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL.

"Grounds for a Free Lunch."

- November 1, 2019. Florida Philosophical Association. Gainesville, FL.

"Goff's Insufficiently Minimal Rationalism."

- November 2, 2018. Florida Philosophical Association. Pensacola, FL.

"Metaphysics and A Priori Vindication."

- May 10, 2018. Invited talk at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz, CA.

Comments on Paul Boswell, "There Are No Intrinsic Desires."

- February 24, 2018. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL.

Comments on Zach Blaesi, "Grounding, Physicalism, and the Explanatory Gap."

- January 6, 2018. Eastern Division, American Philosophical Association. Savannah, GA. (Presented in absentia.)

Comments on Fermín Fulda, "Three Grades of Naturalistic Involvement."

- October 6, 2017. Conference of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science. New York, NY.

Comments on Todd Ganson, "What are Sensory Powers?"

- January 7, 2017. Eastern Division, American Philosophical Association. Baltimore, MD.

Comments on Kenneth L. Pearce, "Counteressential Conditionals."

- March 3, 2016. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, Illinois.

"Physicality for Physicalists."

- Invited talk for the Graduate Center at the City University of New York. New York, NY. September 30, 2015.

Comments on Andreas Elpidorou, "Defending Actualist Physicalism."

- September 18, 2015. Society for the Metaphysics of Science. Newark, NJ.

Comments on Louis deRosset, "The Scrying Game."

- April 3, 2015. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. Vancouver, British Columbia.

Comments on Alyssa Ney, "Microphysical Causation and the Case for Physicalism."

- February 21, 2015. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. St. Louis, MO.

"Physicalism Un-Blocked."

- December 28, 2014. Eastern Division, American Philosophical Association. Philadelphia, PA.
- November 16, 2013. Florida Philosophical Association. DeLand, FL.

"Determinism and Intervention: Reply to Scott Sehon." Co-authored with Andreas Falke.

- November 4, 2014. Florida Philosophical Association. Tampa, FL.

"Remarks on Chudnoff's *Intuition*."

- November 4, 2014. Part of a critical symposium on Elijah Chudnoff's book *Intuition* (Oxford University Press, 2013). Florida Philosophical Association. Tampa, FL.

"A Priori Externalism and Privileged Access."

- February 8, 2014. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Charleston, SC.
- November 3, 2012. Florida Philosophical Association. Orlando, FL.

Comments on Klaas Kraay, "Can God Satisfice?"

- February 22, 2013. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. New Orleans, LA.

Comments on Douglas Keaton, "Exclusion, Yet Again."

- April 6, 2012. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. Seattle, WA.

Comments on Justin Tiehen, "Grounding and Mental Causation."

- March 23, 2012. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Savannah, GA.

Comments on Barbara Montero, "Must Physicalism Imply the Supervenience of the Mental on the Physical?"

- February 17-March 2, 2012. Fourth Annual Consciousness Online conference. <https://consciousnessonline.wordpress.com/2012/02/17/must-physicalism-imply-the-supervenience-of-the-mental-on-the-physical/>

"Making Sense of 'Naturalism'."

- November 4, 2011. Florida Philosophical Association. Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- March 23, 2012. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Savannah, GA.
- March 16, 2013. Capstone Speaker, Southeast Graduate Philosophy Conference. Gainesville, FL.

Comments on Carl Gillett, "Against Structural Properties."

- March 4, 2011. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. New Orleans, Louisiana.

"On Making Everything Boring."

- November 5, 2010. Presidential Address for the Florida Philosophical Association. Daytona, FL.

Comments on Kevin Morris, "Subset Realization, Parthood, and Causal Overdetermination."

- April 15, 2010. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Atlanta, GA.

Comments on Emmett Holman, "Phenomenal Concepts and the Mode of Presentation Problem."

- April 2, 2010. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. San Francisco, CA.

"Remarks on Jubien's *Possibility*."

- November 13, 2009. Part of a critical symposium on Michael Jubien's book *Possibility* (Oxford University Press, 2009). Florida Philosophical Association. Gainesville, FL.

Comments on Gary Bartlett, "A Neglected Argument Against Functional Theories of Experience."

- April 10, 2009. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Savannah, GA.

"Remarks on *Every Thing Must Go*."

- February 20, 2009. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Author Meets Critics session of the Society for the Metaphysics of Science for *Every Thing Must Go: Metaphysics Naturalized*, by James Ladyman and Don Ross (Oxford University Press, 2007). Chicago, IL.

Comments on Timothy Pickavance, "Trivializing Naturalness."

- February 19, 2009. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL.

"Semantic Rationalism: A Brief Exposition and Defense."

- November 16, 2008. Florida Philosophical Association. Daytona Beach, FL.

Comments on Thomas Polger and Lawrence Shapiro, "Understanding the Dimensions of Realization."

- March 20, 2008. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. New Orleans, LA.

"Realization and the Promise of Explanatory Import."

- April 6, 2007. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Atlanta, GA.
- November 11, 2007. Florida Philosophical Association. Tallahassee, FL.

"Realization, Higher Order Properties, and Explanatory Import."

- October 14, 2006. Lafayette Colloquium on Mind, Body and Realization. Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

Comments on Alyssa Ney, "Physicalism as an Attitude."

- April 14, 2006. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Charleston, SC.

Comments on William Rottschaefer, "The Many Places of Knowledge in Nature: Reflections on Hilary Kornblith's *Knowledge and Its Place in Nature*."

- March 25, 2006. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. Portland, OR.

"How To Be A (Sort of) A Priori Physicalist."

- April 1-3, 2005. *Physicalism*, a conference presented by the Department of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University, and the Social Philosophy and Policy Center. Bowling Green, OH.
- April 23-25, 2005. *Descrying the World in Physics*, a conference sponsored by Rutgers University and Columbia University. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

Comments on Barry Loewer, "Why Is There Anything Except Physics?"

- November 13, 2004. The Fall 2004 Kline Colloquium: Current Issues About Physicalism. University of Missouri at Columbia. Columbia, MO.

Comments on Andrew Melnyk, "Rea on Naturalism."

- April 9, 2004. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

"The Shortcut Argument Against Coincident Objects."

- November 14, 2003. Florida Philosophical Association, St. Petersburg, FL.

"Functionalism, Causation, and the Bait and Switch Problem."

- October 16-17, 2003. Central States Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL.
- November 9, 2001. Florida Philosophical Association. Deland, FL.



"Intrinsicity without Naturalness." Co-authored with Bill Butchard and Kelly Trogdon.

- November 22, 2002. Florida Philosophical Association. Gainesville, FL.

"The Epistemic Conceivability Argument Against Physicalism."

- April 2002. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL.
- November 10, 2000. Florida Philosophical Association. Sarasota, FL.

"Conceptual Analysis, Circularity, and the Commitments of Physicalism."

- March 2001. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. San Francisco, CA.
- October 6-7, 2000. Central States Philosophical Association. Lincoln, NE.
- June 5-10, 2000. The Bled 2000 Conference on Philosophical Analysis. Bled, Slovenia.

"From Supervenience to Law Entailment: An Argument for Reductionism."

- March 10, 2000. Society for Exact Philosophy. Gainesville, FL.
- November 5, 1999. Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL.

Comments on Barbara Montero, "Post-Physicalism."

- April 8, 2000. Pacific Division, American Philosophical Association. Albuquerque, NM.

"The Explanatory Replacement Objection to Reductionism."

- November 12-13, 1999. Florida Philosophical Association. Miami, FL.

"How to Use Causal Considerations to Argue for Physicalism."

- April 1-3, 1999. Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Louisville, KY.
- November 13, 1998. Florida Philosophical Association. Tallahassee, FL.

"Comments on Siewert's *The Significance of Consciousness*."

- November 13, 1998. Florida Philosophical Association. Tallahassee, FL.

"The Cluster Theory of the Causal Relevance of Functional Properties."

- October 16-17, 1998. Central States Philosophy Association. Clive, IA.

"Functionalism and Causal Relevance: The Incompatibility Problem."

- September 2-5, 1998. European Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Lisbon, Portugal.

"Logical Connections and Causal Relevance."

- November 7, 1997. Florida Philosophical Association. Orlando, FL.

"What's Wrong with the Manifestability Argument for Supervenience."

- April 26, 1996. Central Division, American Philosophical Association. Chicago, IL.

## **Grants and Awards**

University Term Professor, 2019-2022.

Teacher of the Year Award, awarded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Nominated by CLAS for the University-wide competition. Awarded 2003-2004.

2002 Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund award.

1998 Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund award.

## **Service for the University of Florida**

Department Chair, 2009-2017.

### Department Committees and Positions

Graduate Coordinator (2021-present)

Undergraduate Coordinator (2004-2005, 2008-2009, 2017, 2020-2021)

Executive Committee (2008-2009, Fall 2017, Spring 2019-present)

Undergraduate Committee (2005-2008)

Graduate Committee (1999-2002)

Placement Director (2000-2002, 2007-2008)

Search Committees (1997-1999, 2002-2005, 2018-2019, 2020-2021)

Colloquium Committee (2002-2005, 2006-2007)

Ad Hoc Constitution Committee (2007-2008)

### College Committees

Search Committee, new Associate Dean in CLAS (2021)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (2007-2008, 2017-2019)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Awards Committee (2004-2005)

Various internal search committees

### University Committees and Positions

UF Faculty Senator (2021 - 2024)

Equitable AI Task Force (2020-2021)

Co-Chair, Working Group for Humanities for the UF Core General Education Program (Spring 2017)

Innovation Academy Curriculum Committee (2012-present)

CLAS Faculty Council (2014-2016)

Innovation Academy Curriculum Committee for Ethics and Leadership (Spring 2012)

Student Conduct Court Committee (2006-2009)

### Student Advising:

Faculty Advisor for Gator Freethought (2007-2018)

Faculty Advisor for the Atheist, Agnostic and Freethinker Student Association (2005-2007)

Advisor in the Preview orientation program for incoming students (Summer 1999 and Summer 2003)

## **Service to the Profession**

President of the Florida Philosophical Association (2010)

Vice President and Program Coordinator for the Florida Philosophical Association (2009)

Philosophy Program Chair, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (2007-2008)

Referee for the following journals:

*Acta Analytica, American Philosophical Quarterly, Analytic Philosophy, Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, British Journal for Philosophy of Science, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, Ergo, Erkenntnis, European Journal of Analytic Philosophy, International Studies in Philosophy of Science, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Journal of Consciousness Studies, Journal of Philosophical Research, Mind, Mind and Language, Mind and Machines, Nous, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint, Philosophia, Philosophical Explorations, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Philosophy Compass, Philosophy of Science, Ratio, Res Philosophica, Southern Journal of Philosophy, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Synthese, The Monist, The Philosophical Quarterly, Theoria*

Reviewer service

Swiss National Science Foundation *Ambizione* program (2023)

ACLS New Faculty Fellows program (2010)

National Science Foundation grant proposal (2009)

Tenure & promotion review letters (confidential)

2000, 2006, 2007 (2), 2012, 2015, 2016, 2019

Book manuscript reviews

2013 Springer, 2009 Oxford UP, 2009 Routledge, 1999 MIT Press

Reviews for publishers of educational materials in philosophy

Wadsworth (2005), McGraw-Hill (2002), Wadsworth (2001), Mayfield (1998-9)

Educational Publication

*Instructor's Manual* for introduction to philosophy anthology (*Philosophical Questions*, edited by William Lawhead) published by McGraw-Hill (2002)

## Other Presentations

Presentations for the UF community in general at the Department's annual "Food and Talk" event:

2023: What is Indoctrination?

2013: Who Does Philosophy? And Why *Them*? Questions of Diversity in the Discipline.

2012: Disagreement in Philosophy; or, How Can I Believe I'm Right When All These Other Smart People Disagree?

2004: Is Philosophy Still the Love of Wisdom?

2000: Philosophy in Popular Culture vs. Academia

1998: Is Life Worth Living?

Various presentations for the UF Undergraduate Philosophy Society (1997-present), Gator Freethought (2007, 2012), the Atheists, Agnostics, and Freethinkers Student Association at UF (2006), the Christian Study Center of Gainesville (2012).

Presentations at Central Florida Community College in Ocala, Florida, invited by the student group PANTS (Pantheists, Agnostics, and Non-Theists Society):

2008: Godless Morality

2005: How to Think About (the Lack of a) God

Presentation for the Rotary Club of Gainesville:

"Ethics and Guidance." Wednesday, July 30, 2014.

Presentation for the "Philosophy Slam" in Jacksonville, Florida.

"Is Life Worth Living?" October 22, 2014.

*Last updated: April 13, 2024*