

Department of Philosophy  
William & Mary  
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## Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics · Applied Ethics (esp. Environmental Ethics)

## Areas of Competence

Normative Ethics · Medieval & Early Modern Philosophy · Phil. Religion · Epistemology · Logic

## Academic Positions

William & Mary

Teaching Professor of Philosophy *Fall 2023 – present*  
and Faculty Affiliate of the Environment & Sustainability Program

Senior Lecturer *Fall 2018 – Spring 2023*

Lecturer *Fall 2017 – Spring 2018*

Visiting Assistant Professor *Fall 2014 – Spring 2017*

University of Colorado Boulder, Instructor *Fall 2013 – Spring 2014*

Mississippi University for Women, Instructor *Spring 2013*

## Publications

["Procreation is Immoral On Environmental Grounds"](#)

*Journal of Ethics* 28:1 (2024)

["Justifying Subsistence Emissions: An Appeal to Causal Impotence"](#)

*Journal of Value Inquiry* 57:3 (2023)

["The World is a Necessary Being"](#)

*Philosophia* 48:1 (2020)

["Causal Relevance, Permissible Omissions, and Famine Relief"](#)

*Dialectica* 72:1 (2018)

["Climate Change, Individual Emissions, and Foreseeing Harm"](#)

*Journal of Moral Philosophy* 14:5 (2017)

["Modal Truthmakers, Truth Conditions, & Analyses: or, How to Avoid the Humphrey Objection"](#)

*Acta Analytica* 32:2 (2017)

["Classical Theism and Modal Realism are Incompatible"](#)

*Religious Studies* 52:4 (2016)

["The Recycling Problem for Event Individuation"](#)

*Erkenntnis* 81:1 (2016)

["Dispositional Modal Truthmakers and the Necessary Origin"](#)

*Philosophia* 42:4 (2014)

["Truthmaker Theory Does Not Solve the Gettier Problem"](#)

*Ratio* 27:3 (2014)

## Courses Taught

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### *William & Mary; Visiting Assistant Professor to Teaching Professor (Fall 2014 – present)*

Freedom	PHIL 100	Fall 2016 · Spring 2017 · Spring 2018
Philosophy and Technology	PHIL 150	S17 · S19 · S20 · F20 · S22 · F22 · S23 · F23 · S24 · F24 · S25 · F25 · S26
Life and Death	PHIL 150	Fall 2015 · Spring 2016
Introduction to Philosophy	PHIL 201	Fall 2014
Contemporary Moral Issues	PHIL 215	S15 · F15 · S16 · F17 · F18 · F19 · S21 · F21
Medieval Philosophy	PHIL 232	Spring 2018 · Spring 2025
Symbolic Logic	PHIL 301	Fall 2014 · Fall 2016 · Fall 2017 · Fall 2020
Skepticism	PHIL 306	Spring 2019
Environmental Ethics	PHIL 308	S20 · S21 · S22 · S23 · S24 · F24 · S26
Metaphysics	PHIL 375	Spring 2015 · Fall 2019
Doing, Allowing, Intending, & Foreseeing Harm	PHIL 403	Fall 2018 · Fall 2021 · Fall 2023 · Fall 2025

### *University of Colorado; Instructor (Fall 2013 – Spring 2014)*

Logic and Critical Thinking	PHIL 1440	Spring 2014
Environmental Ethics	PHIL 3140	Spring 2014
Bioethics	PHIL 3160	Fall 2013
Philosophy of Religion	PHIL 3600	Fall 2013

### *Mississippi University for Women; Instructor (Spring 2013) (Note: The following were taught as online courses)*

Logic and Critical Thinking	PHL 205	Spring 2013
Business Ethics	PHL 306	Spring 2013

### *University of Colorado; Graduate Student Instructor (Fall 2010 – Spring 2013)*

Introduction to Philosophy	PHIL 1000	Spring 2011 · Spring 2012
Early Modern Philosophy	PHIL 1020	Spring 2011
Introduction to Ethics	PHIL 1100	Fall 2010 · Spring 2012
Philosophy and Society	PHIL 1200	Fall 2012 · Spring 2013
Philosophy and Religion	PHIL 1600	Summer 2011

### *University of Colorado; Teaching Assistant (Fall 2008 – Spring 2010)*

Introduction to Philosophy	PHIL 1000	Spring 2010 · with Dan Kaufman
Philosophy and Society	PHIL 1200	Fall 2009 · with Alastair Norcross
Philosophy and Religion	PHIL 1600	Fall 2008 & Spring 2009 · with Wes Morriston

### *University of Colorado; Grader (Fall 2007 – Fall 2010) (Attended classes and graded student work. No teaching duties)*

Introduction to Philosophy	PHIL 1000	Fall 2007 · Michael Huemer
Introduction to Ethics	PHIL 1100	Fall 2008 · Michael Huemer
Philosophy and Society	PHIL 1200	Sp. '08, Fall '08, & Sum. '10 · Chris Heathwood Spring 2010 · Alastair Norcross
Major Social Theories	PHIL 2200	Fall 2009 · Michael Huemer
Philosophy & Science Fiction	PHIL 2750	Fall 2007 · Michael Huemer
Ethics	PHIL 3100	Sp. '09, Sp. '10, & Fall '10 · Chris Heathwood
Epistemology	PHIL 3340	Fall 2007 · Michael Huemer
Philosophy of Religion	PHIL 3600	Spring 2008 · Chris Heathwood
Economics, Game Theory, & Rational Choice	PHIL 4800	Fall 2009 · Michael Huemer

## Education

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Ph.D.	University of Colorado Boulder	Philosophy	2008-2013
M.A.	University of Colorado Boulder	Philosophy	2006-2008
M.A.	Southern Evangelical Seminary	Theology	2002-2006
B.S. (with honors)	University of Florida	Astrophysics	1995-1999

**Certification:** Certificate in College Teaching · University of Colorado Graduate Teacher Program · 2013

## Service & Professional Experience

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### Honors Thesis Committee Member

Tristan Hurst, *Pion Detection for the MOLLER Parity-Violating Electron Scattering Experiment*, William & Mary, Department of Physics (defense: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023)

Erin-Darby McClain, *Frequency and Success of Larval Clone Production in the Daisy Brittle Star Ophiopholis Aculeata*, William & Mary, Department of Biology (defense: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

Christian Chamberlayne, *Initiation of Photochemical Reactions via FRET from Fluorescent Conjugated Polymer Nanoparticles*, William & Mary, Department of Chemistry (defense: May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015)

### Honors Thesis Advisor

Connor Dantzler, *In Defense of Mereological Nihilism*, William & Mary (defense: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

### William & Mary Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Teaching Fellow Program Participant

As a part of a new program introduced during the 2017-8 academic year, I employed two advanced undergraduates as paid 'teaching fellows' in my Medieval Philosophy course. The goal of this program is for teaching fellows to provide guidance and mentorship to their peers during several "high-impact, project-based learning opportunities" designed to reach audiences beyond the classroom. (Spring 2018)

### Journal Referee

*Acta Analytica* (2017)

*American Philosophical Quarterly* (2014, 2016)

*Analysis* (2016, 2017, 2020, 2023)

*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2015, 2016, 2017)

*Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2022)

*Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* (2024)

*Dialectica* (2016)

*Erkenntnis* (2015, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022)

*Journal of Applied Philosophy* (2024)

*Journal of Ethics* (2023)

*Mind* (2015)

*Polish Journal of Philosophy* (2014)

*Religious Studies* (2021, 2023)

*Sophia* (2018, 2020)

*Thought* (2020)

*Topoi* (2015)

### Lead Graduate Instructor (Fall 2011 – Spring 2012)

This position, a paid appointment through the Graduate Teacher Program, was designed to help fellow graduate students to become better teachers. My duties included organizing and presenting pedagogical workshops, administering classroom evaluations and consultations, fundraising, assisting graduate teachers in earning the university's graduate teaching certificate, and acting as a liaison between students in my department and the Graduate Teacher Program.

### Organizer, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference (April 2011)

### Organizer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Faculty Symposium (November 2009)

This is an annual, themed in-house philosophy conference, during which CU Boulder philosophy faculty present their work to the department. This year's theme: Intuitions.

## Works in Progress

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- "The Moral Implications of a Modally Fragile View of Events" (in progress)
- "A Closer Look at the Duty Not to Contribute to Collective Harms" (in progress)
- "A Solution to Huemer's Paradox for Deontology" (in progress)
- "Origin Essentialism and the Recycling Problem" (in progress)
- "I Owe You a Horse: Buridan's *Sophismata*, Predicate Logic, and Famine Relief" (in progress)

## Dissertation Summary

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**Title:** *In Defense of the New Actualism: Dispositional Modal Truthmakers and the Branching Conception of Possibility*

**Advisor:** Graeme Forbes

**Committee:** Allan Franklin · Graham Oddie · Robert Rupert · Michael Tooley

**Defended:** April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

**Abstract:** What makes modal truths true? A popular answer to this question is '*possible worlds*'. I argue that it is, rather, *actual concrete objects and their causal properties*. For example, 'You could be going for a walk right now' is true not in virtue of the existence of some possible world where you (or your counterpart) are walking. Rather, it is true because *you* exist, and have the power to walk. There are two surprising consequences of this proposal. The first is that all of the metaphysical possibilities must share some causally potent initial portion in common, such that there exists at least one causally potent necessary being, or else there is necessarily an infinite, beginningless series of contingent causes. The second is that the World itself—i.e., that enormous concrete object of which you and I are both proper parts—is a necessary existent.

## Graduate Coursework (2006-2010)

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### Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Logic

- PHIL 5340: Epistemology (Michael Tooley)
- PHIL 5360: Metaphysics (Kathrin Koslicki)
- PHIL 5360: Metaphysics: Causation and Modality (Carol Cleland)
- PHIL 5460: Modal Logic (Graeme Forbes)
- PHIL 5600: Philosophy of Religion (Wesley Morriston)
- PHIL 5840: A Posteriori Necessity (David Barnett)

### Ethics

- PHIL 5100: Ethics (Chris Heathwood)
- PHIL 5100: Consequentialism (Alastair Norcross)
- PHIL 5840: Doing & Allowing, Intending & Foreseeing Harm (Michael Huemer)
- PHIL 6100: The Good & the Right (Chris Heathwood & Michael Huemer)

### History of Philosophy

- PHIL 5010: Kant (Robert Hanna)
- PHIL 5020: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Theories of Matter (Dan Kaufman)
- PHIL 5810: Medieval Philosophy (Robert Pasnau)
- PHIL 6000: Plato (Dominic Bailey)
- PHIL 6000: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Theories of Identity and Individuation (Dan Kaufman)