

Tamler Sommers

Curriculum Vitae

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Employment

2018 – Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy Department, Honors College (joint appointment)
University of Houston

2012-2018 Associate Professor of Philosophy University of Houston. Philosophy Department
and Honors College (joint appointment)

2013-2015 Director, Phronesis: A Program in Politics and Ethics

2008-2012 Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department and Honors College (joint appointment)

2005-2008. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Minnesota, Morris.

Education

2000-2005 Duke University. Ph.D. in Philosophy. (Dissertation: *Beyond Freedom and
Resentment: An Error Theory of Free Will and Moral Responsibility.*)

Awarded December 31, 2005

1988-1992 University of Pennsylvania. B.A. English. *Cum Laude*. May 1992.

Research

Books

- *Why Honor Matters*. Basic Books. May 8, 2018
- *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain*, 2nd edition. (Features eight new interviews with Susan Wolf, Peter Singer, Anthony Appiah, Simon Blackburn, Nancy Sherman, Valerie Tiberius, Paul Bloom, and Alan Fiske and Taze Rai.) Routledge 2016.
- *Relative Justice: Cultural Diversity, Free Will, and Moral Responsibility*. Princeton University Press. December, 2012.
- *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain*. December, 2009. McSweeney's Press.

Peer Reviewed Articles:

- "Metaskepticism" Oxford Handbook of Moral Responsibility. Nelkin, D. and Pereboom, D eds. Oxford University Press. January 2022
- "Negotiating Responsibility" comments on John Doris' Talking to Our Selves. *Brains and Behavioral Sciences*. 41, January 2018.
- "Strawson, Shoemaker, and the Hubris of Theories." *Criminal Law and Philosophy*. November 2, 2018
- "The Three Rs: Retribution, Revenge, Reparation." *Philosophia*. 44:2 327-342 2016
- "Relative Responsibility and Theism." in *Free Will and Theism: Connections, Contingencies, and Concerns*. Timpe, K. and Speak, D. eds. Oxford University Press. 2016

- “Free Will and Experimental Philosophy: an Intervention.” in *Handbook of Neuroethics*. Clausen, Jens; Levy, Neil (Eds.) Springer. December 2014.
- “Partial Desert.” in *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility*. David Shoemaker ed. Oxford University Press. July, 2013
- “Experimental Philosophy” Knobe, J., Buckwalter, W., Nichols, S., Robbins, P., & Sommers, T. (2011). Experimental Philosophy. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 63, 81-99.
- “Experimental Philosophy and Free Will.” *Philosophy Compass*. 5:199-212, 2010.
- “More Work for Hard Incompatibilism.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 79, 3: 511-521. November, 2009.
- “The Two Faces of Revenge: Moral Responsibility and the Culture of Honor.” *Biology and Philosophy*. 24,1 (2009):35-50.
- “The Objective Attitude.” *The Philosophical Quarterly*. 57, 28 (2007): 321-342
- “The Illusion of Freedom Evolves.” In *Distributed Cognition and the Will*, David Spurrett, Harold Kincaid, Don Ross, Lynn Stephens (eds). MIT Press. 2007.
- “Darwin’s Nihilistic Idea: Evolution and the Meaninglessness of Life,” (with Alex Rosenberg). *Biology and Philosophy*. 18: 653-668. November 2003.
- “Of Zombies, Color Scientists, and Floating Iron Bars,” *Psyche: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Consciousness* 8(22). November 2002.

Selected Reviews and Other Publications:

- “Restorative Justice.” The Philosophers Magazine. January 2016
- Review of *Building Better Beings* by Manuel Vargas. *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*. September 16, 2013
- Review of *Yuck: The Nature and Moral Significance of Disgust* by Daniel Kelly. *Philosophical Quarterly*. 2012
- “Required Reading: Thoughts on the Ethics of Punishment.” *The Philosophers Magazine*: First Quarter 2012.
- Review of *Responsibility and Distributive Justice*. Carl Knight and Zofia Stemplowska (eds.). *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*. October, 2011.
- “In Memoriam: The X-Phi Debate” *The Philosophers Magazine*. First Quarter. 2011
- “Reasonably Disposed: A Review of The Emotional Construction of Morals by Jesse Prinz.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. May 8, 2009.
- “A Review of The Self, edited by Galen Strawson.” *The Times Literary Supplement* January 6, 2006. P. 26. .
- “A Review of Can God Be Free? by William T. Rowe.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. January 21, 2005. P. 26
- “Diane Decides: A Review of Justice, Luck, and Knowledge, by S.L. Hurley.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. May 7, 2004. P. 6.

- “Rightly Determined: A Review of Deontic Morality and Control, by Ishtiyaque Haji.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. October 17, 2003. P. 8.

Presentations

- "Antonio Pigliaru Workshop on Social Norms & Cultural Codes." Cagliari, Italy June 25, 2022 Panel presentation (invited, funded)
- “Creating Honorable Communities” (panel presentation), National Conference on Ethics in America, West Point Military Academy. March 29-30, 2022 (Invited, funded)
- “The Road to Restorative Justice” Workshop on Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Justice in Criminal Law. (Invited, funded) University of Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany. June 2019
- “Against Consistency in Criminal Punishment.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Meeting. April 2019 (Vancouver, Canada)
- “Honor, Revenge, and Restorative Justice” Nadine B. Andreas Lecture. Minnesota State University, Mankato. October 18. (Invited, university wide lecture, second lecture “Philosophical Busybodies” for the MSU philosophy department).
- “How Big is the Crisis?” on Avner Baz’s *The Crisis of Method in Analytic Philosophy*.” American Philosophical Association (Pacific) Meeting, March 2018
- “Handling Your Business: Honor and Conflict” Philosophy and Humanities TwinStar Conference on Global Values. Lone Star Community College. February 2018
- “Honor, Revenge, and Justice.” Center for Practical and Professional Ethics and the Philosophy Department at the California State University, Sacramento. October 2017.
- “Philosophical Busybodies” Moral Responsibility Workshop. Bonn Germany, June 2017
- “Philosophical Busybodies.” University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Invited, funded by, the Undergraduate Philosophy Club. Co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department. October 2106
- “Is David Shoemaker Really a Strawsonian? Yes and No.” Comments on David Shoemaker’s Responsibility from the Margins. Invited by the Gothenburg Responsibility Project annual conference. Gothenburg Sweden. August 24-27, 2016
- “Philosophical Busybodies.” Presented at the Pacific APA. Special session, Society for the Philosophy of Agency. Comments by Kelly McCormick (TCU). April 1, 2016.
- “Philosophical Busybodies.” Invited by University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Undergraduate Philosophy Club. Co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department.
- “Moral Responsibility and Human Diversity” Kyoto Moral Psychology Workshop. July 2014.
- "How Do They Get Away With That? A "Theory" of Offensive Humor." Workshop on Jokes, Slurs, and Promises. Lawrence University, Appleton Wisconsin. May 2014 (Invited)
- "The Three Rs: Retribution, Restoration, and Revenge." The Ethics and Forgiveness Workshop. Union College. Schenectady, NY. May 2014. (Invited)
- "Moral Responsibility and Human Diversity." Colloquium on my book *Relative Justice*, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. March 2014.
- “Courage: The Forgotten Virtue in the Philosophy of Punishment.” American Philosophical Association, 2013 Central Division Meeting.

- “Philosophical Busybodies” University of British Columbia, Spring Colloquium. March 15th, 2013
- “Free Will and Experimental Philosophy: An Intervention.” Society for Experimental Philosophy. American Philosophical Association (Pacific) 2012 meeting. Seattle, Washington. April 4-8, 2012. (
- “The Limits of Moral Argument.” TEDx Talk. Hogeschool Utrecht. Utrecht, Netherlands. November 8, 2011. (Invited)
- “Partial Desert,” New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility. Intercontinental Hotel. November 3-5, 2011.
- “Old School Retributivism: A Defense of Vigilante Justice” Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2011 Meeting. New Orleans, LA. March 10-13. (Invited)
- “Moral Responsibility and Human Diversity.” Society of Philosophy and Psychology, 2010 Meeting. Lewis and Clark University. Portland, OR. June 9-12.
- “Metaskepticism About Moral Responsibility.”
 - Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. University of Colorado, Boulder. Aug 7-10, 2008.
 - (Invited) Colloquium Series. University of Haifa. January 8, 2008.
- “The Two Faces of Revenge: Moral Responsibility and the Culture of Honor.”
 - (Invited) Philosophy Research Seminar. School of History, Philosophy, Religion, and Classics. University of Queensland. Brisbane, Australia. May 17, 2007.
 - International Society for Research on the Emotions (ISRE) 2006 Conference. Atlanta, GA. August 6-10, 2006.
 - The Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2006 Meeting. Washington University, St. Louis. June 1-4, 2006.
- “The Illusion of Freedom Evolves: How Darwinism Supports an Error Theory of Free Will and Moral Responsibility.”
 - The Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2005 Meeting. Wake Forest University. June 9-12, 2005.
 - The Second Conference of the Mind AND World Working Group. Distributed Cognition and the Will: Individual Volition and Social Context. University of Alabama at Birmingham. March 18-21, 2005.

Other Projects:

- *The Very Bad Wizards Podcast* (co-hosted with David Pizarro: Cornell University). Biweekly podcast on issues in moral psychology. 234 episodes. Over 30 million total downloads. Paul Bloom (Psychology, Yale), Joe Henrich (Anthropology, Harvard), Molly Crockett (Psychology, Yale), Jesse Graham (Psychology, Utah), Shaun Nichols (Philosophy, Arizona), Laurie Santos (Yale), Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Philosophy, Duke), Mathew Nock (Psychology, Harvard), Joshua Knobe (Philosophy, Yale), Valerie Tiberius (Philosophy, Minnesota), The podcast has over 10 million downloads in the last

two years, and has been covered in *Forbes*, *Discover Magazine*, *Houstonia*, *Letter Reports*, *The Daily Nous*, and elsewhere.

Honors and Awards (Since arriving at UH in 2008)

- Nadine B. Andreas Lecture. Minnesota State University, Mankato. (\$5,000 award).
- *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain*. (Nine New Interviews). Small Grants Program. University of Houston. 2012-2013*
- Faculty Fellow. Center of Ethics and Public Affairs. Murphy Institute. Tulane University. (Research Project: “Removing the Blindfold from Lady Justice: A Partially Retributive Theory of Punishment.”) Stipend: \$61,000. 2011-2012.
- 2010 Texas Book Festival. *A Very Bad Wizard* selected for inclusion and panel discussion.
- NEH Fellow. National Endowment of Humanities, Summer Institute on Experimental Philosophy. University of Utah. 2009.
- QEP Grant. University of Houston. Created the course “Punishment” to emphasize undergraduate research. 2009
- Small Grants Fund. University of Houston. Travel to Ann Arbor, MI and San Francisco, CA for interviews with William Ian Miller and Philip Zimbardo. 2009