

Billy Dunaway

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Missouri–St. Louis *email:* dunawayw@umsl.edu
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One University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization: ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language

Areas of Competence: philosophy of law, philosophical logic, philosophy of religion

EMPLOYMENT

University of Missouri–St. Louis (August 2015-present)

Associate Professor of Philosophy (September 2020-present)

Assistant Professor of Philosophy (August 2015-August 2020)

University of Oxford (September 2013-August 2015)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Faculty of Philosophy and Junior Research Fellow, Somerville College

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (September 2009-August 2013)

Ph.D. in Philosophy, August 2013

- Dissertation Title: *Realism and fundamentality in ethics and elsewhere*
- Supervisor: Allan Gibbard

University of Southern California (August 2006-May 2009)

Graduate student, School of Philosophy

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

B.A., Philosophy, June 2005, *Summa Cum Laude*

BOOKS

Reality and Morality. Oxford University Press (2020).

Meaning, Decision, and Norms: Themes from the Work of Allan Gibbard, co-edited with David Plunkett. Maize Books, an imprint of Michigan Publishing (2022, open access).

ARTICLES

“Necessary Existent Theology”, (with Rosabel Ansari and Jon McGinnis), forthcoming in *Religious Studies*.

“Moral Realism, Naturalism, and Moral Disagreement”, forthcoming in the *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Disagreement*, Maria Baghramian, J. Adam Carter and Richard Rowland (eds.).

- "The Epistemology of Theological Predication", *Essays in Philosophy* (2022) vol. 23(1/2), pp. 83-104.
- "The metaphysical conception of realism", in *Meaning, Decision, and Norms: Themes from the Work of Allan Gibbard* (2022), ed. Billy Dunaway and David Plunkett. Maize Books/Michigan Publishing Services.
- "Realism, meta-semantics, and risk", *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (2021) vol. 20(3), pp. 342-369.
- "Knowledge and theological predication: lessons from the Medieval Islamic tradition" (with Jon McGinnis), *Res Philosophica* (2021) vol. 98 (2), pp. 353-376.
- "Epistemological motivations for anti-realism", *Philosophical Studies* (2018) vol. 175(11), pp. 2763-2789.
- "Duns Scotus's epistemic argument against divine illumination", in *Knowledge, Belief, and God: New Insights* (2018), Matt Benton, John Hawthorne, and Dani Rabinowitz (eds.). Oxford University Press.
- "Luck: evolutionary and epistemic", *Episteme* (2017) vol. 14(4), pp. 441-461.
- "Scepticism" (with John Hawthorne), in *The Oxford Handbook of the Epistemology of Theology*, William J. Abraham and Frederick D. Aquino (eds.) (2017).
- "Realism and objectivity", in *The Routledge Handbook of Metaethics*, Tristram McPherson and David Plunkett (eds.) (2017).
- "Ethical vagueness and practical reasoning", *The Philosophical Quarterly* (2017) vol. 67(266), pp. 38-60.
- "Reference magnetism as a solution to the moral twin earth problem" (with Tristram McPherson), *Ergo* (2016), vol. 3(25), pp. 639-679.
- "Expressivism and normative metaphysics", *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* vol. 11, Russ Shafer-Landau (ed.) (2016), pp. 241-264.
- "Supervenience arguments and normative non-naturalism", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2015) vol. 91(3), pp. 627-655.
- "Whither anankastics?" (with Alex Silk) *Philosophical Perspectives* 28: *Ethics* (2014), pp. 75-94.
- "Modal quantification without worlds", *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* vol. 8 (2013), Karen Bennett and Dean Zimmerman (eds.), pp. 151-186.
- "The folk probably do think what you think they think" (with Anna Edmonds and David Manley), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2013) vol. 91(3) pp. 421-441.
- "Minimalist semantics in meta-ethical expressivism", *Philosophical Studies* (2010) vol. 151(3) pp. 351-371.

BOOK REVIEWS	Review of Matthew Chrisman's <i>The Meaning of 'Ought'</i> (Oxford University Press), in <i>The Journal of Philosophy</i> (2017) vol. 114(3), pp. 155-159.
	Review of Thomas Hofweber's <i>Ontology and the Ambitions of Metaphysics</i> (Oxford University Press), in <i>The Philosophical Review</i> (2018) vol. 127(2), pp. 260-264.
CURRENT WORK	<i>Revelation, Testimony, and Interpretation</i> . Book manuscript in preparation.
	"Testimony and interpretation" (with Matt Benton).
	"The prospects for normative metaphysics: analyticity with substantive truth."
	"De dicto concern in cases of ethical vagueness".
	"Knowledge and plenitudinous ontologies".
GRANTS	<i>Inspiration and Interpretation</i> (2023-24), UMSL Mid-Career Seed Grant, 11,877 USD.
	<i>The Christian West and Islamic East: Theology, Science, and Knowledge</i> (with Jon McGinnis, 2018-2021). 1.1 million USD project funded by the John Templeton Foundation and the University of Missouri–St. Louis.
	<i>Knowing Reality</i> (2017-18). UM Research Board Grant, 22,000 USD.
EDITORIAL WORK	Book Review Editor, <i>Ethics: an International Journal of Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy</i> , 2018-2022.
	Guest Editor (with Jon McGinnis), special issue of <i>Essays in Philosophy</i> , vol. 23(1/2), 2022: Analytic Philosophy and the Islamic Tradition.
	Guest Editor (with Jon McGinnis), special issue of <i>Res Philosophica</i> , vol. 98(2), April 2021: Islamic Philosophy and Contemporary Philosophy of Religion.
PRESENTATIONS	"Necessary existent theology", The Aquinas And "The Arabs" International Working Group (AAIWG) May/June 2021 International Meeting, 26 May 2021.
	"Revelation and interpretation", the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, 18 February 2021.
	"The epistemology of theological predication", <i>The Christian West and Islamic East Lecture series</i> , 20 October 2020.
	"Necessary existent theology", UMSL works in progress group, 9 July 2020.
	"Testimony and interpretation", Saint Louis University, 31 January 2020.
	"The epistemology of the fundamental", Midwestern Annual Workshop in Metaphysics, University of Pittsburgh, 4 May 2019.

"The epistemology of the fundamental", St. Louis Epistemology Research Group, 22 March 2019.

"God, language, and skepticism: the Alston-Wolterstorff debate through the eyes of medieval Islam" (with Jon McGinnis), Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 21 February 2019.

"Stability: robust but not widespread", Saint Louis Ethics Workshop, 2 March 2018.

"Theological predication: Duns Scotus, univocity, and knowledge", Seattle Pacific University, 8 November 2017.

"De dicto concern in cases of ethical vagueness", Saint Louis Ethics Workshop, 10 February 2017.

"De dicto concern in cases of ethical vagueness", University of Missouri–Columbia, 27 January 2017.

"De dicto concern in cases of ethical vagueness", University of Saint Andrews, 1 December 2016.

"Epistemological motivations for anti-Realism", Institute of Philosophy, University of London, 29 November 2016.

"Realism, meta-semantics, and risk", Kansas State University, 28 October 2016.

"Epistemological motivations for anti-Realism", Saint Louis University, 21 October 2016.

"Realism, meta-semantics, and risk", Midwest Epistemology Workshop, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 1 October 2016.

"Ground and knowledge: epistemological motivations for anti-realism", Uppsala Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy, 9 June 2016.

"Realism, meta-semantics, and Risk", Stockholm June Workshop in Philosophy, 7 June 2016.

"Ground and knowledge: epistemological motivations for anti-realism", Saint Louis Ethics Workshop, 4 December 2015.

"Grounds and closure", Australian National University, 30 March 2015.

"Grounds and closure", University of Sydney, 25 March 2015.

"Luck: evolutionary and epistemic", University of St Andrews, 17 February 2015.

"Foundations for an accuracy-based approach to imprecise credence" (with Jason Konek), New Insights Workshop in Formal Epistemology, University of Oxford, 8–9 December 2014.

"Objectivity and triviality", Seminar in Moral Philosophy, University of Oxford, 13 October 2014.

"Expressivism and normative metaphysics", Madison Metaethics Workshop, 12–14 September

2014.

"Perfectly natural relative naturalness", Open Session of the 2014 Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society & the Mind Association, Cambridge University, 11-13 July 2014.

"Luck: evolutionary and epistemic", University College London, 19 February 2014.

"Ethical vagueness and practical reasoning", Metaphysical Indeterminacy Final Conference, University of Leeds, 7-8 December 2013.

"The metaphysical conception of realism", Seminar on Realism, Objectivity and Meta-metaphysics at Dartmouth College, 11 April 2013.

"Primitive relative fundamentality", Arizona State University, 13 February 2013.

"The metaphysics of expressivism", University of Leeds, 7 February 2012.

"Practical reasoning for theorists about vagueness", Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, 4-7 August 2011.

"The 'quasi' in 'quasi-realism' ", Indiana Philosophical Association, Ball State University, 29-30 April 2011.

"Minimalist semantics and the problem of creeping minimalism," Western Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Alberta, 24-26 October 2008.

"Minimalist semantics and the problem of creeping minimalism," British Society for Ethical Theory, University of Edinburgh, 14-16 July 2008.

"Minimalist semantics and the problem of creeping minimalism," 11th Southern California Philosophy Conference, 27 October 2007.

TEACHING

at the University of Missouri–St. Louis

Spring 2023: Phil/Crimin 2252: Crime and Punishment; Phil 4437: Metaethics.

Fall 2022: Phil 1130: Approaches to Ethics; Phil 4430/5530: Social and Political Philosophy.

Spring 2022: Phil 1130: Approaches to Ethics; Phil/Crimin 4487/5533: Philosophy of Law.

Fall 2021: Phil/Crimin 2252: Crime and Punishment; Phil 5538/4438: Classical Ethical theory.

Fall 2020: Phil 5533/4487: Philosophy of Law.

Spring 2020: Phil 4430/5530: Social and Political Philosophy.

Spring 2019: Phil 1130: Approaches to Ethics; Phil 4440/5540: Epistemology.

Fall 2018: Phil 1130: Approaches to Ethics; Phil 5533/4487: Philosophy of Law.

Fall 2017: Phil 1130: Approaches to Ethics; Phil 4450/5551: Independent Study (Social and Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Race).

Spring 2017: Phil/Crimin 2252: Crime and Punishment; Phil 5530/4430: Social and Political Philosophy.

Fall 2016: Phil 1130: Approaches to Ethics; Phil 5538/4438: Classical Ethical theory.

Spring 2016: Phil 1160: Critical Thinking; Phil 5530/4430: Social and Political Philosophy.

Fall 2015: Phil 1130: Approaches to Ethics; Phil 5533/4487: Philosophy of Law.

at the University of Oxford

Hilary 2014, Trinity 2014, Michaelmas 2014: tutorials in Philosophy of Religion, Somerville College, Oxford.

at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Spring 2013: Phil 262: Intro to Religion.

Spring 2012 and Winter 2013: Phil 160: Moral Principles and Problems.

THESIS ADVISING

Thesis Chair for MA in philosophy

Ben Parviz, *Loose Connections in the Just Society*, Summer 2021.

Lukas Merrell, *Warrant and Improper Function: A Critique of Reformed Epistemology*, Spring 2021.

Zanyar Amadhi, *Self-Determination as Historical Justice*, Spring 2021.

Sam Filby, *Telling and Testimony*, Spring 2020.

Justin Yee, *Supererogation and Moral Reasons*, Spring 2020.

Kara Boschert, *The Epistemic Status of Moral Conceptual Truths*, Spring 2017.

Danny Underwood, *Realist Nonideal Theory*, Spring 2017.

MA Thesis Committee Member

Zhexi Zheng (Spring 2021), Lindsey Grossheim (Spring 2021), Curtis Howd (Spring 2020), Danielle Walker (Spring 2019), Alex Schumm (Fall 2018), Kaci Harrison (Spring 2018), Zach Auwerda (Spring 2018), Blake Davenport (Summer 2017), Bobbi Jackson (Spring 2017), Ben Wisniewski (Spring 2017), Graham Renz (Spring 2016), William Bell (Spring 2016).

Other Thesis Committees

Luke Kallberg (PhD dissertation committee, Saint Louis University, 2021).

**AWARDS AND
FELLOWSHIPS**

at the University of Missouri–St. Louis

2021: Referee Honor Roll, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*.

2019: Junior Faculty Investigator of the Year, University of Missouri–St. Louis.

2015, 2016, 2018: College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grants.

at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

April 2013: Rackham Travel Grant

Fall 2012: Departmental One-term Fellowship

Winter 2012: Stevenson Prize (*This prize is awarded annually to one graduate student in the Department of Philosophy for excellence in a dossier.*)

Winter 2012: Departmental One-term Fellowship

Fall 2011: Departmental One-term Fellowship

Summer 2011: Weinberg Summer Fellowship

August 2011: Rackham Travel Grant

April 2011: Rackham Travel Grant

March 2011: “Modal Quantification without Worlds” selected as a finalist for 2011 Younger Scholars

Prize for Metaphysics
Winter 2011: Rackham One-term Dissertation Fellowship
Summer 2010: Rackham Research Grant (for the Meta-Survey project; with David Manley
and Anna Edmonds)
Fall 2009: Departmental Fellowship

at the University of Southern California

Fall 2008: Nomination for 2009 USC Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
Summer 2008: International Conference Travel Award, USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.
Fall 2006–Spring 2007: Merit Fellowship

**COMMITTEES AND
SERVICE**

Spring Research Panel, University of Missouri–St. Louis, January 2021–present; panel Chair
September 2021–present.
Organizer, St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality (SLACRR), 2016–present.
Pre-law advisor, University of Missouri–St. Louis, August 2015–present.
Referee for *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Ergo*, *Ethics*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Ratio*, *Res Philosophica*, *Theoria*, *The Philosophical Review*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Dialectica*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Erkenntnis*, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press.
Interviewer for undergraduate admissions, Somerville College, Oxford, 2013 and 2014.
Main Organizer for workshop on Testimony, University of Oxford, June 2014.
Editor for 2010, 2011 *Philosopher's Annual*.
2007–8: Philosophy department representative to Dean of Graduate Students' committee (USC).
2006–7: Secretary and Treasurer for Pegasus, USC Philosophy Graduate Student Committee (USC).

REFERENCES

John Hawthorne
University of
Southern California;
Australian Catholic
University
jhawthor@usc.edu

Allan Gibbard
University of Michigan
gibbard@umich.edu

Tristram McPherson
Ohio State University
dr.tristram@gmail.com