

JOHN P. LEMOS
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, Duke University, Durham, NC, May 1993.

B.A. Philosophy, University of the South, Sewanee, TN, May 1985.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS

Area of specialization: Ethics, Evolutionary Biology and Philosophy, Free Will

Areas of competence: Applied Ethics (Medical, Business, and Legal Ethics), History of Philosophy (Ancient and Modern), Philosophy of Law, Logic, Metaphysics, Epistemology

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Recipient of Knapp-Northcott International Travel Grant, Spring 2018.

Recipient of the 19th James Wilbur Award for Extraordinary Contributions to the Appreciation and Advancement of Human Values at the 40th Annual Conference on Value Inquiry at Neumann University on May 2, 2014.

Recipient of Joseph P. McCabe Endowed Chair in Philosophy, Fall 2012- Present.

President Iowa Philosophical Society, 1999-2000, 2006-2007.

Coe College Faculty Research Grant, Summers of 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2010.

Research Fellow, University of Iowa R.I.S.K. Project, Spring semester of 1994. [The R.I.S.K. Project is a federally funded project for faculty and curriculum development focused on the issues of Risk, Ethics, Public Policy, and Decision Making.]

Winner of prize for best paper by an assistant professor, instructor, or graduate student at the North Carolina Philosophical Society Meeting on February 29, 1992. Title of paper: "Akratic Character and the Analysis of the Concept of a Character Trait"

Instructorship, Duke University Department of Philosophy, Spring 1989-Spring 1992.

Tuition Award and Stipend, Duke University Department of Philosophy, Fall 1987-Fall 1988.

Tuition Award, Duke University Department of Philosophy, Fall 1986-Spring 1987.

Honors in Philosophy, The University of the South, Sewanee, TN, May 1985.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Positions Held:

Coe College

Academic Year 2009-Present, Full Professor; and Department Chair, Fall 2004-Spring 2018, Fall 2024-Present

Academic Years 2000-2009, Associate professor.

Academic Years 1993-2000, Assistant Professor.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Academic Year 1992-1993, Visiting Lecturer.

North Carolina State University

Spring 1992, Visiting Instructor.

Duke University

Spring 1989-Fall 1991, Instructor.

Fall 1987-Fall 1988, Teaching Assistant.

Duke University Talent Identification Program

Summers 1987-1992, Instructor.

Courses Taught:

Introduction to Philosophy, Logic (Beginning and upper-level Symbolic), Ethics, History of Modern Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Professional Ethics, Business Ethics, Biomedical Ethics, History and Philosophy of Biology, Introduction to Gender Studies, Philosophy of Religion, Environmental Ethics, Recent and Contemporary Analytic Philosophy, Punishment and Responsibility.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

(4) *Free Will's Value: Criminal Justice, Pride, and Love*: New York: Routledge (2023).

(3) *A Pragmatic Approach to Libertarian Free Will*, New York: Routledge (2018).

(2) *Freedom, Responsibility, and Determinism: A Philosophical Dialogue*, Indianapolis, IN: Hackett (2013).

(1) *Commonsense Darwinism: Evolution, Morality, and the Human Condition*, LaSalle, IL: Open Court (2008).

Articles and Book Chapters

(45) “Retributive Justice, Free Will, and Evolutionary Naturalism.” Forthcoming in M. Dale and I. Weigman (eds.), *Philosophy and the Evolution of Virtue and Vice* (Routledge Press).

(44) “Kane’s Final and Revised Theory of Libertarian Free Will.” *The International Journal of Philosophical Studies*. Forthcoming.

(43) “Replies to Caruso, Elzein, Pereboom, Sekatskaya, and Smilansky.” *Philosophia*. Forthcoming.

(42) “Precis of *Free Will's Value: Criminal Justice, Pride, and Love*.” *Philosophia*. Forthcoming.

(41) “Muslim Debates on Free Will and Robert Kane’s Libertarian View,” coauthored with Tayyebe Gholami and Robert Kane. *Philosophia* 52 (2024): 1341-1360. Doi: 10.1007/s11406-024-00805-6.

(40) “Free Will Skepticism, Quarantine, and Corrections,” in a special “Free Will Skepticism and Punishment” issue of Diametros 21 (2024): 107-118. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.33392/diam.1952>

(39) “Haji and the Indeterministic Weightings Model of Libertarian Free Will,” The Journal of Philosophical Theological Research 25 (2023): 101-118. Doi: 10.22091/JPTR.2023.9648.2920

(38) “Neural Determinism and Neural Roulette: Harris on Free Will,” in S. Woien, ed., Sam Harris: Critical Responses. Open Universe Publishing (2023), pp. 193-205.

(37) “Kane and the Physical Indeterminism Luck Objection: A Reply to Moore.” *Philosophia* 50 (2022): 2597-2615. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-022-00514-y>

(36) “The Indeterministic Weightings Model of Libertarian Free Will” in a special “Free Will” issue of The Journal of Philosophical Theological Research 23 (2021): 137-156.

(35) “On the Compatibility of Evolutionary Biology and Theism” The European Journal for the Philosophy of Religion 12 (2020): 23-39, a special issue on Evolutionary Biology, Theism, and Ethics.

(34) “Kane, Pereboom, and Event-causal Libertarianism,” Philosophia 48 (2020): 607-623. Available online at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-019-00098-0>

(33) “A Moral/Pragmatic Defense of Just Deserts Responsibility” Journal of Information Ethics 28 (2019): 73-94. A special issue on “The Future of Moral Responsibility.”

(32) “Kane, Balaguer, Libertarianism, and Luck” in F. Grgic and D. Pecnjak (eds.), Free Will and Action: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives, Springer (2018), pp.47-55.

(31) “Thoughts on Dennett and Harris,” Rivista Internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia 8 (2017): 231-246. See also response from Daniel Dennett, pp.274-283 of same issue of the journal.

(30) “Waller, Responsibility Denial, and the Punishing of the Innocent,” Syndicate Philosophy 1 (2017) <https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/the-stubborn-system-of-moral-responsibility/>

(29) “Hard-heartedness and Libertarianism Again: A Rejoinder to Double” The Journal of Philosophical Research 42 (2017): 319-323.

(28) “God’s Existence and the Kantian Formula of Humanity,” Sophia: An International Journal for Philosophical Theology 56 (2017): 265-278.

(27) “Moral Concerns About Responsibility Denial and the Quarantine of Violent Criminals,” Law and Philosophy 35 (2016): 461-483.

(26) “Hardheartedness and Libertarianism,” Philo 16 (2013): 180-195.

(25) “A Kantian Defense of Libertarian Blame,” Journal of Cognition and Neuroethics 3 (2015): 251-263.

(24) ‘Self-forming Acts and the Grounds of Responsibility,’ Philosophia 43 (2015): 135-146.

(23) “Libertarianism and Free Determined Decisions,” Metaphilosophy 45 (2014): 675-688.

(22) “Libertarianism and the Wrongness of Prepunishment,” The Public Affairs Quarterly 26 (2012): 243-255.

(21) "Kane's Libertarian Theory and Luck: A Reply to Griffith," *Philosophia* 39 (2011): 357-367.

(20) "Wanting, Willing, Trying and Kane's Theory of Free Will," *Dialectica* 65 (2011): 31-48.

(19) "In Defense of Organizational Evolution: A Reply to Reydon and Scholz," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 39 (2009): 463-474.

(18) "Kanian Freedom and the Problem of Luck," *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 45 (2007): 515-532.

(17) "Foot and Aristotle on Virtues and Flourishing," *Philosophia* 35 (2007): 43-62.

(16) "Flanagan and Free Will: A Defense of Agent Causation," *Disputatio* Vol. II, No. 21 (November 2006): 69-90.

(15) "Morality, Self-Interest, and Two Kinds of Prudential Practical Rationality," *Philosophia* 34 (2006): 85-93.

(14) "Psychological Hedonism, Evolutionary Biology, and the Experience Machine," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 34:4, Dec. 2004, 506-526.

(13) "A Defense of Naturalistic Naturalized Epistemology," *Critica: Revista Hispanoamericana de Filosofia* 35:105, December 2003, 49-63.

(12) "Rachels on Darwinism and Theism," *The American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 77:3, Summer 2003, 399-415.

(11) "Theism, Evolutionary Epistemology, and Two Theories of Truth," *Zygon* 37:4, December 2002, 789-801.

(10) "Sober and Wilson and Nozick and the Experience Machine," *Philosophia* 29, May 2002, 401-409.

(9) "Evolution and Free Will: A Defense of Darwinian Non-Naturalism," *Metaphilosophy*, Vol.33 No.4, July 2002, pp.468-482.

(8) "A Defense of Darwinian Accounts of Morality," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, Vol.31 No. 2, Sept. 2001, pp.361-385.

(7) "Evolution and Ethical Scepticism: Reflections on Ruse's Meta-Ethics," *The Journal of Social and Evolutionary Systems*, 21 (1998): 213-221.

(6) "The Problems With Emotivism: Reflections On Some MacIntyrean Arguments," *Journal of Philosophical Research*, Vol. 25, January 2000, pp.285-309.

(5) "Bridging The Is/Ought Gap With Evolutionary Biology: Is This A Bridge Too Far?," The Southern Journal of Philosophy, Vol.37 No.4, (Winter 1999), pp.559-577.

(4) "An Agnostic Defense of Obligatory Prayer," Sophia: An International Journal for Philosophical Theology, Vol. 37, No.2, 1998, pp.70-87.

(3) "Virtue, Happiness, and Intelligibility," Journal of Philosophical Research , Vol. 22, January 1997, pp.307-320.

(2) "Moral Crutches and Nazi Theists: A Defense Of And Reservations About Undertaking Theism," Southwest Philosophy Review , Vol. 13 No.1, January 1997, pp.147-154.

(1) "The Unity of the Virtues and Its Recent Defenses," The Southern Journal of Philosophy, Vol. 32 No.1, Spring 1994, pp.85-106.

Book Reviews

(7) Subjects of the World: Darwin's Rhetoric and the Study of Agency in Nature by Paul Sheldon Davies. In Mind, Vol. 120, 2011, pp.516-520.

(6) Morality and Self-Interest by Paul Bloomfield (ed.). In Mind, Vol. 119, 2010, pp.193-199.

(5) Happiness Is Overrated by Raymond Belliotti. In The Review of Metaphysics Vol.58, December, 2004.

(4) Morality Without Foundations: A Defense of Ethical Contextualism by Mark Timmons. In Teaching Philosophy, Vol. 24 No.3, Sept. 2001, pp.295-298.

(3) Ruling Passions: A Theory of Practical Reasoning by Simon Blackburn. In Teaching Philosophy, Vol.23, No.3, September 2000, pp.286-290.

(2) "Darwinian Natural Right and the Naturalistic Fallacy." A Review of Larry Arnhart, Darwinian Natural Right: The Biological Ethics of Human Nature. In Biology and Philosophy, Vol.15, No.1, January 2000, pp.119-132.

(1) Can Ethics Provide Answers? And Other Essays In Moral Philosophy by James Rachels. In Teaching Philosophy, Vol.22, No.1, March 1999, pp.91-95.

PAPERS PRESENTED

“Punishment and Libertarian Free Will” presented on a panel discussion at the meetings of the Law and Society Association in Chicago, IL May 24, 2025.

“Free Will, Love’s Value, and Hick’s Theodicy” presented at the meetings of The Society for Philosophy of Religion in New Orleans, LA on March 7, 2025.

“Libertarian Free Will and Justified Pride” presented in a special session on “Recent Issues in Free Will” at the Western Canada Philosophical Association Meetings at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, CA on October 21, 2023.

“Human Uniqueness, Moral Responsibility, and Evolution” presented at the XV International Ontology Congress at University of the Basque Country in San Sebastian, Spain on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

“Haji, Kane, and Lemos on Libertarian Free Will and Luck” presented at the Canadian Philosophical Association Meetings in Toronto on June 1, 2023.

“Comments on Dwayne Moore’s ‘Lemos on the Physical Indeterminism Luck Objection’” presented at the Canadian Philosophical Association Meetings in Toronto on May 31, 2023.

“The Indeterministic Weightings Model of Libertarian Free Will” guest lecture at University of the South in Sewanee, TN on September 30, 2021.

“Libertarian Free Will, Luck, and the Deliberative Weightings Model,” presented at XIV International Ontology Congress: Natural Determinism and Free Will on September 29, 2021.

“Coherent Naturalistic Libertarian Free Will and Criminal Justice,” a Mellon funded lecture for the City College of New York on December 10, 2020.

“Comments on Benjamin Yost’s ‘A Procedural Plea for Leniency’,” presented at the Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago, IL on February 26, 2020.

“Event-causal Libertarianism and Two Kinds of Modified Nozickian Views,” a keynote address presented at the Free Will and Causality Conference at Henrich Heine University in Duesseldorf, Germany on September 26, 2019.

“Comments on Jonathan Payton’s ‘All Actions Are Attempts’,” presented at the Central Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association in Denver, CO on February 22, 2019.

“On the Compatibility of Evolutionary Biology and Theism,” conference on *Is Evolutionary Research on Morality Relevant to Theological Ethics?* at the University of Urbino in Urbino, Italy on October 24, 2018.

“The Kantian Formula of Humanity and God’s Existence,” a presentation to the Disproof Atheism Society at Boston University in Boston, MA on September 27, 2018.

“Disappearing Agents, No Further Powers, and Two Kinds of Libertarianism,” Conference on Agent-causation, Powers, and Sourcehood at the Philosophy Institute in Zagreb, Croatia on May 25, 2018.

“Should Event-causal Libertarians Prefer Mele’s Daring Libertarianism to Kane’s View?” American Philosophical Association Meetings in San Diego, CA on March 28, 2018.

“The Irrationality Problem and Kane’s Dual Efforts Theory,” Central States Philosophy Association Meetings in St. Louis, MO on October 28, 2017.

“Levy and Kane on Dual Efforts and Dual Responsibility: A Reply to Campbell,” Canadian Philosophical Association Meetings at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada on May 29, 2017.

“Is Free Will Denial a Threat to Human Dignity? A Look at Criminal Justice,” Conference on The Future of Human Dignity in Utrecht, Netherlands on October 12, 2016.

“Kane, Balaguer, Libertarianism, and Luck,” presented at the Institute of Philosophy Conference on Agency, Causality, and Free Will in Zagreb, Croatia on January 25, 2016.

“Moral Concerns About Responsibility Denial and the Quarantine of Violent Criminals,” presented at:

- 1) the Illinois Philosophical Association Meetings at Eastern Illinois University on November 13, 2015;
- 2) American Philosophical Association Meeting in San Francisco on April 2, 2016.

“Hardheartedness and Libertarianism,” presented at the Free Will Conference at the Center for Cognition and Neuroethics at the University of Michigan-Flint on Oct.10, 2014.

“Aristotelian Moral Realism and Evolution,” the keynote address to the 40th Annual Value Inquiry Conference at Neumann University in Philadelphia, PA on May 1, 2014.

“Comments on Joseph Campbell’s *Free Will*” presented at author meets critics session of the American Philosophical Association in San Diego, CA on April 17, 2014.

“Morality, Self-interest, Hedonism, and Aristotle” presented at the Happiness and the Virtues Conference at the D.B. Reinhart Institute at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI on April 12, 2014.

“Self-Forming Acts and the Grounds of Responsibility” presented at the Tennessee Values and Agency Conference at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville on Saturday, November 16, 2013.

“A Problem for Event-Causal Libertarianism: Comments on Finch” presented at the Illinois Philosophical Association Meeting in Dekalb, IL on Friday, November 18, 2011.

“The Moral Significance of Choice: Comments on Stonestreet” presented at the Central States Philosophy Association Meeting in Dekalb, IL on Friday, October 9, 2009.

“Aristotelian Ethics and Darwinism” keynote address to the 11th Annual Midwest Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at Creighton University on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

“Wanting, Willing, Trying, and Kane’s Theory of Free Will” presented at the meetings of the Iowa Philosophical Society in Mt. Vernon at Cornell College on October 18, 2008.

“Deliberative Agent Causation and the Luck Argument” presented to:

(1) the Philosophy Department at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL on April 27, 2007;

(2) the Central States Philosophy Association in Des Moines, IA on October 5, 2007.

“Flanagan and Free Will: A Defense of Agent Causation” the keynote address at the University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society 2006 Fall Conference, Saturday, December 2, 2006.

“Comments on Poston on Internalist Justification” presented at meetings of the Central States Philosophical Association Meetings in Iowa City, IA on October 22, 2004.

“Comments on Holland’s Views on the Presumption of Atheism” presented at the American Philosophical Society Meetings in San Francisco, CA in March of 2001.

“Evolution and Free Will: A Defense of Darwinian Non-naturalism” presented at:

(1) meetings of the ISHPSSB at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT on Saturday, July 21, 2001;

(2) the Iowa Philosophical Society Meeting at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA on Saturday, October 14, 2000.

“Evolutionary Ethics and the Naturalistic Fallacy” presented at the 27th Annual Value Inquiry Conference at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, MO on Saturday, April 24, 1999.

“Evolution and Ethical Scepticism: Reflections on Ruse’s Metaethics” presented at:

(1) meetings of the Iowa Philosophical Society in Ames, IA on November 8, 1997.

(2) meetings of the Southern Philosophical Society in New Orleans, LA on April 9, 1998.

“Comments on John Corvino’s ‘What Hume Was Really Arguing in ‘Of Miracles’’” presented at the Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association in San Francisco, CA on March 27, 1997.

"An Agnostic Defense Of Obligatory Prayer" presented at the Mid-South Philosophy Conference in Memphis, TN on March 1, 1997.

"Comments on James Edwards' 'Hume's Idea of the Self'" presented at the Mid-South Philosophy Conference in Memphis, TN on March 1, 1997.

"Moral Crutches And Nazi Theists: A Defense Of And Reservations About Undertaking Theism" presented at:

- (1) Iowa Philosophical Society Meetings in Iowa City,
November of 1995;
- (2) Midwest Division Meeting of the Society of Christian
Philosophers in Dubuque, IA, March 9, 1996;
- (3) the Southern Philosophical Society Meetings in
Nashville, TN, April 5, 1996.

"On the Ideal Moral Virtues and Their Alleged Unity" presented at the Iowa Philosophical Society Meetings at Wartburg College in Waverly Iowa on November 6, 1993.

"Comments on Luckhardt's 'Guilt and Rationality'" presented at the meetings of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology on April 8, 1993 in New Orleans, LA.

"A Critical Consideration of Recent Defenses of the Unity of the Virtues" presented at the meetings of the North Carolina Philosophical Society on February 27 at UNC-Charlotte.

"Character and the Moral Worth of Persons" presented to the Philosophy Department at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota on April 24, 1992.

"Is Love All That You Need?: A Critical Consideration of Agapistic Monism" presented at the Eastern Region Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers in Spartanburg, SC during the weekend of April 3-5, 1992 at Wofford College.

"Akratic Character and the Analysis of the Concept of a Character Trait" presented at the 1992 Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society on February 29 at Elon College.

"The Significance of Aristotle's Poetics to Moral Theory" presented at the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science and the Society for the Study of Ancient Greek Philosophy in New York, NY, on Oct. 26, 1991 at Baruch College, CUNY.

"Moral Blame and Moral Disapproval" presented at the North Carolina Philosophical Society meeting in February, 1991.

REFEREE FOR JOURNALS AND BOOK PUBLISHERS AND GRANT PROPOSALS

Journals

Abstracta

The American Journal of Political Science

Current Anthropology

The Canadian Journal of Philosophy

Dialectica

Diametros

The European Journal for the Philosophy of Religion

Erkenntnis

Faith and Philosophy

Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy

The Journal of Ethics

Journal of the American Philosophical Association

The Journal of Philosophical Research

The Journal of Philosophy

Journal of Value Inquiry

Kriterion

Philosophia

Philosophy and Phenomenological Research

Philosophical Papers

Philosophical Psychology

Philosophical Studies

Philosophy of the Social Sciences

Review of Philosophy and Psychology

Sophia: International Journal for Philosophy of Religion, Metaphysical Theology, and Ethics

Southern Journal of Philosophy

Synthese

Theoria

Book Publishers

Cambridge University Press

Hackett Publishing

Oxford University Press

Grant Proposals

Israel Science Foundation

Leverhulme Foundation

EXTERNAL REVIEWER OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

Knox College Spring 2018

Simpson College Fall 2023

EXTERNAL REVIEWER FOR TENURE AND PROMOTION

Creighton University Philosophy Department

COMMITTEE WORK

2025-2026 First Year Seminar Committee
2024-2025 Faculty Development Committee
Spring 2023-Spring 2024 Executive Committee
Fall 2022 Committee on Admissions and Retention
2020-2021 Executive Committee
2019-2020 Faculty Welfare Committee
2017-2019 Faculty Development Committee
2013-2016 Faculty Welfare Committee
2012-2013 Academic Policies Committee
2009-2011 Faculty Welfare Committee
2007-2008 First Year Seminar Committee
2005-2006 Academic Policies Committee
2004-2005 Assessment Committee
2002-2004 Academic Policies Committee
2000-2002 Executive Committee
1999-2000 Budget Committee
1996-1998 Admissions Committee
1994-1996 Judicial Board

REFERENCES

Dr. Gregg Caruso, Dept. of Philosophy, SUNY-Corning
Dr. Robert Kane, emeritus, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Texas
Dr. Saul Smilansky, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Haifa