

Adam Swenson, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vita

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, Rutgers University: 2006

B.A., Philosophy, University of California Los Angeles: 1999 Summa cum laude

B.A., Japanese, University of California Los Angeles: 1999 Summa cum laude

Professional Training

(1) Management Development Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education: 2015

(2) Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative: 2015; 2018; 2022; 2025

(a) Biomedical Human Subjects Research, Basic

(b) Good Clinical Practice Course for Clinical Trials Involving Drugs and Biologics

(c) Human research HSC - Investigators Key Personnel

(d) HIPAA

(3) Student Success Analytics Certificate: 2025

Data Action Project "Does Increased Funding = Increased Success?"
awarded top project distinction

Awards

(1) Aspen Institute, Wye Faculty Fellow: 2017

Teaching

I. Teaching Experience

(1) Professor, Department of Philosophy, CSUN: 2017-

(2) Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, CSUN: 2011-2017

(3) Visiting Professor, Shanghai Normal University: 2008

(4) Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy CSUN: 2006-2011

(5) Adjunct, Rutgers University, Newark: 2002-2004

(6) Teaching Assistant, Rutgers University, New Brunswick: 2002-2006

(7) Athletics Tutor, University of California, Los Angeles: 1997-1998

II. Courses taught

A. California State University, Northridge

(1) Senior Research Seminar (Phil 497)

(2) Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Phil 455)

- (3) Advanced Topics in Ethical Theory (Phil 460)
- (4) Philosophy of Law (Phil 390)
- (5) Contemporary Social and Political Issues (Phil 349)
- (6) Today's Moral Issues (Phil 165)
- (7) Advanced Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: The Drug War (Phil 446)
- (8) Philosophical Problems (Phil 310)
- (9) Advanced Topics in Ethical Theory (Phil 460)
- (10) Ethical Theory (Phil 360)
- (11) Capstone Seminar in the Humanities (Hum 491)
- (12) Business Ethics (Phil 305)

B. Shanghai Normal University

Visiting Professor

- (1) The Meanings of Life

C. Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Teaching assistant; solely responsible for lectures and grading

- (1) Introduction to Philosophy
- (2) Ethics and Practical Reasoning
- (3) Love, Personhood, and Sexual Morality
- (4) Buddhist Philosophy
- (5) Current Moral and Social Issues
- (6) Introduction to Logic

D. Rutgers University, Newark

Adjunct

- (1) Applied Ethics
- (2) Introduction to Ethical Theory

III. Thesis/independent study advisement

A. Independent studies

- (1) Jacqueline Ibarra and George Fekaris, "Pain's Philosophical Problems": 2009
- (2) Breanne Sorrells, "Happy Housewives and Oppressive Socialization: Assessing Standards for Autonomy": 2007

B. Humanities senior theses

- (1) Corey Perkins, "Disability and User Interface Design": 2007

- (2) Lauryn Davis: "Behind the Music: A Look at Hip Hop's Relationship with African American Women": 2007
- (3) Demetra Haloutsos, "Alienation in Modern Times" : 2007

C. English senior honors theses

- (1) Marielle Kriesel, "*Avatar*: Opening Pandora's Box to a Post Human Future": 2011
- ♦ This won the English Department's Robert's Award for Honors Theses

D. Dissertation advisory committees

- (1) Simon van Rysewyk's (University of Tasmania) Ph.D. dissertation advisory committee: 2009

IV. Other teaching

- (1) "Justice in Group Decision-making", Presentation to GE Honors Seminar: 2022
- (2) Pain Narratives Lab: 2015
- (3) "The Philosophy of Pain and its Relevance to the LGBTQQ Communities", Presented to Martin Pousson's Gay Male Literature course (English 368): 2010
- (4) "Pain and its Treatment" lecture series: 2006
- (5) "What's So Bad About Torture?", Presented to Leilani Hall's Humanities Honors Seminar: 2006

Research

A. Publications

- (1) "Personality and Treatment-Related Correlates of Trustworthiness: A Web-Survey with Chronic Pain Narratives." Swenson, Richeimer, Weinstein, Junghaenel *Journal of Psychosomatic Research* (2019) 119, 14-19
- (2) "Privation Theories of Pain" *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* (2009) 66, 139-154
- (3) "Pain's Evils", *Utilitas* (2009) vol. 21(2) June, 197-216

B. Talks, peer-reviewed posters, and invited presentations

- (1) "Evaluating the val158met polymorphism of the COMT gene as a predictor of anxiety and its correlation with pain sensitivity" (Nguyen, Swenson, Van, Hwang, Balentine, Chang, Weinstein, Richeimer), American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine: 2022

- (2) "Evaluating Catechol O-Methyltransferase (COMT) as a Predictor for Functional Outcomes in Chronic Pain" (Van, Swenson, Hwang, Balentine, Chang, Weinstein, Richeimer), American Academy of Pain Medicine: 2020
- (3) "Now What? Text Mining Patient Pain Narratives", Digital Humanities SoCal Research Slam: 2013
- (4) "Gnawing, Searing, Stabbing and Throbbing: What Pains Might Represent" CSU Long Beach Philosophy Department : 2010
- (5) "How One Large Public University Got All-Aboard the Personal and Social Responsibility Express" presented at "Educating for Personal and Social Responsibility: Deepening Student and Campus Commitments" Network for Academic Renewal conference: 2009
- (6) "Hurts So Good: What's Bad About Masochistic Pain?", Center for Sex and Gender Research Colloquium Series: 2009
- (7) "Pain and Privation" presented at the 11th Southern California Philosophy Conference: 2007

C. Grants / funded work

- (1) "Development and Preliminary Testing of Novel Virtual Human-Assisted Psychosocial Interviews for Patients with Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain." NIH R21: 2018-2021
- (2) "Therapeutic Evaluation to Research Clinical Objectives Linking Genotypic and Phenotypic Associations with Pain Management Outcomes (T.R.O.J.A.N. Study)" USC Keck IRB #HS-15-00191: 2015-2016
- (3) Gradeomatic and META-lab (PI), Research and Graduate Studies (\$10,000): 2015
- (4) The Core Commitments Personal and Social Responsibility Initiative (PI) American Association of Colleges and Universities (\$50,000): 2007-2009

D. Formal written commentaries at academic conferences

- (1) Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin's (UCR) "Two Interpretations of Contractualist Moral Agency" at American Philosophical Association Pacific Division: 2013
- (2) Matthew Liao's (Oxford/NYU) "Crisp on the Buck-Passing Account of Value" at American Philosophical Association Pacific Division: 2009

E. Session chair at academic conferences

- (1) "Evidence, 'Ought', and the Mine Shaft Paradox" colloquium at the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting: 2011
- (2) "On the Intrinsic Evil of Death" at the 13th Annual Southern California Philosophy Conference: 2010

- (3) "Prudent Inquiry and Non-Evidential Considerations" colloquium at the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting: 2008
- (4) California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race: 2007

F. Journal manuscript reviews

International Journal for Philosophy of Religion
Journal of Value Inquiry
American Philosophical Association Quarterly

G. Publisher manuscript reviews

Oxford University Press
Routledge
Cambridge University Press

H. Other scholarship

- (1) Pain for Philosophers blog (editor), 2003-
- (2) "Intentional Content of Pain", Philosophy Department Colloquium: 2011
- (3) Sole guest for the two hour "Masochism and Pain" episode of "Is This Normal", TalkingSexRadio.com webcast: 2009
- (4) "On Pain", Philosophy Department Colloquium: 2009
- (5) Invited (and partially funded) participant in Festsprach for James Griffin's On Human Rights at Rutgers University: 2009

I. Current projects

- (1) Datamining pain patients' posts on Twitter. I have collected approximately 10 million tweets concerning chronic pain. My research group at the USC Pain Center has several ongoing projects looking into this data.
- (2) Genetic testing in the pain clinic. We are processing the data collected with the T.R.O.J.A.N grant. We are looking at doctor-patient interactions and the use of genetic testing results in the pain clinic.

CSU Systemwide Service

A. Academic Senate of the California State University

- (1) Vice Chair: 2024-
- (2) Secretary: 2023-2024
- (3) Executive Committee, Member at Large: 2022-2023
- (4) Parliamentarian: 2015-2019; 2021-

- (5) Senator: 2013-2014; 2015-19; 2020-
- (6) Faculty Affairs Standing Committee: 2015-2022
- (7) Faculty Trustee Selection Committee: 2020; 2022 (chair)
- (8) Ad Hoc Committee to Advance Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Within the ASCSU: 2020-2022
- (9) Alumni Council Liaison: 2024-
- (10) California Faculty Association Liaison: 2024-
- (11) California State Student Association Liaison: 2024-

B. Systemwide committees

- (1) Year of Engagement (GI2025 successor) Steering Committee: 2024-
- (2) GenAI Steering Subcommittee: Privacy and Security: 2025-
- (3) Systemwide Budget Advisory Committee: 2024-
- (4) CSU Board of Trustees Educational Policy Committee's Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees: 2024-
- (5) CSU Advisory Council on Student Advising: 2023-
- (6) Student Information Services: 2020
- (7) Systemwide Advisory Committee on Services for Students with Disabilities: 2017-2019
- (8) Accessible Technology Initiative Leadership Council: 2016

C. Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates

- (1) Member: 2022-
- (2) Bylaws subcommittee, Chair: 2023
- (3) CalGETC critical reasoning competencies committee: 2024

D. Administrator search committees

- (1) Associate Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management: 2019

E. Council of Senate Chairs

- (1) Member: 2015-2018

F. Other intersegmental

- (1) Common Course Numbering steering committee: 2024-

University Service

A. Faculty Senate / Faculty Officers

- (1) President of the Faculty: 2015-2018
- (3) Vice President of the Faculty: 2014-2015
- (5) Faculty Senate Executive Committee: 2013-
- (4) Faculty Senate: 2010-

B. University task forces, committees, and boards

- (1) Appointed by University President
 - (a) CSUN Foundation Board of Directors: 2015-2018
 - (b) Student Graduation and Retention Committee: 2015-2018
 - (c) Commission on Inclusion and Diversity Initiatives: 2016-2018
 - (d) Reputation and Visibility Initiative Team: 2015-2016
- (2) Appointed by Provost
 - (a) Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Space Planning: 2013-2014
- (3) Appointed by Faculty president
 - (a) University Planning and Budget Group: 2018-
 - (b) General Education Governance Task Force: 2012-2013
 - (c) Outstanding Faculty Award Selection Committee: 2014
 - (d) Outstanding Graduating Senior Selection Committee: 2022
 - (e) Highly Influential and Sustained Innovation Award Selection Committee: 2022
 - (f) High-Impact Innovation Award Selection Committee: 2022
- (4) Ex officio as Faculty President
 - (a) Extended Cabinet: 2015-2018
 - (b) Personnel Planning and Review Committee: 2017-2018
 - (c) University Planning and Budget Group: 2015-2018
 - Cost of instruction working group: 2017-2018
 - (d) Teacher Education Committee: 2015-2018
 - (e) Calendar committee: 2015-2018
 - (f) Faculty Retreat Planning Committee: 2015-2018
 - (g) Wolfson Scholar Selection Committee: 2015-2018
 - (h) Outstanding Graduating Senior Selection Committee: 2015-2018
- (6) Other internal groups and projects
 - (a) WASC Interim Report Steering Committee (Co-chair): 2016
 - (b) Graduation Initiative 2025 planning group: 2016
 - (c) Managed Print Spend Initiative: 2016
 - (d) Portfolium Working Group: 2016
 - (e) myCSUNTablet Initiative: 2015

(f) Higher Ed in the Brave New World conference, session facilitator: 2013

C. Administrator search committees

- (1) Athletics Director: 2022
- (2) Athletics Director: 2018
- (3) Chief Diversity Officer: 2018
- (4) Vice-Provost: 2017
- (5) EOP Director: 2017
- (6) AVP Faculty Affairs: 2016
- (7) Director of University Counseling Center: 2016
- (8) Interim AVP Faculty Affairs: 2016
- (9) Chief Diversity Officer: 2016
- (10) Provost/ VP Academic Affairs: 2015

D. Administrator review committees

- (1) VP Student Affairs William Watkins: 2016
- (2) VP Information Technology Hillary Baker: 2016
- (3) AVP Elizabeth Adams: 2016
- (4) Dean Joyce Feucht-Haviar: 2015

E. Events (internal)

Served as a speaker, master of ceremonies, otherwise played an official role

- (1) Commencements and Honors Convocation: 2015-2018
- (2) Freshman Convocations: 2015-2018
- (3) President's Welcome: 2015-2018
- (4) Faculty Retreat: 2015-2018
- (5) Faculty Awards Ceremony: 2015-2018
- (6) Faculty Governance Orientation: 2015-2018; 2021
- (7) Reputation and Visibility Initiative Launch: 2015

F. Events (external)

- (1) Graduation Initiative 2025 Launch (Westin Hotel, Long Beach): 2016
- (2) Association of American Colleges and Universities Centennial Symposium: 2015
- (3) Diversity, Equity, and Excellence: College Learning and America's Unmet Promise (LEAP Centennial Forum; AAC&U and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce): 2015

G. Other contributions to University governance

- (1) Created an app to facilitate secure voting on motions used by the Senate and other committees (<https://github.com/AdamSwenson/voteomatic>): 2021-
- (2) Created an app used for faculty and senate elections: 2022-

H. Faculty advisor to Associated Students organizations

- (1) Sigma Alpha Zeta Multicultural Sorority: 2009-2019
- (2) Student Philosophy Society: 2007-2009

College Service

A. The Center for Ethics and Value

- (1) Director: 2008-2015
- (2) Advisory Board member: 2006-2008
- (3) Webmaster: 2006-2015

B. The Center for Sex and Gender Research

- (1) Member: 2006-2011
- (2) Webmaster: 2006-2011

C. Humanities Interdisciplinary Program

- (1) Advisory Board member: 2006-2008
- (2) Taught Capstone Seminar (HUM 491): 2006

D. Academic Council

- (1) Philosophy Department representative: 2007-2010

E. Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies

- (1) Executive Committee member: 2009-2010
- (2) Webmaster: 2009-2010

Department Service

A. Leadership and committees

- (1) Associate Department Chair: 2011-2016
- (2) Department Personnel Committee (Chair): 2012-2016; 2018-2022; 2024-
- (3) Peer Review Committee (Chair): 2022-
- (4) Ad hoc Committee on Climate (Chair): 2013-
- (5) Search and Screen Committees

- (a) Full-time hire in Asian Philosophy: 2021
Chair
- (b) Full-time hires in Contemporary Continental Philosophy: 2014
Equity and Diversity Representative
Member of the interview team
- (c) Full-time hires in philosophy of mind: 2010
Equity and Diversity Representative
Member of the interview team
- (d) Full-time hire in philosophy of religion: 2007
Member of the interview team
- (e) Full-time hire in ethics: 2006
Member of the interview team
- (6) Assessment Committee: 2012-2016
- (7) Equity and Diversity Representative: 2011-2016
- (8) Luckenbach Award Committee: 2012-2015
- (9) Recording Secretary: 2008-2012
- (10) Strategic Planning Committee: 2006-2019
- (11) Academic Council representative: 2007-2010
- (12) Lecture Committee (Chair): 2006-2008

B. Other departmental projects

- (1) Post-census reports on major/minor demographics: 2010-
- (2) Department self-study (contributor): 2016
- (3) Department tutoring project: 2016
- (4) Annual CSUN Student Philosophy Conferences: 2010-
- (5) Panelist "Applying to Graduate School: Why, How, Where, and When": 2015
- (6) Analysis of department assessment data: 2014
- (7) Graduation Marshal: 2007-2014
- (8) Department website redesign: 2012
- (9) Presentation: "Masochism" to Student Philosophy Society: 2010
- (10) Designed Philosophy major flyer: 2008
- (11) Advisor to Student Philosophical Society: 2007-2009
- (12) Diversity survey: 2007
- (13) Liaison to informal Philosophical Women of CSUN group: 2006-2007
- (14) Presentation: "How to Go to Graduate School for Free": 2006
- (15) Student mailing list: 2007

Other

A. Service External to the University

- (1) Los Angeles High School Ethics Bowl, Judge: 2016-

B. Professional memberships

- (1) American Philosophical Association
- (2) International Association for the Study of Pain
- (3) Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges

C. Languages (natural)

- (1) English
- (2) Japanese (rusty)

D. Languages (computer)

- (1) Python
- (2) MySQL
- (3) JavaScript
- (4) PHP

E. Software created

- (1) Gradeomatic
Helps grade essay exams, give detailed personalized feedback, and collect detailed assessment data. (Not open source)
- (2) [Voteomatic](#)
Secure and anonymous voting in meetings and elections
- (3) [CanvasHacks](#)
A suite of python tools to avoid interacting with Canvas' horrible interface.
- (4) CourseZero
Tools for tracking uploads of faculty course materials on the CourseHero website. (Not open source)
- (5) [ASCSU Resolution Machine](#)
Creates and manages documents for the Academic Senate of the CSU's resolution development process.
- (6) PWB
Walks students through the essay-writing process and creates an initial rough draft. (Not open source)
- (7) [PainTwitter](#)
Suite of research tools for collecting and analyzing pain-related tweets from Twitter.