

ROBERT A. GRESSIS
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
California State University, Northridge
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EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2007, M.A. in Philosophy, 2006
University of Dayton, B.A., summa cum laude, in Economics and Philosophy, 1998

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Northridge, 2018-present
Associate Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Northridge, 2013-2018
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Northridge, 2008-2013
Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, University of Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion, 2007-2008

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics, Kant, Philosophy of Religion

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Business Ethics, Critical Thinking, Epistemology, Free Will, Philosophical Pedagogy, Philosophy of Technology

LANGUAGES

German (proficient)

PUBLICATIONS

1. Updated version of “Kantian Practical Ethics” for *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming).
2. “Broad and Narrow Epistemic Standing: Its Relevance to the Epistemology of Disagreement”, *Synthese*, vol. 197 (forthcoming)
3. “The Social Justice Discourse Ethic: Contours and Causes”, in Jack Simmons, ed., *The Twenty-First Century and Its Discontents: How Changing Discourse Norms Are Changing Culture* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020), 135-166.
4. “Strategic Discourse in the Time of the Coronavirus”, in Jack Simmons, ed., *The Twenty-First Century and Its Discontents: How Changing Discourse Norms Are Changing Culture* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020), 263-274.
5. “Kant’s Theodicy and Its Role in the Development of Radical Evil”, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, vol. 100, no. 1 (March 2018: 46-75).
6. “21% versus 79%: Explaining Philosophy’s Gender Disparities with Stereotyping and Identification”, with Debbie Ma, Clennie Foster, and Nanae Tachibe, *Philosophical Psychology*, vol. 31, no. 1 (2018: 68-88).

- a. Article discussed at Justin Weinberg, “The Perception of Philosophy as Masculine”, *Daily Nous*, October 18, 2017, <https://dailynous.com/2017/10/18/perception-philosophy-masculine/>
7. “Why Is Kant Noncommittal about Grace?”, *Con-Textos Kantianos: International Journal of Philosophy*, no. 6 (December 2017: 272-84).
8. “True Religion in Hume’s *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*”, with Tim Black, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, vol. 25, no. 2 (2017: 244-64).
9. “Does Religious Belief Matter for Grief and Death Anxiety? Experimental Philosophy Meets Psychology of Religion”, with David Feldman and Ian C. Fischer, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, vol. 55, no. 3 (September 2016: 531-39).
10. “Kantian Practical Ethics”, in Hugh LaFollette, ed., *International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013).
11. “The Relationship between the ‘Gesinnung’ and the Denkungsart”, in Stefano Bacin, Alfredo Ferrarin, Claudio La Rocca, and Margit Ruffing, eds., *Kant und die Philosophie in Weltbürgerlicher Absicht: Akten des XI. Internationalen Kant-Kongresses* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).
12. “How to Be a Good Person Who Does Bad Things”, in Stephen Palmquist, ed., *Cultivating Personhood: Kant and Asian Philosophy* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2010), 499-506.
13. “Kant on Maxims I: Established Approaches”, *Philosophy Compass*, vol. 5, no. 3 (March 2010: 216-227).
14. “Kant on Maxims II”, *Philosophy Compass*, vol. 5, no. 3 (March 2010: 228-239).
15. “How to Be Evil: Kant’s Moral Psychology of Immorality”, in Pablo Muchnik, ed., *Rethinking Kant: Volume I* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008), 191-216.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. *Critical Thinking to Change Your Life* (in progress and under contract with W. W. Norton; expected to appear in 2023)
2. “What’s (Philosophically) Bad about Bad Faith Arguments?” (with Spencer Case; in progress)
3. “Philosophical Mediocrity” (in progress)
4. “What Is Niceness?” (in progress)
5. “The Disposition and the Propensity to Evil: What They Are and How They Relate” (finished draft)
6. “The Three Grades of the Propensity to Evil” (finished draft)
7. “Christianity and Judgment in the Face of Moral Luck” (finished draft)

BOOK REVIEWS

1. Review of Chris L. Firestone, Nathan A. Jacobs, and James H. Joiner, eds., *Kant and the Question of Theology* in *Kantian Review*, vol. 24, no. 2 (2019: 311-16).
2. Review of Abraham Anderson, *Kant, Hume, and the Interruption of Dogmatic Slumber* in *Hume Studies*, vol. 44, no. 2 (2018: 275-277).
3. Review of Kevin Jung, ed., *Religious Ethics and Constructivism: A Metaethical Inquiry* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, September 23, 2018 (<https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/religious-ethics-and-constructivism-a-metaethical-inquiry/>)
4. Review of Diane Williamson, *Kant’s Theory of Emotion: Emotional Universalism* in *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, vol. 15, no. 2 (2018: 217-20).

5. Review of Lawrence Pasternack, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Kant on Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason* in *Kantian Review*, vol. 20, no. 2 (July 2015: 341-345).
6. Review of James J. DiCenso, *Kant, Religion, and Politics* in *Ethics*, vol. 123, no. 1 (October 2012: 146-149).
7. Review of Joseph Keim Campbell, *Free Will* in *Teaching Philosophy*, vol. 35, no. 2 (June 2012: 223-226).
8. Review of Thomas E. Hill, Jr., ed. *The Blackwell Guide to Kant's Ethics*, in *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, vol. 9, no. 2 (2012: 302-304).
9. Review of Sharon Anderson-Gold and Pablo Muchnik, eds., *Kant's Anatomy of Evil*, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, July 15, 2010, <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=20567>
10. Review of Chris L. Firestone, *Kant and Theology at the Boundaries of Reason*, in *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, vol. 67, no. 3 (June 2010: 187-191).
11. Review of Chris L. Firestone and Nathan Jacobs, *In Defense of Kant's Religion*, in *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, vol. 66, no. 3 (December 2009: 167-171).
12. Review of John E. Hare, *God and Morality: A Philosophical History*, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, November 16, 2007, URL = <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=11723>

PRESENTATIONS

1. "Christianity and Judgment in the Face of Moral Luck", presented at the Society of Christian Philosophers: 2021 Mountain-Pacific Meeting, May 20, 2021
2. "The Placeholder View of Disagreement", presented at Oklahoma State University, February 27, 2019
3. "The Placeholder View of Disagreement", presented at the Alabama Philosophical Society, September 28-29, 2018
4. "Why Is Kant Noncommittal about Grace?", presented at the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, March 1-4, 2017
5. "The Three Grades of the Propensity to Evil: An Analysis", presented at the Pacific Study Group of the North American Kant Society, November 15, 2015
6. "True Piety in Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*", with Tim Black, presented at the 41st Hume Society Conference, June 24, 2014
7. "Kant's Change of Mind on the Propensity to Evil", presented at the Southern Study Group of the North American Kant Society, September 16, 2012
8. "The Relationship between the 'Gesinnung' and the Denkungsart", presented at the "XI International Kant Congress: Kant and Philosophy in a Cosmopolitan Sense", in Pisa, May 2010
9. "How to Be a Good Person Who Does Bad Things", presented at "Kant in Asia: The Unity of Human Personhood", at Hong Kong Baptist University, May 2009
10. "No Proof Necessary: Why Kant Presented No Proof of the Universality of the Propensity to Evil", presented at the Atlantic Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, July 2007
11. "How to Be Evil: Kant's Moral Psychology of Immorality", presented at the 4th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Study Group of the North American Kant Society, May 2007

12. "Morality, Liberation, and Improvisational Comedy", presented at the University of Michigan's Drama Interest Group's "Drama, Theatre, and Performance: Works in Progress from Faculty and Graduate Students", March 23, 2007

COMMENTARIES

1. Commentary on Dan Speak, "Faith in Freedom", presented at the Society of Christian Philosophers: 2021 Mountain-Pacific Meeting, May 21, 2021
2. Commentary on Grant Rozeboom, "Fear and Resentment", presented at the 2018 Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, March 31, 2018
3. Commentary on Margaret Bowman, "Can the Categorical Imperative Test Final Ends?", presented at the 2012 Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, April 6, 2012
4. Commentary on Christopher Heathwood, "Could Morality Have a Source?", presented at the 2011 Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, April 22, 2011
5. Commentary on Mark Balaguer, *Free Will as an Open Scientific Problem*, author-meets-critics session at the 13th Annual Southern California Philosophy Conference at California State University, Pomona, November 6, 2010
6. Commentary on Carlo Filice, "Libertarian Autonomy and Intrinsic Motives", presented at the 2010 Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, April 1, 2010
7. Commentary on Jean-Paul Vessel, "Moore's Open Question Maneuvering", presented at the 2009 Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, April 9, 2009
8. Commentary on Sergio Gallegos, "Conceptual Relativity, Subvaluation and the Problem of the Trinity" at the Rutgers Graduate Student Philosophy of Religion Conference, January 12, 2007
9. Commentary on Gideon Rosen, "Birnbaum the Obtuse and Other Tales of Ignorance", at the University of Michigan Graduate Student Philosophy Colloquium, March 14, 2003

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY: WRITTEN WORK

1. "Two Kinds of Diversity: Identity and Ideological", *The Electric Agora*, August 29, 2021 (<https://theelectricagora.com/2021/08/29/two-kinds-of-diversity-identity-and-ideological/>)
2. "The Religious Kant, the Religious Hume, and Other Curveballs", interview with Richard Marshall, *3:16, End Times Series*, July 30, 2021 (<https://www.3-16am.co.uk/articles/the-religious-kant-the-religious-hume-and-other-curveballs?c=end-times-series>)
3. "On the Journal of Controversial Ideas", *The Electric Agora*, April 25, 2021 (<https://theelectricagora.com/category/articles/essays/>) (3,244 reads)
4. "The Philosophy Rapture", *The Electric Agora*, December 1, 2020 (<https://theelectricagora.com/2020/12/01/the-philosophy-rapture/>)
5. "The New Abnormal", *The Electric Agora*, September 8, 2020 (<https://theelectricagora.com/2020/09/08/the-new-abnormal/>)
6. "Citation Needed", *The Electric Agora*, August 3, 2020 (<https://theelectricagora.com/2020/08/03/citation-needed/>)

7. "A Defense of Knowing Nothing", *The Electric Agora*, April 19, 2020 (<https://theelectricagora.com/2020/04/19/a-defense-of-knowing-nothing/>)
8. "Why Most Philosophers Are Protestants", *The Electric Agora*, February 26, 2020 (<https://theelectricagora.com/2020/02/26/why-most-philosophers-are-protestants/>)
9. "Is Pansexuality Obligatory?", *The Electric Agora*, February 3, 2020 (<https://theelectricagora.com/2020/02/03/is-pansexuality-obligatory/>) (6,526 reads)
 - a. Subject of "The Devil's Playground", episode 185 of *Very Bad Wizards* (<https://www.verybadwizards.com/185>)
 - b. Subject of "The Philosophy of Pansexualism", by Raja Halwani, *Quillette*, August 29, 2020 (<https://quillette.com/2020/08/29/the-philosophy-of-pansexualism/>)
10. "Why I'm Sitting in This Chair", *The Electric Agora*, August 31, 2019 (<https://theelectricagora.com/2019/08/31/why-im-sitting-in-this-chair/>)
11. "Is Philosophy OK?", *The Electric Agora*, May 23, 2019 (3,841 reads) (<https://theelectricagora.com/2019/05/23/is-philosophy-ok/>)

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY: AUDIO WORK

1. "What's Money?" (with David Dick), *Everyday Philosophers*, August 22, 2021, <https://theelectricagora.com/2021/08/22/whats-money/>.
2. "Teaching Philosophy at the US Naval War College" (with Yvonne Chiu), *Everyday Philosophers*, May 11, 2021, <https://theelectricagora.com/2021/05/11/teaching-philosophy-at-the-us-naval-war-college/>.
3. "Kafkatraps, Cults, and Conspiracy Theories" (with Kevin Currie-Knight), *Sophia*, April 29, 2021, <https://theelectricagora.com/2021/04/29/kafkatraps-cults-and-conspiracy-theories/>.
4. "Philosophy, Critical Thinking, and Community College" (with Alberto Mendoza-Larreynaga), *Everyday Philosophers*, April 2, 2021, <https://theelectricagora.com/2021/04/02/philosophy-critical-thinking-and-community-college/>.
5. "On Catholic Colleges and the Atonement: A Conversation with Chris Dodsworth", *Everyday Philosophers*, March 19, 2021, <https://theelectricagora.com/2021/03/19/on-catholic-colleges-and-the-atonement-a-conversation-with-chris-dodsworth/>.
6. "Evolution, Belief, and Manipulation: A Discussion with Hugo Mercier", *Sophia*, February 27, 2021, <https://theelectricagora.com/2021/02/27/evolution-belief-and-manipulation-a-discussion-with-hugo-mercier/>.
7. "What is the Grade Economy and What's Wrong With It" (with Kevin Currie-Knight), *The Learning and Forgetting Podcast*, February 10, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK-zUSEfJ4Uc&list=PLFBaXJ7yNOYHdqzsJXrJD0aoiCD9H4iJS&index=2>.
8. "Questioning the Practice of Grading in Schools" (with Kevin Currie-Knight), *The Learning and Forgetting Podcast*, February 9, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wALTH73WztQ>.
9. "The Decline of Great Philosophers" (with Daniel Kaufman), *MeaningofLife.tv*, December 21, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dj7ZdaEHG48>.
10. "Who Is Entitled?" (with Daniel Kaufman), *MeaningofLife.tv*, October 7, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd3ZiHPu0tQ>.

11. "US Presidential Election 2020 – Roundtable Discussion" (with Spencer Case and Daniel Kaufman), *Sophia*, November 2, 2020, <https://theelectricagora.com/2020/11/02/us-presidential-election-2020-roundtable-discussion/>.
12. "The Microfoundations of Marxism" (with Jamie Edwards), *MeaningofLife.tv*, September 21, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icn02zUn6Gk&t=11s>.
13. "Philosophy and Professional Wrestling" (with Douglas Edwards), *MeaningofLife.tv*, July 6, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pfYIMzyvg0&t=4075s>.
14. "What's the deal with relativism?" (with Spencer Case), *Micro-Digressions: A Philosophy Podcast*, June 6, 2020, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/whats-the-deal-with-relativism/id1512856298?i=1000477033563>.
15. "Is Pansexuality Obligatory?" (with Daniel Kaufman), *MeaningofLife.tv*, February 24, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJC-v-5qxIw&t=18s>.
16. "Morality's Limit" (with Daniel Kaufman), *MeaningofLife.tv*, June 18, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxsQB8u1NqY&t=2s>.
17. "Philosophy, Teaching and the 'White Paper' on Publishing Ethics" (with Daniel Kaufman), *Sophia*, May 31, 2019, <https://theelectricagora.com/2019/05/31/philosophy-teaching-and-the-white-paper-on-publishing-ethics/>.
18. "Is Philosophy OK?" (with Daniel Kaufman), *MeaningofLife.tv*, May 30, 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUSq_r1N8Ng&t=10s.
19. "David Feldman & Robert Gressis: What Good Is God for Grief and Loss?", *Ignatian Center*, July 21, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPdsIjH0Yy0>.
20. "Christian Theism vs. Naturalism" (with Luke Muehlhauser), *Conversations from the Pale Blue Dot*, Episode 80, November 28, 2010, <https://www.owltail.com/podcast/57244-conversations-from-the-pale-blue-dot/best-episodes>.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1. *General Education, Honors 333: Ways of Knowing* (with Justin Kantner, Psychology), Spring 2021
2. *Philosophy 499: Independent Study*, Fall 2009
3. *Philosophy 497: Senior Thesis*, Fall 2014, Spring 2021, Fall 2021
4. *Philosophy 460: Advanced Ethical Thought*, Spring 2011, Fall 2013, Fall 2016, Fall 2017
5. *Philosophy 450: Advanced Epistemology*, Spring 2016
6. *Philosophy 446: Advanced Social and Political Philosophy*, Spring 2020
7. *Philosophy 402: Advanced Modern Philosophy*, Spring 2010, Spring 2012
8. *Philosophy 365: Social and Political Philosophy*, Fall 2009, Fall 2012, Fall 2018 (with Kristina Meshelski, Philosophy)
9. *Philosophy 360: Ethical Theory*, Spring 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019
10. *Philosophy 350: Epistemology*, Fall 2015 (with Tim Black, Philosophy)
11. *Philosophy 338: Philosophy of Religion*, Spring 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2015
12. *Philosophy 319: Medieval Philosophy*, Spring 2013
13. *Philosophy 310: Philosophical Problems*, Fall 2008, Fall 2009
14. *Philosophy 305: Business Ethics*, Spring 2013, Fall 2014
15. *Philosophy 202: Ancient Philosophy*, Fall 2008, Fall 2011
16. *Philosophy 180: Human Nature and the Meaning of Life*, Fall 2017

17. *Philosophy 165*: Philosophy and Popular Culture, Philosophy and Popular Culture, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2018
18. *Philosophy 150*: Introduction to Philosophical Thought, Spring 2009, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2017
19. *Philosophy 100*: General Logic, Fall 2012, Spring 2015, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2021

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS (NOTE: CSUN = CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE)

UNIVERSITY LEVEL

- Recipient, CSUN Sabbatical, Fall 2019 for writing the textbook, *Critical Thinking to Change Your Life*
- Co-winner (with Julie Yoo) of \$28,686 grant for CSUN eText project, Spring 2013 to Summer 2014 (to produce an e-textbook for tablets for CSUN students)
- CSUN Polished Apple Award, presented by the University Ambassadors, Spring 2012 (for excellence in teaching)
- Co-winner (with Robert O. Lopez), CSUN Judge Julian Beck Grant for course proposal, "Philosophy and Literature in Crisis: Using Simulations to Apply Narrative and Ethics to Real Life", Spring 2012

COLLEGE LEVEL

- CSUN College of Humanities Faculty Fellowship, "Peerhood and Disagreement in Philosophy", Spring 2018
- CSUN College of Humanities Faculty Fellowship, "The Three Levels of Evil: An Analysis", Spring 2017
- CSUN College of Humanities Faculty Fellowship Grant for project, "Testing Two Central Meta-Atheistic Claims", Spring 2011
- CSUN Probationary Faculty Support Program for project, "Civility in the Blogosphere", Spring 2010
- CSUN College of Humanities Faculty Fellowship Grant for project, "Kant's Conceptions of Happiness", Fall 2009
- CSUN College of Humanities First Year Probationary Faculty Grant, Spring 2009
- CSUN First Year Probationary Faculty Grant, Fall 2008

DEPARTMENT LEVEL

- CSUN Department of Philosophy "Award of Merit: Excellence in Academics and Outstanding Mentorship" (presented by the Department of Philosophy undergraduates), Spring 2012
- CSUN Department of Philosophy "Award of Merit: Excellence in Academics and Outstanding Mentorship" (presented by the Department of Philosophy undergraduates), Spring 2011

OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

- Co-winner (with David Feldman of the Department of Counseling Psychology, Santa Clara University) of grant from the Santa Clara University Bannan Institute for research project,, “What Good Is God for Grieving and Loss?”, 2013-2014
- Participant (one of six) in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* Master Class, “Post-Kantian Idealism”, taught by Robert Pippin of the Department of Philosophy, University of Chicago, Summer 2012
- Yale University “Experiment Month” winner, “Testing Two Central Meta-Atheistic Claims”, 2010-2011
- Winner, Fulbright Fellowship to study in Marburg, Germany Fall 1998 to Spring 1999.
- Winner, Andrew Mellon Fellowship, Fall 1998 to Spring 1999 (declined).

REFERENCES

Timothy Black

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Stephen Darwall

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