Robert H. Wallace

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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Cal Poly (2025–ongoing)
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Cal Poly (2020–2025)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Free Will and Moral Responsibility; related issues in Action Theory, Metaphysics, Ethics, and Moral Psychology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion, Social Philosophy

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Arizona, 2020.
Dissertation: *After Compatibilism: Essays on Freedom and Responsibility*.
Committee: Michael McKenna (Chair), Carolina Sartorio (now at Rutgers), Mark Timmons, Terry Horgan, Dana K. Nelkin (UC San Diego).

M.A. in Philosophy, University of Arizona, 2016.

B.A. in Philosophy (*magna cum laude,* high honors, distinction), Kenyon College, 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

(2026) "The Consensus and the Remainder: Comments on *Four Views on Free Will*, 2nd Edition," *Philosophia* 54(2): 495–505.
https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-026-01038-5

(2025) "Fear as Preventer" (co-author Timothy Kearl) in *The Philosophy of Fear: Historical and Interdisciplinary Approaches*, ed. Ami Harbin. Bloomsbury. 143–160.

(2025) "Artificial Intelligence and the Alienness of God," *Religious Studies* 61(3): 752–754. (Essay recognized as a runner-up in the 2024 Big Question Essay Competition).
https://doi.org/10.1017/S0034412525000241

(2025) "Can I Both Blame and Worship God?" in *The Philosophy of Worship: Divine and Human Aspects*, eds. Aaron Segal and Samuel Lebens. Cambridge University Press. 133–151.
https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009460927.011

(2024) "Agentive Modals and Agentive Modality: A Cautionary Tale" (co-author Timothy Kearl), *American Philosophical Quarterly* 61(2): 139–155.
https://doi.org/10.5406/21521123.61.2.04

(2024) "Compatibilism as Non-Ideal Theory: A Manifesto" in *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility*, Volume 8, eds. David Shoemaker, Santiago Amaya, and Manuel Vargas. Oxford University Press. 269–292. https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198910114.003.0013

(2023) "Moral Responsibility, Praise, and Blame" (co-author Hannah Tierney) in *Bloomsbury Handbook of Ethics*, 2nd edition, ed. Christian Miller. Bloomsbury. 189–205.

(2023) "Agency: Let's Mind What's Fundamental," *Philosophical Issues* 33(1): 285–298. https://doi.org/10.1111/phis.12258

(2023) "A Dilemma for Reductive Compatibilism," *Erkenntnis* 88(7): 2763–2785. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-021-00475-w

(2022) "A Puzzle Concerning Gratitude and Accountability," *The Journal of Ethics* 26(3): 455–480. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10892-022-09398-2

(2021) "The Tension in Critical Compatibilism," *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 24(1): 321–332. (Symposium contribution on *The Limits of Free Will* by Paul Russell). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-019-10038-2

(2020) "On Not Blaming and Victim Blaming" (co-author Joel Chow Ken Q), *Teorema: International Journal of Philosophy* 39(3): 95–128.

(2019) "Responsibility and the Limits of Good and Evil," *Philosophical Studies* 176(10): 2705–2727. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-018-1147-y

(2018) "Moral Diversity and Moral Responsibility" (co-author Brian Kogelmann), *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 4(3): 371–389. https://doi.org/10.1017/apa.2018.20

BOOK REVIEWS

(2023) Review of *Just Deserts: Debating Free Will* by Daniel Dennett and Gregg D. Caruso. *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 20: 179–182. https://doi.org/10.1163/17455243-20010009

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

(2026) "Light and Shade in the Classroom," *Daily Nous*. https://dailynous.com/2026/06/09/light-and-shade-in-the-classroom-guest-post/

(2023) Podcast Interview, "Compatibilism and Reduction with Robert Wallace," The Free Will Show, Episode 60. https://www.buzzsprout.com/1244627/episodes/12921038-episode-60-compatibilism-and-reduction-with-robert-wallace

(2023) "Compassion and Moral Responsibility in *Avatar: The Last Airbender:* 'I Was Never Angry; I Was Afraid That You Had Lost Your Way'" in *Avatar: The Last Airbender and Philosophy: Wisdom from Aang to Zuko*, eds. Helen De Cruz and Johan De Smedt. The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series. Wiley-Blackwell. 197–205. https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119809838.ch22

SELECT WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Positively Responsible – a book arguing for an expansive view of moral accountability—including positively valenced accountability practices built around gratitude, encouragement, inspiration, and love—that provides new resources against moral responsibility skepticism.

"Reasons-Responsive Compatibilism" in preparation for *The Routledge Companion to Free Will*, 2nd edition, eds. Kevin Timpe, Meghan Griffith, and Garrett Pendergraft.

"Disabilities and Other Obstacles" – a paper applying David Lewis's posthumous analysis of abilities to the task of offering a theory of disability.

"Externalism about Agency" – a paper arguing that agentive modal properties like abilities and capacities are extrinsic to their bearers.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

"Disabilities and Other Obstacles"
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society 10th annual conference, November 2026

"Politics, Agency, and Hope"
Workshop on the Moral Emotions, University of Arizona, November 2022

"Compatibilism as Non-Ideal Theory: A Manifesto"
New Orleans Workshop in Agency and Responsibility, Tulane University and LATAM Free Will and Agency Project, March 2022

"Agentive Modals and Agentive Modality: A Cautionary Tale" (co-author Tim Kearl)
Agency and Intentions in Language Interdisciplinary Workshop 2, Harvey Mudd College, January 2022

"The Limits of Blame" (Panel Discussion with Rosalind Chaplin, Per-Erik Milam, and Hannah Tierney)
72nd Northwest Philosophy Conference, Portland State University, November 2021

"Obstacles and the Social Constitution of Agency"
Social Ontology 2021 Conference, International Society for Social Ontology, UC San Diego, August 2021

"Three Mistakes Concerning Gratitude and Accountability"
UC Davis Ethics Group, November 2020

"Strawsonian Moral Psychology and the Politics of Resentment"
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, scheduled April 2020 (Poster Presentation; cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic)
Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, July 2019 (Poster Presentation)

"Can I Both Blame and Worship God?"
Philosophy of Worship Workshop, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (over Zoom), August 2019

"Realism about Freedom and Responsibility"
UC San Diego Agency and Responsibility Group, April 2019

"Making a Dwelling for God's Name: Sacred Space and Shared Agency in Judaism and Christianity" (co-author Ethan Schwartz, Harvard University)
Annual Hayim Perelmuter Conference in Jewish-Christian Dialogue, Catholic Theological Union and the University of Notre Dame, April 2019

"Gains, Losses, and the Good Life"
Fordham University Red Star Line Conference, April 2019

"Leeway Compatibilism for Leeway Incompatibilists"
Seminar: History and Metaphysics of the Concept of Laws of Nature, Central European University, July 2018

"The Calculus of Moral Community" (co-author Brian Kogelmann)
University of Arizona Freedom Center Colloquium Series, April 2018

"The Compatibilist's Dilemma"
University of Arizona Philosophy Department SWAP series, October 2017

"Freedom and Resentment and Persons"
Gothenburg Responsibility Project Conference, University of Gothenburg, August 2016

"Can Strawson Dissolve the New Moral Responsibility Skepticism?" (co-author Joel Chow)
Florida State University Graduate Student Conference on Freedom, Responsibility, and Agency, February 2016

COMMENTS

Comments on Nadia Miller's "In Defense of Truthful Defamation," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, 2025

Comments on Nicholas Sars' "Revisiting Strawson's Argument in 'Freedom and Resentment,'" American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, 2018

Comments on Alfred Mele's *Manipulated Agents: A Window to Moral Responsibility*, Workshop on *Manipulated Agents*, University of Arizona, 2017

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Runner-up in the 2024 Big Question Essay Competition at *Religious Studies*, 2025

Cal Poly Summer Undergraduate Research Project, "Abilities and Disabilities: A Metaphysical Investigation," 2024

Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts Summer Scholarship Support Award, "Fear as an Obstacle in Acting and Knowing," 2023

Cal Poly BEACoN Mentoring Program Research Project, "Free Will and Anger at Injustice," 2022

APA Graduate Student Stipend, 2020 (not used due to Covid-19 pandemic)

Center for the Philosophy of Freedom Research Assistantship, 2016–2020

University of Arizona William H. Fink Prize for Overall Outstanding Graduate Student in Philosophy, 2019

University of Arizona Julia Annas Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, 2018

University of Arizona Graduate Fellowship, 2015

Phi Beta Kappa, 2012

Kenyon College Virgil C. Aldrich Prize in Philosophy, 2012

Kenyon College John W. Adams Summer Research Fellowship, 2010

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Visiting Graduate Student, UC San Diego Philosophy Department, supervised by Dana K. Nelkin, 2019

Seminar: History and Metaphysics of the Concept of Laws of Nature, directed by Barry Loewer (Rutgers), Central European University, 2018

TEACHING

Cal Poly – Courses Taught

Upper Division: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion, Special Topics: Anger, Independent Study, Senior Project Supervision

Lower Division: Philosophical Classics: Knowledge and Reality

University of Arizona – Courses Taught

Upper Division: The Moral Mind

Lower Division: Mind, Matter, and God; Philosophical Perspectives on the Individual; Contemporary Moral Problems

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

"An Introduction to the Metaphysics of Free Will"
PHIL 159: Introduction to Philosophy, Cory Davia, Claremont McKenna College, Spring 2022, Fall 2022

"Issues and Methods in Analytic Philosophy" (with Robert Lazo, prerecorded lecture)
PHIL 344: Philosophical Methods, Jonathan Weinberg, University of Arizona, Spring 2021

"Platonic Virtue Ethics"
PHIL 890: Contemporary Virtue Ethics, Jeremy W. Reid, San Francisco State University, Fall 2020

"Conversation on Srinivasan's 'The Aptness of Anger'"
PHIL 301: Ancient Philosophy, Jeremy W. Reid, San Francisco State University, Summer 2020

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Referee for: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Asian Journal of Philosophy*, *Between the Species, Crítica: Revista Hispanoamericana de Filosofía*, *Erkenntnis*, *Ergo*, *Episteme*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Ethics, Policy & Environment, European Journal of Philosophy*, *Humana Mente*, *Inquiry*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Analytic Theology, Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *The Journal of Ethics, The Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Minds and Machines*, *Noûs, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophia*, *Philosophy*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Ratio*, *Religious Studies*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*.

Organizing: AAPT-APA Teaching Hub Session, Pacific APA 2027

Chairing: APA Session (x2), Workshop in Normative Ethics (WiNE) Session (x1)

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Cal Poly, SLO

Department Service:

Speakers Committee, 2020–ongoing, as chair 2024–2025

Philosophy Alumni Advisory Board, 2021–ongoing

Philosophy Scholarships Committee, 2023–2025

Philosophy Student Climate Committee, 2025–ongoing

Communications and Social Media Committee, 2021–2023, as chair 2023–ongoing

Philosophy Club Advisor, 2020–2025

Department Curriculum Committee, 2022–2023, 2025–ongoing

Curriculum Development Committee – Philosophy and Religion Concentration, 2020–2021

Curriculum Development Committee – PHIL 301: Philosophical Writing and Research, 2020

College, University, and CSU System Service:

California State University PRE-Professor Program (PREPP) Faculty Mentor, 2024–2025 (x2)

Academic Senate Instruction Committee, 2024

Ad Hoc CLA Curriculum Committee on GE Area C2 Guidelines, 2021

University of Arizona

Graduate Student Service:

Referee for 1st Annual Arizona Feminist Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2020

Co-founder and organizer (with Tim Kearl), University of Arizona Philosophy Graduate Student Work-in-Progress Group, 2018–2020

Philosophy Graduate Teaching Mentor, 2018–2020

Philosophy Graduate TA Training Workshop Facilitator, 2018 and 2019

Organizer, University of Arizona Philosophy Graduate Orientation, 2018

Graduate Student Representative to the Philosophy Faculty, 2017–2018

EXTRAMURAL

Editorial Assistant for *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics*, OUP, 2017–2020
Editorial Assistant for *Social Philosophy and Policy*, CUP, 2018–2019
Editorial Assistant for *The Oxford Handbook of Freedom*, OUP, 2017

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association
Society for the Philosophy of Agency
Society for Philosophy and Psychology
International Society for Social Ontology
American Catholic Philosophical Association