

Rachel Cohon

Department of Philosophy
The University at Albany
State University of New York
Albany, NY 12222
email: <rcohon@albany.edu>
(518) 442-4144; secretary 442-4250

Areas of specialization:

Moral philosophy, including history of ethics, ethical theory, and biomedical and other applied ethics; practical reasoning; Hume

Areas of additional teaching competence:

Philosophy of action, political philosophy, British empiricism, early modern philosophy

Academic Employment:

Professor, University at Albany, December 2011 - present
Associate Professor, University at Albany, September 1, 2000- November 2011
Assistant Professor, University at Albany, September 1998-August 2000
Assistant Professor, Stanford University, 1988-98
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Southern California, Spring semester 1995
Visiting Assistant Professor, U.C. Irvine, 1986-8
Instructor, Mount St. Mary's College, 1985-6; Pitzer College, Fall Semester 1980
Teaching Assistant, Associate, Fellow, Summer Instructor, UCLA, 1976-82

Nonacademic employment:

Co-founder, Vice President of Don't Ask Computer Software, 1981-5

Professional Fellowships Awarded:

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers, 2002-2003
United University Professionals Individual Development Award, University at Albany, 2000
U. U. P. Professional Development / Quality of Work Life Award, University at Albany, 1999
Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics, Program in Genomics, Ethics, and Society Fellow, Winter 1997-8
NEH Summer Stipend, 1993
Stanford Humanities Center Internal Fellow, 1992-3
Marilyn Yalom Research Fund award (Stanford), 1991-2

Education:

Ph.D.: UCLA, 1986 (Philosophy)
Dissertation: *The Rationality of Moral Conduct: a Preliminary Study*
(Supervisor: Philippa Foot)
Awards in graduate education:
Joint Winner, Carnap Prize Essay Competition, 1984 and 1985
Chancellor's Dissertation Fellowship, 1981-2
UCLA Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, 1981 (1 of 5 university-wide)
Regents' Fellowship, 1975-6
M.A.: University of California, Los Angeles, 1977
B.A.: Pomona College, 1975 (Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa)
Rena G. Archibald High Scholarship Prize
Phi Beta Kappa Prize, Gamma Chapter of California

Publications

Book:

Hume's Morality: Feeling and Fabrication, Oxford University Press, 2008, offering a new interpretation of much of Hume's moral and political philosophy

Anthology:

Hume: Moral and Political Philosophy, an anthology of previously published essays by present-day authors, with introduction, Ashgate/Dartmouth Press, May 2001

Articles (refereed journals and anthology chapters):

"Evaluations and Urges: Hume on the Indirect Passions and the Moral Sentiments," for *Humean Readings*, Tito Magri and David Owen, ed.s., Rome: Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2012

"Hume's Moral Sentiments as Motives," *Hume Studies* 36:2, 2010, 195–215 (published Feb. 2012)

"Reply to Radcliffe and Garrett," *Hume Studies* 34:2 (Nov. 2008, published Apr. 2010)

"Hume's Indirect Passions," in Elizabeth Radcliffe, ed., *A Companion to Hume*, Blackwell Publishing, 2008

"Hume's Artificial and Natural Virtues," in *A Guide to Hume's Treatise*, ed. Saul Traiger, Blackwell Publishing, 2006

"Hume on Promises and the Peculiar Act of the Mind," *The Journal of the History of Philosophy* 44, no. 1 (January 2006)

"Hume's Moral Philosophy," article in the on-line *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, October 2004

"Disability: Ethical and Social Issues," *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, third edition, Stephen G. Post, ed. in chief, Macmillan Reference USA, November, 2003

"The Shackles of Virtue: Hume on Allegiance to Government," *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 18, no. 4 (October 2001), 393-413

"The Roots of Reasons," *The Philosophical Review* 109, no. 1 (January 2000), 63-85

"Hume on Representation, Reason, and Motivation" (with David Owen), *Manuscrito* (Brazilian philosophy journal), vol. on Hume ed. John Biro, 1997 (appeared Dec. 1998), 47-76

"Hume's Difficulty with the Virtue of Honesty," *Hume Studies* XXIII, 1 (Apr. 1997), pp. 91-112

"Is Hume a Noncognitivist in the Motivation Argument?," *Philosophical Studies* 85 (1997), 251-266

"The Common Point of View in Hume's Ethics," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* vol. 57, no. 4 (Dec. 1997) (accepted 1995), 827-850.

"On an Unorthodox Version of Hume's Moral Psychology," *Hume Studies*, XX, 2 (Nov. 1994), 179-94

"Internalism about Reasons for Action," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 74 (Dec. 1993), 265-88

"Hume and Humeanism in Ethics," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 69, no. 2 (June 1988), 99-116

"Are External Reasons Impossible?" *Ethics* 96 (April 1986), pp. 545-56

In progress/ under revision:

(commissioned) "Happiness as an Incentive to Virtue" for *Reading Hume on the Principles of Morals: Essays on the Second Enquiry*, Jacqueline Taylor, ed., Oxford University Press

“Good-faith Promising and Situationism” with Jason D’Cruz

Encyclopedia articles:

- “Hume’s Ethics” for the *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, ed. Hugh LaFollette, forthcoming 2012
- “Hume’s Moral Philosophy,” article in on-line *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Oct. 2004, updated July 2010
- “Disability: Ethical and Social Issues,” *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, third edition, Stephen G. Post, ed. in chief, Macmillan Reference USA, November, 2003

Book reviews:

Review of Annette C. Baier, *The Cautious Jealous Virtue: Hume on Justice*, in *The Philosophical Review* vol. 120.4 (2011)

Review of Francis Snare, *Morals, Motivation, and Convention*, in *The Philosophical Review* vol. 103, no. 3 (July 1993) (invited)

Talks

28th Annual Belgum Memorial Lectures at St. Olaf College (series of two lectures), October, 2011

“Virtue as a Means to Happiness in Hume’s Second *Enquiry*,” colloquium talk at the University of South Carolina, September 2011, and University at Albany, Sept. 2011

“Hume’s Moral Sentiments as Motives,” invited colloquium talk at Cornell University April 29, 2011; refereed talk (shorter version) at International Hume Society, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 2011, refereed talk (shorter version) at annual conference of the Creighton Club (New York philosophical society), Nov. 13, 2010

Author Meets Critics session on my book *Hume’s Morality* at Humean Readings 10 (conference), University of Rome-La Sapienza, June 2010

Author Meets Critics session on my book *Hume’s Morality* at 35th Hume Society Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, August 2009

“Hume’s Indirect Passions and the Motives of Virtuous Actions,” Union College, May 14, 2009

Critic’s discussion of Michael Gill, *The British Moralists on Human Nature and the Birth of Secular Ethics* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006), American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meetings, March 2008, Author Meets Critics

“Criticizing Hume’s List of Virtues and Vices,” at New Philosophical Perspectives on Hume conference at the University of San Francisco, February 2007; Hume Society conference, Boston, Aug. 2007

“Hume on Reason Alone and Moral Discrimination,” colloquium talk at Wake Forest University, Oct. 2006; presentation to Upstate New York Early Modern Workshop, Sept. 2006

“Criticizing Hume’s List of Virtues,” invited talk at the Hume Readings 6 (conference) at the University of Rome-La Sapienza, June 2006; public lecture at Wake Forest University, Oct. 2006

“Hume’s Moral *Enquiry*,” talk to instructors in the Contemporary Culture sequence, Columbia University, December 2004

- “Hume on the Desire for Pleasure: Can it Be a Dispositional Property?”, invited talk, 31st Hume Society Conference, Tokyo, Japan, August 2004
- “Hume’s Motives of the Will,” colloquium talk at University of Maryland, October, 2003
- “Why Hume Thinks Reason Is Not a Motive to the Will,” plenary session at 30th Hume Society conference, Las Vegas, NV, July 2003
- “Hume on Pleasure, Motivation, and Morality,” colloquium talk at SUNY New Paltz, April, 2003
- “Hume on Pleasure,” invited talk to the Hume Society session at the Eastern Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association (APA), December 2002
- “Hume on Moral Sensing and the “Modern Philosophy,” refereed talk to the Creighton Club (New York State philosophy club) October 2002, and Pacific APA March 2003
- “Hume on the Reality of Moral Distinctions,” plenary talk at 28th Hume Society Conference, Victoria, Canada, July 2001; colloquium talk at University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, November 2001, and University of Southern California, January 2003
- “The Shackles of Virtue: Hume on Allegiance to Government,” presented at the Twenty-sixth Hume Society Conference, Cork, Ireland, July, 1999, and colloquium talk at University of Binghamton, SUNY, April 2001
- “Hume on Promises and the Peculiar Act of the Mind,” colloquium talk at University of Rochester, University of Connecticut (Storrs), Dec. 1999, Bowling Green State University, Jan. 2000, Washington University, St. Louis, Oct., 2002, Union College, Jan., 2003
- “Privacy and Genetic Information,” talk at conference sponsored by the Stanford Program in Genomics, Ethics, and Society, October 17, 1998
- “The Roots of Reasons,” critic's talk on Christine M. Korsgaard, *The Sources of Normativity*, Author Meets Critics session, Central Division of the APA, May 1998 (invited)
- “Do We Have a Right to Useless Genetic Information about Ourselves?” Works-in-Progress Seminar, Stanford Program in Genomics, Ethics, and Society, March 9, 1998
- “Hume on Feeling and Knowing Virtue,” colloquium at U. C. Davis, May 1996; invited talk at Pacific Division of APA, March 1997; talk at Twenty-fourth Hume Society Conference, Monterey, CA, July 1997
- “Cloning Sheep; Cloning Humans,” panel presentation, Program in Genomics, Ethics and Society, Stanford University Center for Biomedical Ethics, March 5, 1997
- “Hume on Representation, Reason, and Motivation” (with David Owen), at (refereed) Twenty-third Hume Society Conference, Nottingham, England, July 1996
- “Is Hume a Noncognitivist? The Motivation Argument,” Pacific APA (refereed paper), April 1996, Seattle
- “Hume's Theory of Moral Judgment: Belief through Feeling,” Stanford Conference on Early Modern Philosophy, May 1995

- "Hume's Difficulty with the Virtue of Honesty," colloquium, University of Washington, February 1995, and colloquium at Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, November 1996;
- "The Common Point of View in Hume's Ethics," Pacific APA (refereed paper), March, 1995, San Francisco; and Twenty-second Hume Society Conference, July 1995, Park City, Utah
- "Baier on Hume's Moral Psychology," (invited) Pacific APA Author Meets Critics session on Annette Baier, *A Progress of Sentiments*, April 1994
- "Gestational Surrogate Motherhood: How Technology Strains our Moral Concepts," Jing Lyman Lecture, Stanford, May 1993
- "Why Are some Virtues Artificial?" invited address to Hume Society, Chicago, April 1993
- "Hume on Fidelity to Promises," presented at Nineteenth Hume Society conference, Nantes, France, June 1992.
- "Hume on the Virtue of Honesty," Pacific APA (refereed), March 1991, and invited talk, San Jose State University, March, 1992
- "Gestational Surrogacy and Parental Rights: How Technology Can Change our Moral Concepts," invited talk at Stanford University Center for Biomedical Ethics Forum, Feb. 1992
- "Convention and the Problem of Virtuous Motives," presented at "Conventions" interdisciplinary conference sponsored by the Ecole Polytechnique and Stanford Education Abroad Program, in Paris, March 1990

Invited commentator on talks

- "Cognitivism in Moral Judgment," by Alison Hills, S.P.A.W.N. conference (Syracuse University), August 2012
- "The Moral Sentiments in Hume's *Treatise*: A Coherent Reading," by Åsa Carlson, 39th Hume Society Conference in Calgary, Canada, July 2012
- "The Role of the Indirect and the Direct Passions in the *Treatise*" by Haroku Inoue, 32nd Hume Society conference in Toronto, Canada, July 2005
- Panel participant with James King and Jacqueline Taylor (commenting on their talks), session comparing Hume's ethical views in the *Treatise of Human Nature* and the *Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*, Central Division APA, April, 2002
- "Hume's Progressive View of Human Nature," by Michael Gill, Twenty-seventh Hume Society Conference, Williamsburg, VA, July 2000
- "Hume on the Generation of Motives," by Elizabeth S. Radcliffe, Eastern APA, December, 1997
- "On Why Hume's 'General Point of View' Isn't Ideal -- and Shouldn't Be," by Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, Pacific APA, March 1993
- "Motive and Obligation in Hume's *Treatise*" by Stephen Darwall, Workshop on Hume's Ethics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Feb. 1993
- "Naked Pain: an Evaluation," by Ira Goldstein, Pacific APA, March 1989
- "Hybrid Externalism," by John Robertson, Pacific APA, March 1988

Teaching

Courses taught at University at Albany:

Graduate Seminar: Topics in Moral Philosophy (Character and Reason)

Graduate Seminar: Topics in Moral Philosophy (Metaethics)

Moral Philosophy (upper-level undergraduate): moral objectivity

Graduate Seminar: Bioethics

Introduction to Ethical Theory (regular and honors)

Graduate Seminar: Topics in Moral Philosophy (Hume's Ethics)

Contemporary Ethical Theory (graduate and advanced undergraduate): consequentialism, deontology, contemporary virtue ethics, metaethics

Moral Choices (philosophical analysis of contemporary moral issues) (regular and honors)

Graduate Seminar: 17th-19th Century Ethics

Practical Reasoning and Value

17th to 18th-Century Philosophy (metaphysics and epistemology of early modern period)

Honors courses: Introduction to Ethical Theory, Moral Choices

Courses taught elsewhere (at Stanford unless otherwise noted):

Introduction to Moral Philosophy

Ethical Theories: Hume, Kant, and the Classical Utilitarians

Ethical Theories of the Eighteenth Century (British Moralists and Kant)

Graduate Seminar: Reasons to be Moral

Moral Realism and Anti-realism (graduate/undergraduate)

Medical Ethics

Ethics in Society Honors Seminar (topics in applied social ethics: welfare rights, environmental ethics, pornography, capital punishment, more)

Ph.D. Core Seminar in Moral and Political Philosophy (systematic issues in moral and/or political philosophy: jointly with Debra Satz; jointly with Michael Bratman)

Graduate Seminar: Hume's Moral and Political Philosophy

Graduate Seminar: The Normativity of Ethics

Hume's Ethics and its Contemporary Echoes (Scheffler, Gibbard), at Univ. of Southern California

Irrational Action, at Univ. of California, Irvine (UCI)

Philosophical Analysis of Contemporary Moral Problems, at UCI

Introduction to Moral Theory, at UCI, Mt. St. Mary's College (reg. and honors)

Introduction to Ancient Greek Philosophy, at UCI

Health Care Ethics, at Mt. St. Mary's College

Historical Introduction to Political Philosophy, at UCLA, Mt. St. Mary's College

Introduction to Philosophy, at Pitzer College

Dissertations Supervised

David Pinkowski, "Resolving Incomparability"

Brad Wilburn, "Moral Self-Improvement"

Marcel Lieberman, "Moral Realism and Commitment"

Rebecca Walker, "Plural Ethical Theories"

Crystal Thorpe, "Non-contingent Reasons" (jointly with Michael Bratman)

Served on Dissertation Reading Committees of

Bryan Van Norden (Stanford)

Louisa Moon (U.C. Irvine)

David Chan (Stanford)

Nomy Arpaly "

John Taylor "

Anne Tarver "

Alissa Hurwitz Swota (U. Albany)

Daniel Patrone (U Albany)

Tatiana Patrone (U Albany)

Syd Johnson (U Albany)

Currently supervising dissertations of: Byung-Ann Kang, David Krueger, Elliot Cross, Brandon Lee

Other current dissertation committee membership: Edward DuBois, John Wesley McMichael

M.A. Theses Supervised: Yung-ting Chang, David Tedesche, Daniel Len (all at Albany)

Currently supervising MA thesis of: Damian Thibeault

Supervised nine undergraduate honors theses: Thea Wojtkowski, Robin Liu, Jonathan Ploudre, John Chang, Kevin Woodhouse, Touraj Parang, Elizabeth Kennedy (all at Stanford); Thomas Murray, Jennifer Kozlowski, Daksha Bhatia (Albany)

Served as second reader for four more undergraduate honors theses (all at Stanford)

Graduate/Faculty Reading Groups Organized/Run

University at Albany:

Reading Group on Stephen Darwall, *The Second-Person Standpoint*, Fall 2007

Reading Group on John M. Doris, *Lack of Character*, 2006

Reading Group on Allan Gibbard, *Thinking How to Live*, 2004

Reading Group on Philippa Foot, *Natural Goodness*, 2003

Reading Group on Christine Korsgaard's Locke Lectures, "Self-Constitution," 2002

Reading Group on *Ruling Passions* by Simon Blackburn, Fall 2000

Reading Group on *What We Owe to Each Other* by T. M. Scanlon, Summer 1999

Reading Group on *Ethics and Practical Reason*, ed. Cullity and Gaut, Spring 1999

Stanford:

Reading Group on *Morality, Normativity, and Society* by David Copp, Win. 1996

Reading Group on *The Moral Problem* by Michael Smith, Spring-Summer 1995

Reading Group on *Human Morality* by Samuel Scheffler, Summer 1994

Reading Group on *Intention* by G. E. M. Anscombe, Winter and Spring 1991

Reading Group on Moral Realism, Summer 1990

Faculty Seminar Participation

Upstate New York Early Modern Workshop (meeting at Syracuse University), 2005-6

The Square Circle (discussion of members' works-in-progress in ethics), University at Albany, 1998-2000

Virtue Ethics Discussion Group, Stanford 1993-97

Stanford Seminar for Enlightenment and Revolution, Jan. 1993 (with John Perry, Bliss Carnochan)

Bay Area Ethics Discussion Group, 1990-92

Planning Seminar: Course in Computer Ethics, Stanford 1989

Professional Organizations:

American Philosophical Association

The Creighton Club

The Hume Society

Upstate New York Early Modern (Philosophy) Workshop

Service: information provided on request

References: provided on request

July 13, 2012