

Scott R. Sehon

Professor of Philosophy
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, 04011
ssehon@bowdoin.edu

EDUCATION

- 1994 Princeton University, Ph.D in Philosophy.**
Dissertation: "Action Explanation and the Nature of Mental States."
Supervisors: Mark Johnston, Harry Frankfurt
- 1986 Harvard University, A.B. in Philosophy, (*Magna cum laude*)**

PUBLICATIONS

Works in Progress:

Goals, Agency, and Free Will. Book manuscript in progress.
"Action Explanation and the Free Will Debate." In progress.

Book:

Teleological Realism: Mind, Agency, and Explanation. 2005. MIT Press.

Reviewed by:

Ginet, Carl, in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*
Price, Carolyn, in *The Philosophical Quarterly*
Slater, Carol, in *Psyche*
Worley, Sara, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*
Walden, Scott, in *Metapsychology Online Book Reviews*
Andrews, Kristin, in *Philosophy in Review*

Journal Articles

- "A Flawed Conception of Determinism in the Consequence Argument," *Analysis*, Volume 71 (2010): 30-38.
- "Evidence and Simplicity: Why We Should Reject Homeopathy," *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, Volume 16 (2010): 276-281.
- "Applying the Simplicity Principle to Homeopathy: What Remains?" *Focus on Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, Volume 15:1 (2010).

“The Problem of Evil: Skeptical Theism Leads to Moral Paralysis,” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*. 67:2 (2010)

“Teleology and Degrees of Freedom,” *Internationale Zeitschrift für Philosophie*, Volume 17:1 (2008): 123-144.

“A philosophical analysis of the evidence-based medicine debate,” *BMC Health Services Research* 2003, 3:14, (available at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/3/14>). Co-authored with Donald E. Stanley. Also translated into Chinese and published in *Medicine and Philosophy* 25:2 (2004): 21-24 and 25:3 (2004): 30-33.

“An Argument Against the Causal Theory of Action Explanation,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 60:1(2000): 67-85.

“Connectionism and the Causal Theory of Action Explanation,” *Philosophical Psychology*, 11:4(1998): 511-531.

“Natural-Kind Terms and the Status of Folk Psychology,” *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 34:3(1997): 333-344.

“Deviant Causal Chains and the Irreducibility of Teleological Explanation,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 78:2 (1997): 195-213.

Translated into German as "Abweichende Kausalketten und die Irreduzibilität der teleologischen Erklärung" and published in *Gründe und Zwecke: Texte zur aktuellen Handlungstheorie*, Christoph Horn and Guido Löhrer, eds., Surkamp Verlag (2010).

“Okin on Feminism and Rawls,” *The Philosophical Forum*, 27 (1996): 321-332.

“Teleology and the Nature of Mental States,” *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 31 (1994): 63-72.

Book Chapters and Reviews

“The Causal Theory of Action and the Commitments of Common Sense Psychology,” forthcoming in *Reasons and Causes: Causality and Non-causality in the Philosophy of Action*, Giuseppina D’Oro, ed. Palgrave Macmillan.

"Teleology," forthcoming in *Encyclopedia of the Mind*. Sage Publications.

“Teleological Explanation,” in *Blackwell Companion to Philosophy of Action*, Timothy O’Connor and Constantine Sandis, eds. Blackwell. (2010).

“Dementors, Horcruxes, and Immortality: The Soul in *Harry Potter*,” in *Harry Potter and Philosophy: Hogwarts for Muggles*, William Irwin and Gregory Bassham, eds. Wiley (2010).

Review of *Rationality and the Good: Critical Essays on the Ethics and Epistemology of Robert Audi* Mark Timmons, John Greco, Alfred R. Mele (eds.) Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, March 16, 2008, <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=12663>.

“Goal-Directed Action and Teleological Explanation,” in *Causation and Explanation*, Joseph Keim Campbell, Michael O’Rourke, and Harry Silverstein, eds. MIT Press. (2007)

Translated into German as "*Zielgerichtetes Handeln und teleologische Erklärungen*" and published in *Gründe und Zwecke: Texte zur aktuellen Handlungstheorie*, Christoph Horn and Guido Löhrer, eds., Surhkamp Verlag (2010).

Review of *A Most Unlikely God: A Philosophical Enquiry into the Nature of God*, by Barry Miller, *Philosophy in Review*, 18:2 (1998): 129-131.

Review of *Logical Learning Theory: A Human Teleology and Its Empirical Support*, by Joseph F. Rychlak, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 46 (1996): 246-248.

Review of *Subjectivity and Reduction* by Barbara Hannan, *Canadian Philosophical Reviews*, 15 (1995): 250-252.

Newspaper op-eds

"Judging who's fit to be tied" (op-ed on gay marriage), *Brunswick Times Record*, June 6, 2008.

"Filibuster Tactic Smacks of Hypocrisy," *Portland Press Herald*, April 25, 2005.

"Tax Cap Proponents' Suggestion Would Create Free-Loaders," *Brunswick Times Record*, October 8, 2004.

"Iraq not 'War on Terror,'" *Brunswick Times Record*, March 26, 2004.

"Arguments Against Gay Marriage Don't Hold Up," *Brunswick Times Record*, February 27, 2004.

"Supports the Troops; Not Bush Decisions," *Brunswick Times Record*, March 28, 2003.

"Rights not absolute," *Brunswick Times Record*, October 31, 2001.

"There is no ban on school prayer," *Brunswick Times Record*, September, 2001.

"Immorality of homosexuality based on Bible is challenged," *Brunswick Times Record*, September 29, 2000.

"Homosexuality Is Not Immoral, Despite Scriptural Prohibition," *Portland Press Herald*, June 27, 1997. Also reprinted in the Binghamton, NY *Press & Sun Bulletin*, August 14, 1997.

RECENT TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Reply to Franklin"

American Philosophical Association Meetings, Pacific Division, April 1, 2010

"Free Will and Action Explanation: How Incompatibilist Arguments Go Wrong."

Invited presentation at the Sociada Filosofica Ibero Americana Conference on Philosophy of Action, Huatulco, Mexico, January 2010.

"Free Will and Action Explanation: Where the Consequence Argument Goes Wrong."

Invited talk, University of Bonn, July, 2009

“Robots and Free Will”

University of Twente, Society for Philosophy and Technology, July 2009.

“Design, Evil, and Moral Paralysis”

Ian Ramsey Centre, St. Anne’s College, Oxford, July, 2008.

“Précis of *Teleological Realism*” and “Reply to O’Connor, Stoutland, and Harman”

Author-meets-critics book session at the American Philosophical Association Meetings, Pacific Division, March, 2008

“Action Explanation and the Free Will Debate”

Invited talk, University of New Mexico, March, 2007

Northern New England Philosophical Association Conference, October, 2006

Invited talk, Auburn University, September, 2006

“The Problem of Evil and Moral Paralysis,”

University of Wisconsin, Conference in Honor of Keith Yandell, September, 2005

"Truth and Relativism"

Convocation Address at Bowdoin College, August, 2005.

COURSES TAUGHT

Introductory

Philosophy of Religion
Early Modern Philosophy
Science, Non-science, and Nonsense
Relativism
Moral Problems

Intermediate

Philosophy of Mind
Philosophy of Language
Philosophy of Science
Logic
Intermediate Logic
Philosophy of Law
Feminism and Liberalism
Agency

Senior Seminars

Free Will
Moral Psychology
Color and Consciousness
Reasons and Normativity
Science and God
Explanation
Origins of Analytic Philosophy
Wittgenstein
Quine and Davidson

COLLEGE SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

College Committee Service:

Curriculum and Educational Priorities
Research Oversight Committee (Chair)
Committee on Teaching (Chair)
Working Group on Numeracy
Working Group on General Education Requirements (Chair)
Sexual Misconduct Board (Chair)
Off-Campus Study
Judicial Board

Library Committee (Chair)
Faculty Parliamentarian
Faculty Clerk

Other Service:

Philosophy Department Chair (three years)

Organizer and panelist, *Faith, Reason and Evolution: A Public Colloquium*.
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, October 23, November 7 and 14, 2008.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Referee for:

Australasian Journal of Philosophy
Dialogue
Erkenntnis
Hastings Center Report
Inquiry
Journal of Philosophical Research
MIT University Press
Nous
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly
Philosophical Psychology
Philosophical Quarterly
Philosophical Studies
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research
Polity Press

Co-President of the Northern New England Philosophical Association, 1995-1996

SENIOR THESES SUPERVISED

Brent Beecher, "Personal Identity: An Inquiry into the Criteria of Survival"

Andrew Zink, "A Behaviorists Account of Meaning: W.V.O. Quine on the Indeterminacy of Translation"

Ted Sears, "Incommensurability and Untranslatability: an Examination of Incommensurability in the works of Thomas Kuhn"

Melissa Braveman, "Gödel and Penrose: the Implications of the Incompleteness of Arithmetic for Artificial Intelligence"

Carl Findley, "After the Implosion: on How to Read Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*"

Sam Arnold, "An Examination of Michael Ruse's Darwinian Approach to Philosophy"

HONORS AND AWARDS

Fletcher Family Research Fund, Bowdoin College, 2009

Fletcher Family Research Fund, Bowdoin College, 2008

Faculty Leave Supplement Award, Bowdoin College, 2008-2009

Faculty Leave Supplement Award, Bowdoin College, 2002-2003

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, Princeton University, 1992-1992

Mellon Fellowship Program, Princeton University, 1986-1988