

## Mark Silcox - Curriculum Vitae

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Humanities & Philosophy Dept.  
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### Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, The Ohio State University, 2002.  
M.A., Philosophy, University of Toronto, 1993.  
B.A., Philosophy and English, University of Toronto, 1992.

### Areas of Specialization

Aesthetics, Philosophy of Language, Ethical Theory, Philosophy of Popular Culture

### Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mind, Political Philosophy, Applied Ethics, Logic

### Books

*A Defense of Simulated Experience: New Noble Lies*, Routledge (January, 2019)  
*Philosophy through Video Games* (with Jon Cogburn), Routledge (December, 2008)

### Edited Anthologies

*Experience Machines: The Philosophy of Virtual Worlds*, Rowman and Littlefield  
International (July, 2017)  
*Dungeons & Dragons and Philosophy: Raiding the Temple of Wisdom* (with Jon Cogburn),  
Open Court (September, 2012)

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Fictionalism and Virtual Objects,” in *Exploring Extended Realities: Metaphysical, psychological, and ethical challenges*, Eds. Andrew Kissel and Erick Jose Ramirez, Routledge (forthcoming)  
“Distributive Justice and Gameplay” in *Philosophia* (June, 2023)  
“Psychohistory’s Noble Lie” in *Isaac Asimov’s Foundation and Philosophy: Psychohistory and its Discontents*, Eds. Joshua Heter and Josef Thomas Simpson, Carus Books (June, 2023)  
“Historicism, Science Fiction, and the Singularity,” in *Minding the Future: Contemporary Issues in Artificial Intelligence*, Eds. Barry Dainton, Will Slocombe, and Attila Tanyi, Springer (September, 2021)  
“Story Notes for ‘Monsters and Soldiers’” in *Philosophy through Science Fiction Stories*, Eds. Helen De Cruz, Johan De Smedt, and Eric Schwitzgebel, Bloomsbury (January, 2021)  
“Stone Soup: Distributional Goods and Principles of Justice,” in *Social Theory and Practice* (October, 2020)  
“The Transition into Virtual Reality” in *Disputatio* (December, 2019)  
“The Many Faces of Gossip in *Emma*” (with Heidi Silcox) in *Oxford Studies in Philosophy*

- and Literature: Jane Austen's Emma*, Ed. Eva Dadlez, Oxford University Press (October, 2018)
- “Agonistic Moralism” in *Contemporary Aesthetics* (September, 2018)
- “Video Games and the ‘Theater of Love’” in *The Aesthetics of Video Games*, Eds. Grant Tavinor and Jonathan Robson, Routledge (March, 2018)
- “‘Thick’ Aesthetic Emotions and the Autonomy of Art” in *Philosophy and Literature* (October 2016)
- “Against Brain-in-a-Vatism: On the Value of Virtual Reality” (with Jon Cogburn) in *Philosophy & Technology* (December 2014)
- “Psychological Trauma and the Simulated Self” in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* (June 2014)
- “On the Value of Make-Believe” in *Journal of Aesthetic Education* (Winter 2012)
- “The Laboratory of the Dungeon” (with Jonathan Cox) in *Dungeons & Dragons and Philosophy*, Eds. Jon Cogburn and Mark Silcox, Open Court (September, 2012)
- “Elegy for a Paladin” in *Dungeons & Dragons and Philosophy*, Eds. Jon Cogburn and Mark Silcox, Open Court (September, 2012)
- “not that you may remember time: Interactive Fiction, Stream-of-Consciousness Writing, and Free Will” in *IF Theory Reader*, Eds. Kevin Jackson-Mead and J. Robinson Wheeler, Transcript On Press (March, 2011)
- “‘The Cry of Nature:’ Dissolving the Frege/Geach Problem,” in *Southwest Philosophy Review* (January, 2011)
- “Computability Theory and Ontological Emergence” (with Jon Cogburn) in *American Philosophical Quarterly* (January, 2011)
- “The Virtuous Parent” in *The Journal of Value Inquiry* (December, 2010)
- “Azeroth vs. The Experience Machine” (with Jon Cogburn) in *World of Warcraft and Philosophy*, Eds. Luke Cuddy and John Nordlinger, Open Court (September 2009)
- “Response to Rosebury,” in *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (April, 2009)
- “Undergraduate Relativism and Cicero’s *De Amicitia*” in *Teaching Ethics* (Fall, 2007)
- “On The Conceivability of an Omniscient Interpreter” in *Dialogue: The Canadian Philosophical Review* (Vol. 46, 2007)
- “Computability Theory and Literary Competence” (with Jon Cogburn) in *British Journal of Aesthetics* (October, 2006)
- “Virtue Epistemology and Moral Luck” in *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (July, 2006).
- “Semantic Holism vs. Semantic Atomism” in *Language and Communication* (October, 2005).
- “Computing Machinery and Emergence: The Aesthetics and Metaphysics of Video Games” (with Jon Cogburn) in *Minds and Machines* (February, 2005)

### **Other Publications in Philosophy**

- “Screen Worlds, Virtual Worlds, Constructed Worlds” (Commentary on Bin Liu’s ‘The World of Screen Creatures’) in *Constructivist Foundations* (August, 2023)
- “Monsters and Soldiers” (short story) in *Philosophy through Science Fiction Stories*, Ed. Helen De Cruz, Bloomsbury (January, 2021)
- Comments on “A Separability Principle, Contrast Cases, and Contributory Dispositions” by Zak Kopeikin in *The Southwest Philosophy Review* (July, 2020)
- “If Only it Were All a Game” (Review of Colin Milburn’s *Respawn: Gamers, Hackers, and Technogenic Life*) in *Metascience* (March, 2020)
- Review of Galen Strawson’s *The Subject of Experience*, in *The Philosophical Quarterly* (October, 2018)

Comments on “Nonfunctional Semantics in Plant Signaling” by Mark Bauer in *The Southwest Philosophy Review* (July, 2018)

“Presidential Address: *Homo Ludens* Revisited” in *The Southwest Philosophy Review* (Spring 2017)

“Bread and Salt” (short story) in *SciPhi Journal: A Journal about Science Fiction and Philosophy* (February 2017)

Review of Morris Grossman’s *Art and Morality: Essays in the Spirit of George Santayana*, in *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (January 2016)

Comments on “Moral Heroism and the Requirement Claim” by Kyle Fruh in *The Southwest Philosophy Review* (July 2014)

Comments on “A Theory of Logical Normativity” by Robert Barnard in *The Southwest Philosophy Review* (July 2013)

“Invasion of the Trekkies: Thoughts on Media Fandom” in *Oklahoma HUMANITIES Magazine* (Winter 2013)

Comments on “The Problem with (Quasi-Realist) Expressivism” by Stephen Davey in *The Southwest Philosophy Review* (July 2012)

“The Philosopher’s Cellphone” (poem) in *Philosophy Now Magazine* (September, 2005)

“Donald Davidson: Anomalous Monism” (entry) in *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (see <http://www.iep.utm.edu/m/anom-mon.htm>)

Review of Gary Ebbs’ *Rule-Following and Realism* in *Essays in Philosophy* (January, 2004)

Introduction to G.E. Moore’s *Principia Ethica*, in the *Barnes and Noble World Digital Library* (August, 2002)

## **Presentations**

“Vagueness, Numbers, and Nihilism” to the UCO Philosophy Club (October, 2022)

“‘Why Lovers Seek Solitude’ – The Ethics of Intimacy and Political Interventionism,” at MANCEPT Workshops 2022, Manchester UK (September 2022)

Comments on “Close Relations: The Ethical Question and the *Qua* Problem” by Nils-Hennes Stear, The American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, Montreal CA, (November, 2021)

“The Private World of Dreams” to the UCO Lucid Dreaming Society (November, 2021)

Comments on “A Separability Principle, Contrast Cases, and Contributory Dispositions” by Zak Kopeikin, The Southwestern Philosophical Society (November, 2019)

“Fiction, Pretense, and Virtual Reality,” to The American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, San Antonio TX (October, 2019)

Comments on “Authority, Particularity, and the Districting Solution” by Chris King, The Southwestern Philosophical Society (November, 2018)

“Virtual Reality and Metaphysical Pretense” to the Workshop on Virtual Reality, ITU Copenhagen (June 2018)

“Distributive Justice and Gameplay: Wilt Chamberlain vs. The Grasshopper,” at the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University (March 2018)

“Keynote: The Transition into Virtual Reality,” to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the Philosophy of Computer Games, Krakow (November 2017)

Comments on “Nonfunctional Semantics and Plant Signaling,” by Mark Bauer, The Southwestern Philosophical Society (November, 2017)

Comments on “The Good in Pursuit of the Bad” by Gwen Bradford, “The Values of Games” by Thi Nguyen, and “Videogames and Implicit Bias” by Stephanie Patridge, to the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Annual Meeting (April 2017)

“Presidential Address: *Homo Ludens* Revisited” to the Southwestern Philosophical Society (November, 2016)

“The Attractions of Playing Mundane Video Games” on *Spark*, with Nora Young, CBC Radio One (January, 2016)

Comments on “Reason to Promotion Inferences” by Joshua Behrends and Jeff DiPaolo, to The Mountain Plains Philosophy Conference, (October, 2015)

“Utopian Realism: The Politics of Simulated Experience” to Friends of the Forms, Oklahoma State University (April, 2015)

“Agonistic Moralism” to The American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, San Antonio TX (October, 2014)

“Thick Aesthetic Concepts and Ethical Criticism” to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Theories of Literature Conference, University of Warwick, UK (March 2014)

“Why Should we Trust Logic?” to the UCO Undergraduate Symposium of Philosophy (February, 2014)

Comments on “Moral Heroism and the Requirements Claim” by Kyle Fruh, to the Southwestern Philosophical Society (November, 2013)

Comments on “Make-Believe Wickedness v. Wicked Make-Believe” by Eva Dadlez, to the American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division (April, 2013)

“Against Brain-in-a-Vatism” (with Jon Cogburn) to The American Philosophical Association, Central Division (February, 2013)

Comments on “A Theory of Logical Normativity” by Robert Barnard, to the Southwestern Philosophical Society (November, 2012)

Comments on “Stop Over-Analyzing It: The Puzzle of Historical Inaccuracy and the Pragmatic Interpretation of Imaginative Resistance” by Mary Beth Willard, to the American Society for Aesthetics, Pacific Division (April, 2012)

Comments on “The Problem with (Quasi-Realist) Expressivism” by Stephen Davey, to the Southwestern Philosophical Society (November, 2011)

“Personal Identity and Video Games” to Composition II students at the University of Oklahoma (February, 2011)

“‘The Cry of Nature’: Dissolving the Frege/Geach Problem” to the Southwestern Philosophical Society (November, 2010)

“A Solution to the Frege/Geach Problem” to Oklahoma State University’s Philosophy Department (May, 2010)

Comments on “The Failure of Frankfurt’s Counterexample to PAP: A New Angle” by Theodore Guleserian, to the Mountain Plains Philosophy Conference (October, 2009)

“Two Theories of Make-Believe” to the American Society for Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division (July, 2009)

“Hume on the Social Promise” to the Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (October, 2008)

“Brecht’s Paradox: Alienation and Empathy in the Films of Hal Hartley” to the American Society for Aesthetics, Rocky Mountain Division (July, 2008)

“Memory, Inference and Personal Identity: Hume vs. Reid” to the South Central Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (February, 2008)

“Was Hume an Expressivist?” to the South Central Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (February, 2007)

“On the Conceivability of an Omniscient Interpreter,” to The American Philosophical Association, Central Division (April, 2006)

Comments on “Is Understanding a Species of Knowledge?” by Stephen R. Grimm to The American Philosophical Association, Central Division (April, 2005)

- “Does the Reader Make the Text?: Some Reflections on the Notion of Literary Competence” (with Jon Cogburn) to The American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (March, 2005)
- “Computer Game Aesthetics and the Metaphysics of Emergence” (with Jon Cogburn) to the Alabama Philosophical Society, Orange Beach, AL (2003)
- “A Defense of the Indeterminacy of Translation” to The Louisiana State University’s Philosophy Department (2003 – revised version) and to the Auburn Philosophical Society, Auburn University (2002)
- “Semantic Atomism and Semantic Holism” to the Alabama Philosophical Society, Orange Beach, AL (2002)
- “Virtue Epistemology and Moral Luck” to the Conference on Theoretical and Applied Ethics, Louisiana State University (2003 – revised version) and to the Auburn Philosophical Society, Auburn University (2001)
- “Interpretation and the Heterogeneity of Belief” to the Alabama Philosophical Society, Orange Beach, AL (2000)
- “Expressivism and the Frege-Geach Problem” to the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Sherbrooke (1999).
- “Quinean Indeterminism: Back From the Crypt?” to the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Ottawa (1998).

### **Professional Experience**

- Fall 2015 – present: Full Professor, UCO
- Fall 2011 – Fall 2015: Associate Professor, UCO
- Fall 2006 – Fall 2011: Assistant Professor, UCO
- Summer 2005 – Spring 2006: Visiting Assistant Professor, UCO
- Fall 2000 – Spring 2005: Visiting Assistant Professor, Auburn University
- Fall 1996 – Spring 1998: Graduate Teaching Associate, OSU
- Fall 1994 – Spring 1996: Teaching Assistant, OSU

### **Courses Taught**

- Contemporary Moral Problems* (UCO 2021)
- The Nature of Happiness* (UCO 2014-2015)
- Philosophy of Fiction* (UCO 2011-2012)
- Philosophy of Love and Friendship* (UCO 2011-2012)
- Canadian Politics and Culture* (1 credit course) (UCO 2011)
- Philosophy and Humanism* (UCO 2010-2014)
- Deconstruction* (UCO 2008-2009, 2018)
- Philosophy of Games* (UCO 2008-2020)
- The Nature of Evil* (UCO 2008-2012)
- Philosophy and Film* (UCO 2008-2009)
- Metaphysics* (UCO 2007-2022)
- Philosophy through Science Fiction* (UCO 2007-2008)
- Facts vs. Values* (UCO 2007-2008)
- Contemporary Philosophy* (UCO 2007-2023)
- Philosophy of Language* (UCO 2006-2019)
- Philosophy of Mind* (UCO 2006-2007, 2008-2020)
- Philosophy of Consciousness* (UCO 2006-2007)
- Ethical Theory* (UCO 2005-2017)
- Social and Political Philosophy* (UCO 2005-2022)
- Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence* (UCO 2005-2006)

*Theory of Knowledge* (UCO 2005-2006)  
*Biomedical Ethics* (UCO 2005-2006)  
*Business Ethics* (Auburn 2000-2005)  
*Introduction to Ethics* (The Ohio State University 1997-1998, Auburn 2000-2005)  
*Introduction to Philosophy* (The Ohio State University 1996-1997; UCO 2007-2023)

### **Service to the Profession**

Referee for *Idealistic Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Illuminace*, *British Journal of Aesthetics*, *Analysis*, *The Monist*, *Technology in Society*, *Erkenntnis*, *Disputatio, dialectica*, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *Journal of the Philosophy of Games*, *The Southwest Philosophical Review*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Techné: Research in Philosophy & Technology*, *Philosophy and Technology*, *The American Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Philosophy Compass*, *The Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Philosophia*, *Utopian Studies*

Reviewer of manuscripts for *Palgrave Macmillan*, *University of Edinburgh Press*, *The MIT Press*, *Routledge*, *Bloomsbury Press*

Co-supervisor for Philosophy PhD, Swansea University, 2021-present

Referee for the Digital Games Research Association (DiGRA) Conference, 2020-present

Referee for the American Society of Aesthetics, Eastern Division Meeting, 2020

Co-Organizer of The American Society of Aesthetics' Workshop on the Philosophy of Games (held online due to Covid-19), 2020

External P&T reviewer for Department of Geography and Philosophy, University of Minnesota-Duluth, 2019

External examiner for Philosophy PhD, Tallinn University, 2018 and 2021

Program Committee Member for the 12th International Conference on the Philosophy of Computer Games, 2018

Section Editor, *Journal of the Philosophy of Games*, 2017-present

External P&T reviewer for Department of Philosophy, Wichita State University, 2017

Judge for The American Philosophical Association's "Philosophy through Fiction" Competition, 2017

Scholarly Content Editor, *Ad Astra Speculative Fiction Journal*, 2014-2018

Southwestern Philosophical Society: President, 2015-2016, Vice President and Program Chair, 2014-2015, Executive Committee Member-at-Large, 2012-2014

Referee for the 2007, 2015, and 2016 Mountain Plains Philosophy Conference

External P&T reviewer for Arts & Technology Program, University of Texas at Dallas, 2014

Referee for the 2011-2020 Philosophy of Computer Games Conferences

Referee for the 2011-2018 Meetings of the Southwestern Philosophical Society

### **Institutional and Community Service**

Moderator, UCO International Gender & Sexuality Studies Conference, 2021-22

Moderator, Faculty/Staff reading group on *Moving Up Without Losing Your Way* by Jennifer Morton, 2020

Chair, Department of Humanities and Philosophy, 2016-present

Member, English – Creative Studies MA Thesis Committee, 2016

Philosophy Program Director, 2015-present

Departmental Core Curriculum Coordinator, 2014-2016

External examiner on MFA Thesis Committee, 2014

Chair, Humanities Tenure Committee, 2014  
Member of the UCO Academic Appeals Board, 2013-2016  
Regional Finals Judge, Oklahoma HS "Poetry Out Loud" competition, 2012-2015  
Chair, UCO Liberal Arts Symposium Committee, October 2008-2013  
Assistant Chair, UCO Humanities and Philosophy Department, 2008–2016  
Faculty Advisor for the UCO Chess and Games Club, September 2008-present  
Assistant Director, UCO Applied Liberal Arts Program, 2007–2020  
Faculty Advisor for the UCO Symposium of Philosophy (Undergrad Philosophy Club),  
2006-2019  
Member of UCO Passport Committee, 2009-2012  
Organizer of the annual Southwestern Conference for Undergraduate Philosophers at UCO,  
2006–2012, 2015-2019  
UCO Faculty Senate, 2007–2009  
*Ad hoc* member, UCO Faculty Senate's Student Relations subcommittee, 2006-2007  
Departmental Representative on UCO Liberal Arts Symposium committee, 2006-2008  
Departmental United Way representative at Auburn University, 2004-2005  
Judge for Auburn University's Undergraduate Research Forum, 2003  
Started the OSU Undergraduate Philosophy club and organized public lectures and social  
events for that organization, 1996-1998  
Grad Student Member of the Philosophy Dept. Undergrad Committee (OSU), 1996-1997  
Grad Student Member of the Philosophy Dept. Curriculum Committee (OSU), 1995-1996

### **Awards and Honors**

UCO Liberal Arts Faculty Member of the Year Award, 2014-2015  
UCO Student Organization Advisor of the Year, 2012-2013  
UCO Liberal Arts Annual Scholarship/Creative Activity Award, 2012-2013  
UCO Faculty Merit Credit Award (Research), 2010  
UCO Liberal Arts New Faculty Member of the Year Award, 2008-2009  
UCO Faculty Merit Credit Award (Research), 2008  
UCO Technology White Paper Grant, 2008  
The Canadian Philosophical Association's Annual Student Essay Prize, 1998.  
The Analytic Essay Prize, Internet Philosophy Forum, 1998.  
Recipient of University Fellowship at The Ohio State University, 1993-1994.  
Graduated with High Distinction from The University of Toronto, 1992.  
Trinity College Scholarship, University of Toronto, 1989-1990.

### **Professional Associations**

The American Philosophical Association  
The American Society for Aesthetics  
Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America

References available upon request.