

Kurt Smith, Ph.D.

CURRICULUM VITAE

218 Bakeless Center for the Humanities
Department of Philosophy
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Degrees

Ph.D. in philosophy, 1998, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA
M.A. in philosophy, 1993, Claremont Graduate University
B.A. in philosophy, 1991, University of California, Irvine, CA

Area of Specialization

History of Early Modern Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mathematics (early modern), Philosophy of Mind (early modern),
Ancient Philosophy, Medieval Philosophy, Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century
Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, and Philosophy of Social Science

Appointments

Professor, Bloomsburg University, 2013-present
Associate Professor, Bloomsburg University, 2005-2013
Assistant Professor, Bloomsburg University, 1999-2005
Visiting Assistant Professor, Claremont McKenna College, 1998-99

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- Visiting Fellow, Princeton University, Fall 2014
 - Visiting Fellow, Princeton University, Spring 2007

Research

Books

- (1) *Matter Matters: Metaphysics and Methodology in the Early Modern Period*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010, Paperback 2012.

- (2) *The Descartes Dictionary*. London: Bloomsbury Press, 2015.
- (3) *This is Modern Philosophy: An Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, forthcoming 2018.
- (4) *Simply Descartes*. New York: Simply Charly Press, forthcoming 2018.

Articles and Book Chapters

- (5) “Meditations by René Descartes” in Arc Digital’s *Medium* series: *The Greatest Works in Philosophy*, November 2, 2017 (online).
URL = <https://arcdigital.media/meditations-by-rene-descartes-5cfee16db7d9>
- (6) “Descartes on Ideas,” in *The Cartesian Mind*, Jorge Secada and Cecelia Wee (eds), London: Routledge, forthcoming 2018.
- (7) “Leibniz on Order, Harmony, and the Notion of Substance: Mathematizing the Sciences of Metaphysics and Physics,” in *The Language of Nature: Reconsidering the Mathematization of Science* (Chapter 9), Kenneth Waters, Geoffery Gorham, Edward Slowik, Benjamin Hill (eds). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016.
- (8) “Enumeration,” “Material Falsity,” “Hyperaspistes,” and “Vanini;” Entries in *The Cambridge Descartes Lexicon*, Lawrence Nolan (ed). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016.
- (9) “A Defense of Cartesian Clarity and Distinctness,” in *Battle of the Gods and Giants: Essays in Early Modern Philosophy*, Patricia Easton and Kurt Smith (eds). Leiden: Brill Press, 2015.
- (10) “Rationalism,” in *Oxford Bibliographies*, Duncan Prichard (ed), 2015.
- (11) “Descartes’s Theory of Ideas,” in *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), Currently Online, most recent update: 2017; URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/descartes-ideas/>
- (12) “Divisibility and Cartesian Extension” (with Alan Nelson), Chapter One, in *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy*, Volume V, Daniel Garber and Steven Nadler (eds). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010, pp. 1-24.
- (13) “Kausalitaet,” *Enzyklopädie der Neuzeit*, 15 Vols. Stuttgart: J.B. Metzler Verlag, 2007.
- (14) “Descartes’s Ontology of Sensation,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (Dec 2005), pp. 563-584.
- (15) “Rationalism and Representation,” in *A Companion to Rationalism*, Alan Nelson (ed). Oxford: Blackwell, 2005, pp. 206-223.
- (16) “Was Descartes’s Physics Mathematical?” *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (2003), pp. 245-256.
- (17) “Descartes’s Life and Works,” *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Original 2003; most recent update 2014), Edward N. Zalta (ed.),
URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2003/entries/descartes-works/>
- (18) “A General Theory of Cartesian Clarity and Distinctness Based on the Theory of Enumeration in the *Rules*,” *Dialogue*, Vol. XL, No. 2 (2001), pp. 279-309.

Articles and Book Chapters Outside AOS

- (19) "The Wealth of Colbert Nations" in *Stephen Colbert and Philosophy*, Aaron Schiller (ed). Peru, Illinois: Open Court, 2009, pp. 223-44.
- (20) "David Horowitz: Dishonest or Dialethist?" *The Old Trout* (Winter issue, 2006), p. 13.
- (21) "A Philosopher Looks at the *Academic Bill of Rights*," *Academe* (September-October issue, 2006), vol. 95, no. 5, pp. 29-32.
- (22) "The Limits of Horatio's Philosophy," in *Monty Python and Philosophy*, Gary Hardcastle and George Reisch (eds). Peru, Illinois: Open Court, 2006, pp. 37-51.

Published Reviews

- (23) *The Matter of Mind: Reason and Experience in the Age of Descartes*, Christopher Braider, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012, in *Modern Language Review*, Vol. 108, No. 4 (October 2013), pp. 1284-85.
- (24) *Occasionalism: Causation Among the Cartesians*, Steven Nadler, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010, in *Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 62, No. 248, (July 2012), p. 643.
- (25) *The Collapse of Mechanism and the Rise of Sensibility*, Stephen Gaukroger, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010, in *Mind*, Vol. 120, No. 479, (July 2011), pp. 860-63.
- (26) *Matters of Spirit: J.G. Fichte and the Technological Imagination*, F. Scott Scribner, State College: Penn State University Press, in *Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 64, Issue 4. (June 2011), pp. 880-82.
- (27) *Descartes and the Puzzle of Sensory Representation*, Raffaella De Rosa, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010, in *Philosophy in Review* (online; October 2010).
- (28) *Cogito?: Descartes and Thinking the World*, Joseph Almog, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (online 2009).
- (29) *The Good Life in the Scientific Revolution*, Matthew Jones, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2006, in *Renaissance Quarterly* Vol. 60, No. 2, (2007), pp. 634-44.
- (30) *Descartes's Concept of Mind*, Lilli Alanen, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003 in *The Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 56, No. 224, (July 2006), pp. 449-50.
- (31) *Newton's Forgotten Lunar Theory: His Contribution to the Quest for Longitude*, Nicholas Kollerstrom, Santa Fe: Green Lion Press, 2000, in *ISIS*, Vol. 96, No. 3, (September 2005), pp. 437-8.
- (32) *Emotion and Choice From Boethius to Descartes*, ed. H. Lagerlund and M. Yrjonsuuri, Dordrecht: Kluwer, 2002, in *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*, Vol. XLII, No. 1, (January 2004), pp. 98-9.
- (33) *Descartes's Dualism*, Marleen Rozemond, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002 in *Renaissance Quarterly* Vol. 56, No. 4, (Winter 2003), pp. 1285-86.
- (34) *The Cambridge History of Seventeenth-Century Philosophy*, 2 vols., edited by Daniel Garber and Michael Ayers. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998, for *The Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 53, No. 4, (June 2000), pp. 927-29.

(35) *Studies in Seventeenth-Century European Philosophy*, vol. 2 of Oxford Studies in the History of Philosophy, edited by M.A. Stewart, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997, for *The Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 53, No. 3, (March 2000), pp. 735-36.

(36) *Descartes' Meditations: Critical Essays*, edited by Vere Chappell, New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1997, in *The Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 53, No. 2, (December 1999), pp. 434-35.

(37) *Logic and the Workings of the Mind: the Logic of Ideas and Faculty Psychology in Early Modern Philosophy*, Vol. 5, edited by Patricia Easton, Atascadero: Ridgeview Publishing Company, 1997, in *The Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 52, No. 4, (June 1999), pp. 940-41.

Presentations (Conferences, Workshops, Colloquium Talks, Radio)

(1) "Rethinking Philosophy's History: An Update," Keynote Address for the 2017 Southern Utah University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, at Southern Utah University, February 25, 2017.

(2) "Synthesizing Descartes on Analysis," with Alan Nelson (UNC Chapel Hill), for The Descartes Society, at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division meetings, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Monday, December 29, 2014.

(3) "Navigating the Kingdom of Darkness: Early Modern Explorations into the Unconscious," at Claremont Graduate University, Seminar, February 15, 2013.

(4) "Was Hobbes an Idealist?" Colloquium Talk, Claremont Graduate University, February 14, 2013.

(5) "Mathematical Models of Unity and Harmony in Seventeenth-Century Natural Philosophy: The Universality of the Laws of Nature," at The Language of Nature: Reconsidering the Mathematization of Science (inaugural workshop, partnership between Rotman Institute of Philosophy, University of Western Ontario, and Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Minnesota), October 11-14, 2012.

(6) "Hobbes on the Preservation of Motion," at The Mid-Atlantic Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Princeton University, April 11-12, 2012.

(7) "Was Hobbes an Idealist?," at Workshops in Early Modern Philosophy, UNC Chapel Hill, March 16, 2012.

(8) "Hobbes on the Preservation of Motion," at the Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, November 15, 2011.

(9) "Was Hobbes an Idealist?," at Cornell University (Sage School of Philosophy), the Upstate New York Workshop in Early Modern Philosophy, October 30, 2011.

(10) "Descartes and the *A Priori*," at the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, Princeton University, July 15, 2010.

(11) "Reconciling Two Competing Readings of Descartes's Position on Corporeal Substance," at Cartesian Colloquium, sponsored by the Upstate New York Early Modern Reading Group, at Syracuse University, March 6, 2010.

- (12) "Lennon on Cartesian Clarity and Distinctness: A Critique," at the Bradshaw Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, Claremont Graduate University, December 4 and 5, 2009.
- (13) "Metaphysics, Mathematics, and Metaphor: Leibniz on Unity and Harmony," Mid-Atlantic Early Modern Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, January 31, 2009.
- (14) "The Wealth of Colbert Nations: The Free Market and Privatization of Higher Education," International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Freedom and Sovereignty, Globalization and Colonization, Davis and Elkins College, West Virginia, November 2008.
- (15) "Matter Matters," Fourth Biennial Margaret Dauler Wilson Philosophy Conference, Cornell University, June 30-July 2, 2008.
- (16) "Debunking the Direct Realist Reading of Descartes," Mini-Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April 24, 2008.
- (17) "Corporate U," an NPR interview, on WUNC, "The State of Things," with host Frank Stasio. April 24, 2008.
- (18) "Academe At War: The Western Front," invited talk, California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, campus-wide talk, February 27, 2008.
- (19) "Locating Cartesian Ideas on Plato's Divided Line," invited talk, California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, department colloquium, February 25, 2008.
- (20) "Descartes on Body," invited talk, The Descartes Research Group, University of Western Ontario, November 6, 2007.
- (21) "Cartesian Body and Divisibility," invited talk, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, department colloquium, March 28, 2007.
- (22) "Academe At War: A Critical Look at David Horowitz's Attack on Academic Freedom," invited talk, Parr Center For Ethics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, March 31, 2007.
- (23) "The State of Academic Freedom," an NPR interview, on WUNC "The State of Things," host Frank Stasio (30 minute program), March 30, 2007.
- (24) "The Future of Academic Freedom: A Debate With David Horowitz," on DVD, Mitriani Hall, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, September 19, 2006.
- (25) "A Critical Look at PA House Resolution 177," talk at *Freedom Threatened? Teaching in Today's Politically Charged Classroom*, Gettysburg College, March 24, 2006.
- (26) "Descartes and Malebranche on Consciousness," invited talk, New England Early Modern Reading Group, Brown University, February 24, 2006.
- (27) "Mathematics and the Nature of Matter," invited talk, Claremont Graduate University, colloquium series, March 3, 2006.
- (28) "Indefectibility, Division and Substance," invited talk, Southern California Cartesian Circle Meeting, University of California, Irvine, September 16, 2005.
- (29) "Descartes's Ontology of Sensation," invited colloquium talk, the University of Western Ontario, April 23, 2004.
- (30) "Why Matter Matters" at the Eastern Pennsylvania Philosophical Association, held at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, April 17, 2004.

- (31) "Descartes and Spinoza on Indivisibility, the Impossibility of the Vacuum, and Corporeal Substance," at the Southern California Philosophy Conference, held at University of California at Riverside, October 25, 2003 (co-presentation with Professor Alan Nelson, University of California at Irvine).
- (32) "The Nature of Matter and Inherent Mathematical Structure," Invited talk for the Early Modern Seminar, Claremont Graduate University, October 24, 2003.
- (33) "Leibniz and Corporeal Substance," at the Mid-Atlantic Early Modern Seminar, held at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, May 21-24, 2003.
- (34) "Early Leibniz and the Role of Enumeration," at The International Young Leibniz Conference, held at Rice University, Houston, Texas, April 18-21, 2003.
- (35) "Mathematizing the Physical World: The Place of Enumeration in Early Modern Physics," History of Philosophy of Science Working Group (HOPOS 2002), Fourth Biennial Congress, Montreal, June 2002.
- (36) "Substancehood and the Divisibility of Cartesian Body," Southern California Cartesian Circle Meeting, the University of California at Irvine, May 2002.
- (37) "Does Descartes's Position on the Infinite Divisibility of Extension Entail that Body is not a Substance?: The Puzzle of Cartesian Atomism," Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia, Colloquium Series, March 2002.
- (38) "Does Descartes's Position on the Infinite Divisibility of Matter Entail that Body is Not a Substance?: The Puzzle of Cartesian Atoms." Presented at the New England Conference on Early Modern Philosophy, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, May 2001.
- (39) "Cartesian Minds: Inside and Out." Presented at University of California, Irvine, Southern California Cartesian Circle Meeting, May, 2000.
- (40) "A General Theory of Clarity and Distinctness in Descartes's Rules." Presented at the National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar, "Descartes and His Contemporaries," Virginia Tech, VA, July 2000.
- (41) "A General Theory of Clarity and Distinctness in Descartes's Rules," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meetings, Boston, December 1999.
- (42) "Descartes and Arnauld on Material Falsity," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meetings, Philadelphia, December 1997.

Work in Progress

- *Navigating the Kingdom of Darkness: Early Modern Explorations into the Unconscious.* This is a scholarly book project intended for Oxford University Press.
- "Was Hobbes an Idealist?" This is a paper intended for a peer-reviewed journal.
- "Hobbes and the Preservation of Motion" This is a paper intended for a peer-reviewed journal.

Research Tools

Latin, Greek, French (read)

Awards (Competitive)

- (1) **Grant:** Sabbatical, Fall 2014. (In connection to this, officially appointed visitor at Princeton University)
- (2) Bloomsburg University's Institute in Culture and Society: Faculty research award (for *Matter Matters*), 2011.
- (3) **Grant:** Selected participant in National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, "Galileo, Descartes, and Hobbes," Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, July-August 2010, Seminar Leaders: Daniel Garber and Roger Ariew.
- (4) **Grant:** Sabbatical, Spring 2007. (In connection to this, officially appointed visitor at Princeton University)
- (5) **Grant:** Selected participant in National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, "The Intersection of Philosophy, Science, and Theology in the Seventeenth Century," University of Wisconsin, Madison, July 2004, Seminar Leaders: Steven Nadler and Donald Rutherford.
- (6) *Dean's Salute to Excellence*, 2003-2004, Bloomsburg University (this is a teaching award).
- (7) **Grant:** Recipient of 2002-2003 Reassignment Time Grant (for Fall 2002) for writing "Does Descartes's Position on the Infinite Divisibility of Extension Entail that Body is not a Substance?: The Puzzle of Cartesian Atomism?"
- (8) *Dean's Salute to Excellence*, 2000-2001, Bloomsburg University (this is a teaching award).
- (9) **Grant:** Recipient of 2001 Faculty Development/Grant Opportunities (Summer) for the completion of the Stanford Encyclopedia Article, "Descartes's Life and Works."
- (10) **Grant:** Selected participant in National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, "Descartes and His Contemporaries," Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia, June 18-July 14, 2000. Seminar Leaders: Daniel Garber and Roger Ariew.

Professional Service

Department

- Hiring Committees (for both full-time and adjunct positions)
- Evaluation Committees
- Sabbatical Committees
- Five-Year Review Committees
- Tenure Committee
- Promotion Committees

College and University

- Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee (Chair 2015)
- Meet and Discuss (faculty union committee)

Public Relations Committee (faculty union committee)
Grievance Committee (faculty union committee)
University-wide Tenure Committee
Student Life Committee

Profession (as reviewer or referee)

Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie
The Canadian Journal of Philosophy
Mind
Synthese
Philosophical Quarterly
Philosophical Imprints
Perspectives in Science
Journal of the History of Philosophy
Southern Journal of Philosophy
Renaissance Quarterly
American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly
Isis
Oxford Bibliographies
Kenyon College (Tenure Reviewer)
Cornell University Press
Columbia University Press
Continuum Press
Rowan & Littlefield
MIT Press
National Science Foundation
The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Netherlands Organization and Scientific Research
Czech Science Foundation
Wadsworth Publishing

Professional References

Principal

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Additional

Roger Ariew (University of South Florida) (813) 974-8207
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Daniel Garber (Princeton University) (609) 258-4307
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