

George Wrisley

Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Georgia

(Gainesville)

gwrисley@ung.edu

www.georgewrisley.com

Areas of Specialization

Wittgenstein, Dōgen, Nietzsche, Zen Buddhism
Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Language

Areas of Competence

Ethics, Epistemology,
and East-Asian Buddhism and Philosophy

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Iowa.

Received: May 2008

Dissertation: *Realism and Conceptual Relativity*

M.A. Philosophy, Georgia State University

Received: May 2002

2001-02 Semester at Universität Bielefeld, Germany, working on Wittgenstein
with Eike von Savigny and Joachim Schulte.

Thesis: *Wittgenstein's Conception of the Autonomy of Language and its Implications for
Natural Kinds*

B.A. Philosophy, University of Georgia

Received: August 1998

Publications

In Print

- *Dōgen's texts: Manifesting Religion and/as Philosophy?* Eds. Ralf Müller and George Wrisley. Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions and Cultures. Springer. December, 2023.
- "Philosophy, Not-Philosophy, *Non-Philosophy*—Dōgen's *Religio-Philosophical Zen*." In *Dōgen's texts: Manifesting Religion and/as Philosophy?* Eds. Ralf Müller and George Wrisley. Sophia Studies in Cross-cultural Philosophy of Traditions and Cultures. Springer. December, 2023. Pages 145-164
- "Revitalizing the Familiar: A Practical Application of Dōgen's Transformative Zen." In *Introduction to Buddhist East Asia: An Interdisciplinary Resource*. Eds. Robert H. Scott and James McRae. SUNY Press. 2023. Pages 131-157.

- “The Role of Compassion in Actualizing Dōgen’s Zen.” *Japan Studies Review*. Volume XXIV. 2020. Pages 111-136.
- Four chapters on Ad Hominem fallacies: (8) Bias, (9) Circumstantial, (10) Direct, (11) *Tu Quoque*. In *Bad Arguments: 100 of the Most Important Fallacies in Western Philosophy*. Eds. R. Arp, S. Barbone, and M. Bruce. Wiley-Blackwell. 2019. Pages 71-93.
- Two chapters on Appeal to Emotion fallacies: (13) Force or Fear, and (14) Pity. In *Bad Arguments: 100 of the Most Important Fallacies in Western Philosophy*. Eds. R. Arp, S. Barbone, and M. Bruce. Wiley-Blackwell. 2019. Pages 98-105.
- “The Nietzschean Bodhisattva—Passionately Navigating Indeterminacy.” In *The Significance of Indeterminacy: Perspectives from Asian and Continental Philosophy*. Part of the Routledge series *Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy*. Eds. Robert H. Scott and Gregory Moss. July 2019. Pages 309-329.
- “Beyond Sexism: The Importance of an Intersectional Approach to Confucianism.” Co-authored with Samantha Pinson Wrisley. In *Feminist Encounters with Confucius*, eds., Mathew A. Foust and Sor-hoon Tan, Brill Press. December 2016. Pages 69-97.
- “Why Not ‘City Sounds, Urban Colors’?” In *Papers from the 2014 University of Tokyo - University of Hawai’i Summer Residential Institute in Comparative Philosophy*. Eds. Roger T. Ames et al. The University of Tokyo Center for Philosophy-Uehiro Collection 9. August 2015.
- “Davidson on the Very Idea of a Conceptual Scheme.” In *Just the Arguments: 100 of the Most Important Arguments in Western Philosophy*. Eds. M. Bruce and S. Barbone. Wiley-Blackwell: October 2011. Pages 162-168.
- “Wittgenstein’s Private Language Argument.” In *Just the Arguments: 100 of the Most Important Arguments in Western Philosophy*. Eds. M. Bruce and S. Barbone. Wiley-Blackwell: October 2011. Pages 350-354.
- “Wherefore the Failure of Private Ostension?” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 89:3, September 2011. Pages 483-498.
- “Private Language,” with Stewart Candlish. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Ed. E. N. Zalta. <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/private-language/> September 2008. In 2007 Candlish invited me to take over responsibility for revising the article every four years. Since the 2008 edition, I am responsible for sections 1.1 and 1.2, as well as minor revisions throughout.
- “Rules, Language, and Reality.” *Philosophy Now: a magazine of ideas*. Issue 58. November/December 2006. Pages 15-18.

Reviews

- Reviewer for *Choice*. 21 reviews since 2015.
- Review of *Wittgenstein's Account of Truth*. By Sarah Ellenbogen. (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003), *Philosophy in Review – Comptes rendus philosophiques*, Volume XXIII, No. 6 (2003): 383-385.

Teaching Experience**University of North Georgia****Special Topics Courses PHIL 4900**

- Nietzsche: Spring 2024
- Philosophy and Physics: Special Relativity & Quantum Mechanics: Fall 2023
- Philosophy of Music: Fall 2022
- Nihilism, Science, & Technology: Spring 2020
- Buddhism: Fall 2017
- Philosophy and Science: Fall 2016
- Reason and Violence: Fall 2015.
- Power and Oppression: Fall 2014.
- Buddhism and Enlightenment: Fall 2013.
- Death and Awe: Fall 2012.
- Happiness and Suffering: Fall 2011.

Other 3000-4000 Courses

- Metaphysics: Spring 2011, Summer 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2016, Fall 2018.
- Epistemology: Spring 2012.
- Philosophy of Language: Spring 2015, Fall 2020
- Philosophy of Mind: Fall 2019
- Philosophy of Religion: Spring 2019, Spring 2022
- Political & Social Philosophy: Spring 2018

Lower Level and Core Curriculum

- Ethics from a Global Perspective: Summer 2011 – Fall 2023.
- Introduction to Philosophy: Fall 2010 – Fall 2023.
- Logic: Fall 2010 – Spring 2024.
- Critical Thinking: Spring 2023.

The George Washington University

- **Introduction to Logic**, 3 sections (Adjunct Instructor) **Fall 2009 – Spring 2010**.

The Catholic University of America

- **Symbolic Logic**, 1 section (Adjunct Instructor) **Spring 2010**. Included philosophy graduate students.

Texas Lutheran University

- **Introduction to Philosophy**, 3 sections (Adjunct Instructor) **Fall 2008 – Spring 2009.**

Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

- **Philosophy and Critical Thinking**, 4 sections (Adjunct Instructor) **Fall 2008 – Spring 2009.**

Northwest Vista College, San Antonio, Texas

- **Ethics**, 2 sections (Adjunct Instructor) **Fall 2008.**

Presentations**Invited Papers**

- “The Buddha Still Rides a Bike: Wittgenstein, Dōgen, and the Entanglement of Language and Enlightenment.” UTCP. University of Tokyo, December 2012.

Invited Talks

- “Approaching Dōgen’s Zen through Aristotle’s Understanding of *Eudaimonia* as a Lifetime of Virtuous Activity.” Invited by Professor Aldo Tollini to give a one-day online seminar for the Dharma Academy (<https://dharma-academy.it/>), May 30th, 2022.
- “Buddhism and Equanimity: The Importance of Weighing Emptiness.” Young Harris College. April 2014.
- “Beyond Sexism: The Importance of an Intersectional Approach to Confucianism.” University of Georgia. March 2014.
- “A Comparison of Western and Japanese Conceptions of Beauty.” University of Georgia Philosophy Honors Society. November 2013.

Conferences and Workshops

- “Dōgen as Philosopher, Dōgen’s *Philosophical Zen*.” Presented at the workshop, “Dōgen’s texts: Manifesting philosophy and/as/of religion?” January 21-23, 2021.
- “Dōgen’s Shōbōgenzō is Supersaturated with Philosophy as Philosophical Response, Expression, and Facilitation.” Eastern APA. *Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy*; Topic: Dōgen as Founder, Dōgen as Philosopher, and Related Paradigms. January 9th, 2020.
- Symposium and Round Table Discussion titled: “The Roots of Dōgen Studies: The Life and Thought of Zen Master Dōgen,” Florida International Univ., March 29, 2019. Invited by Steven Heine.
- “Philosophy as Good for Nothing: Wittgenstein, Socrates, and the Ends and End of Philosophy.” Presented at the 8th *Regional Wittgenstein Workshop* at the Virginia Military Institute, April 14th, 2018.
- “Letting Go of the ‘I’: Nietzsche, Suicidal Nihilism, and the Bodhisattva Ideal.” *Georgia Philosophical Society* Conference, April 2017.
- “Why Not ‘City Sounds, Urban Colors’?” *Georgia Philosophical Society* Conference, April 2016.

- “The Implications of Wittgenstein’s Notion of the Autonomy of Language for Buddhist Emptiness—Challenging Siderits’s Semantic Interpretation of the Mādhyamika Understanding of Emptiness.” *Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy* group meeting at the 2014 Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in San Diego, April 2014.
- “The Problem of Words and Silence: Reconciling Conceptualism with the Ineffability of Buddhist Enlightenment.” *Georgia Philosophical Society* Conference, November 2013.
- “Why Happiness is not *the* Proper End of a Human Life.” *Kentucky Philosophical Association* Conference, April 2011.
- “Truth, Nonsense, and the Meaningfulness of Ostensive Gestures.” *North American Wittgenstein Society* group meeting at the 2010 Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in San Francisco, March 2010.
- “Is Putnam’s Notion of Conceptual Relativity an Ontological Godsend?” *Iowa Philosophical Society* Conference, September 2006.
- “Realism, Putnam, and Multiple Descriptions of the World.” *Midsouth Philosophy Conference*, February 2006.

In-House Conferences

University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society Conferences

- “Is the Metaphysical Realist Committed to There Being One True and Complete Description of the World?” November 2006.
- “Realism and Multiple Descriptions of the World,” November 2005.
- “Nietzsche, Two Ideals, and the Meaningfulness of Suffering,” November 2004.
- “The Importance of Being Seemly: The Role of *Decorum* in Cicero’s *De Officiis*,” April 2004.

University of Iowa Jakobson Conferences

- “Realism, Putnam, and Multiple Descriptions of the World,” (revised) March 2006.
- “The Viability of Kuhn’s Later Notion of Local Incommensurability,” April 2005.

Georgia State University Phi Sigma Tau Colloquiums

- “Wittgenstein’s Conception of Grammar,” 2001.
- “Wittgenstein’s Private Language Argument,” 2000.

Commentary

- Commentary on: “Bringing Meaning Back to the Natural World: Worldview Transformation and Nonconceptual Meaning” by Clint Johnson. *Georgia Philosophical Society* Conference, April 2016.
- Commentator on: “An Affront Against Life: Nietzsche’s Critique of Christianity and His Redemption of the World” by A.J. Snelson. *Kentucky Philosophical Association* Conference, April 2011.
- Commentator on: “How Not to Read Quine on Underdetermination” by Rogerio Severo. *University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society* spring Conference, 2006.
- Commentator on: “Depicting Reality: Pictures and Isomorphism” by Todd Kukla. *Midsouth Philosophy Conference*, February 2006.

- Commentator on: “An ‘Understanding of PI §43 Aided by a Genetic Analysis of the *Philosophical Investigations*” by Craig Fox. *University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society* spring Conference, 2005.

Scholarly Activities

- Guest Editor for *Religions* special issue: "Language and Concepts in Relation to Enlightenment on and off the Cushion in Chan/Zen Buddhism." 2020.
- Participant in the University of Tokyo-University of Hawaii Summer Residential Institute in Comparative Philosophy, August 4th, 2014 to August 22nd, 2014.
- Participant in the University of Tokyo-University of Hawaii Summer Residential Institute in Comparative Philosophy, July 30th, 2012 to August 17th, 2012.
- Research Assistant to David Stern, 2003-2004. Journal research and proof reading for *Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations: An Introduction*. (Cambridge University Press, 2004.)
- Responsible for the original English translation from the German of “Taking avowals seriously: The soul a public affair.” By Eike von Savigny. In *Working Papers from the Wittgenstein Archives at the University of Bergen*. Eds. Alois Pichler and Simo Säätelä., No. 17, 2005.
- Edited English translation, “Private Language – Private Rules – Private Sensations: A Draw Position?” By Eike von Savigny. In *Wittgenstein and the Future of Philosophy: A reassessment after 50 years*. (Wien) 2002, 389-398.

Service

To the Profession

- Reviewed books for Cambridge and Springer.
- Referee for *Philosophical Papers*
- Referee for the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- Referee for the *Polish Journal of Philosophy*
- Referee for *Mind*
- Referee for *Philosophy East and West*
- Referee for *Theoria*
- Referee for *Religions*
- Reviewer for *Choice*

Languages

- Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking German.

Professional Affiliations

- Society for Asian & Comparative Philosophy 2013-present.
- American Philosophical Association, 2005-present.
- University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society, 2004-2008.