

George Wrisley

Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Georgia

(Dahlonega/Gainesville)

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Areas of Specialization

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

Areas of Competence

Ethics, Epistemology,
and East-Asian 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 to study German and work 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

Teaching Experience

University of North Georgia

- **Buddhism**, (Associate Professor) **Fall 2017**
- **Philosophy and Science**, (Associate Professor) **Fall 2016**
- **Reason and Violence**, (Assistant Professor) **Fall 2015.**
- **Philosophy of Language**, (Assistant Professor) **Spring 2015.**
- **Power and Oppression**, (Assistant Professor) **Fall 2014.**
- **Buddhism and Enlightenment**, (Assistant Professor) **Fall 2013.**
- **Death and Awe**, (Assistant Professor) **Fall 2012.**
- **Epistemology**, (Visiting Professor) **Spring 2012.**
- **Happiness and Suffering**, (Visiting Professor) **Fall 2011.**
- **Metaphysics**, (Visiting Professor) **Spring 2011, Summer 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2016.**
- **Ethics from a Global Perspective** (Visiting/Assistant Professor) **Summer 2011 –Fall 2015.**
- **Introduction to Philosophy**, (Visiting Professor) **Fall 2010 – Fall 2011; Spring 2016.**
- **Logic**, 7 sections (Visiting/Assistant Professor) **Fall 2010 – Fall 2015.**

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**.

Publications**Forthcoming**

- “The Nietzschean Bodhisattva—Passionately Navigating Indeterminacy.” Forthcoming in the tentatively titled *The Significance of Indeterminacy: Perspectives from Asian and Continental Philosophy*. To be published in the Routledge series *Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy*. Eds. Robert H. Scott and Gregory Moss.

In Print

- “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.
- “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.
- “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.
- “Wherefore the Failure of Private Ostension?” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 89:3, September 2011. 483-498.

- “Conservation Easements.” In the *Encyclopedia of Environmental Issues*. Ed. C.W. Allin. 4 Volumes. Salem Press. May 2011. 294-296.
- “Natural Capital.” In the *Encyclopedia of Environmental Issues*. Ed. C.W. Allin. 4 Volumes. Salem Press. May 2011. 858-859.
- “Escaping the Island of Ethical Subjectivism: Don’t Let Ben Help to Bring You Back.” In *Lost and Philosophy*, 2nd Edition. Ed. S. Kaye. The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series. November 2010. [Revision of Wrisley 2007.]
- “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. For the 2008 edition I am responsible for sections 1.1 and 1.2, as well as minor revisions throughout.
- “The Island of Ethical Subjectivism: Not the Paradise of *Lost*.” In *Lost and Philosophy*. Ed. S. Kaye. The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series. November 2007.
- “Rules, Language, and Reality.” *Philosophy Now: a magazine of ideas*. Issue 58. November/December 2006. 15-18.

Review

- 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.

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

- “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

- “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 spring 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 spring 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 spring 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

- 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.

Honors and Awards

University of North Georgia

- Governor’s Teaching Fellow, 2014.
- Excellence Teaching Award for Active Learning, 2012

University of Iowa

- Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship 2007-2008.
- Summer Research Fellowship, 2006.
- Teaching Assistantship 2003-2007.
- Fellowship 2002-2003.

Georgia State University

- *Phi Sigma Tau*, National Honor Society for Philosophy. Recognized for exceptional academic achievement and scholarship, 2000 and 2001.

Service

To the Profession

- Referee for the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
- Referee for the *Polish Journal of Philosophy*
- Referee for *Mind*
- Referee for *Philosophy East and West*
- Reviewer for *Choice*

To the University of Iowa Department and Colleagues

- Webmaster, University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society, 2005-2008.

- Vice President, University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society, 2004-2005.
- Cofounder and Vice President of the University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society, Spring 2004.
- Co-organizer of four University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society conferences Spring 2004- Spring 2005.

To Fellow Students

- Senator for Graduate and Professional Student Senate, 2004-2005.

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.