

# SAID SAILLANT

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## CURRENT RESEARCH POSITION

Fellow in Philosophy, Harvard University 2017-PRESENT

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2011-2017

Dissertation: *Darwinian Humility: Epistemological Applications of Evolutionary Science*

Committee: Roger White (chair), Kieran Setiya, Philip Kitcher, & Alex Byrne

Grants & Fellowships: Presidential Fellowship, Kelly Douglas Research Grant (awarded twice), Steven Lerman Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate Student Council Travel Fund Grant

Certification: Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program (Teaching & Learning Laboratory)

Ivy-Plus Exchange Scholar Program, Columbia University Spring 2015

B.A. in Philosophy, Cognitive Science, & Psychology, Rutgers-New Brunswick 2007-2011

*Triple major. Summa cum laude. McNair scholar. Highest possible general and departmental honors.*

Honors & Awards: Henry Rutgers Thesis Award (awarded twice, for honors theses in Philosophy and Psychology), Jacob Cooper Prize in Logic, Rutgers College Honors Award, Aresty Research Scholarship (awarded twice), Rutgers National Scholarship, Dean's List

International Honor Societies: Phi Beta Kappa, Psi Chi (Psychology), Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy)

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION & COMPETENCE

*AOS*

Epistemology, Philosophy of Biology

Meta-Ethics, Applied Ethics (esp.

Epistemic Injustice)

*AOC*

Philosophy of Mind & Cognitive Science, Logic

Philosophy & Cognitive Science of Religion

Evolutionary Psychology

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Evolutionary Challenge and the Evolutionary Debunking of Morality”

“The Epistemic Upshot of Adaptationist Explanation”

“Morality as Bullshit: An Evolutionary Perspective”

“Does Truth Ground Knowledge? Three Counterexamples to Transitivity”

## PRESENTATIONS

### TALKS

6/8 “Why the KK Principle Does Not Concern Us,” Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Lima)

3/18 “Did Moral Knowledge Evolve?,” Mind and Morality Lab, Boston University

2/17 Comments on Katia Vavova’s “A Dilemma for Darwinian Debunkers,” MITing of the Minds MIT Alumni Conference in Philosophy

1/17 Comments on Parisa Moosavi’s “On the Concept of Organism in Biology,” Eastern APA (Baltimore)

- 9/16 “The Evolutionary Challenge and the Evolutionary Debunking of Morality,” IX Conference of the American Association of Mexican Philosophers, Syracuse University
- 7/16 “The Evolutionary Challenge and the Evolutionary Debunking of Morality,” IV Conference of the Brazilian Society for Analytic Philosophy, Campinas (Brazil)
- 9/15 “An Armchair Argument for the Fact of Evolution,” MATTI (MIT graduate workshop)
- 3/15 “The Evolutionary Rebuttal of Skepticism,” Graduate Workshop in Philosophy, Columbia University
- 7/14 “The Demise of Moral Philosophy?,” European Epistemology Network Meeting, Autonomous University of Madrid
- 6/14 “The Evolutionary Rebuttal of Skepticism,” P-G Seminar Series, Leeds University  
 “The Evolutionary Rebuttal of Skepticism,” Ockham Society, Oxford University  
 “The Demise of Moral Philosophy?,” Political Philosophy Research Group, Copenhagen University  
 “How External World Skeptics Are Creationists,” Higher Seminar in Theoretical Philosophy, Uppsala University (Sweden)  
 “The Demise of Moral Philosophy?,” New Moral Intuitionism: Its Possibilities and Challenges, Gdansk University (Poland)  
 “The Demise of Moral Philosophy?,” Research Unit for Ethics, Legal, and Political Philosophy, Aarhus University (Denmark)
- 5/14 “The Demise of Moral Philosophy?,” OZSW Graduate Conference in Theoretical Philosophy, VU University-Amsterdam  
 “Evolution and Our Reliability about Everything,” Department of Philosophy and the Moral Sciences, Ghent University (Belgium)
- 3/14 Comments on Mark Makin’s “Rigid/Generic Grounding and Transitivity,” Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference in Philosophy (MIT)
- 1/14 “Evolution and Our Reliability about Everything,” MITing of the Minds
- 5/12 “Defective by Design: Debunking Religious Belief,” Eminees Harvard-MIT Graduate Workshop in Philosophy (Harvard)
- 8/10 “Glut Varieties and a Modal Conception of Truth,” Truth Matters: An International Conference, University of Toronto
- 4/10 “The Logic of Mentalistic and Physicalistic Language,” Pacific APA (San Francisco)
- GUEST LECTURES*
- 4/16 “Hume on Induction,” Classics of Western Philosophy, Sally Haslanger @ MIT
- 4/14 “The Lottery Paradox,” Theory of Knowledge, Declan Smithies @ MIT
- 3/14 “The Evolutionary Etiology of Belief,” Disagreement & Testimony, Dilip Ninan @ Tufts
- 10/10 “How the Mind Represents the Soul,” Soul Beliefs, Daniel M. Ogilvie @ Rutgers

## EXPERIENCE

- Senior Teaching Fellow**, Harvard College and Harvard Kennedy School 3 TERMS
- Spring 2018: Happiness (Susanna Rinard; susannarinard@fas.harvard.edu)  
Killing and Letting Lie (Frances Kamm; frances\_kamm@harvard.edu)
- Fall 2017: Philosophy of Probability (Susanna Rinard)  
Metaphysics (Andrew Graham; agraaham@fas.harvard.edu)
- Spring 2016: Philosophy of Psychology (Güven Güzeldere: email address unknown)
- Fellow in Ethics and Biology**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem 5/17-6/17
- Writing Advisor**, MIT 2 TERMS
- Spring 2016: Classics of Western Philosophy (Sally Haslanger; shaslang@mit.edu)  
Spring 2014: Bioethics (Julia Markovitz; markovits@cornell.edu)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant**, MIT 5 TERMS
- Fall 2014: Minds & Machines (Alex Byrne; abyrne@mit.edu)  
Spring 2014: Theory of Knowledge (Declan Smithies; smithies.2@osu.edu)  
Fall 2013: Philosophy of Language (Justin Khoo; jkhoo@mit.edu)  
Spring 2013: Minds & Machines (Alex Byrne)  
Fall 2012: Problems of Philosophy (Caspar Hare; casparh@mit.edu)
- Research Aide in Epistemology**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2/10-4/10
- Research Scholar in Psychology**, Rutgers-New Brunswick 9/09-5/11

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

### *EPISTEMOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE*

- Explanation (Brad Skow)
- Survey in Epistemology (Roger White)
- The Epistemic Role of Consciousness (Declan Smithies)
- Disagreement and Testimony (Dilip Ninan | Tufts)
- Ethics of Belief (Susanna Rinard | Harvard)
- Rational Inquiry (Jane Friedman | NYU)

### *HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY*

- Proseminar I: Frege to Carnap (Richard Holton & Agustin Rayo)
- Proseminar II: Quine to Kripke (Robert Stalnaker & Stephen Yablo)
- Leibniz: Contingency, Idealism, and Realism (Jeff McDonough | Harvard)
- Aristotle (Russell Jones | Harvard)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Century Substance Ontology (Martha Brandt Bolton | Rutgers)

### *METAPHYSICS AND MIND*

- Representation and Fragmentation (Agustin Rayo)
- Objectivity (Sally Haslanger & Stephen Yablo)

Metaphysical Grounding (Selim Berker | Harvard)  
Phenomenal Consciousness (Brian McLaughlin | Rutgers)  
Metaphysics and Intentional Content (Christopher Peacocke | Columbia)

*LOGIC, LANGUAGE, AND VALUE THEORY*

Conditionals (Robert Stalnaker)  
Survey in Normative Ethics (Caspar Hare)  
Philosophy of Religion (Alex Byrne & Rae Langton)  
Alternatives to, and Extensions of, Classical Logic (Brian Weatherson | Rutgers)  
Metaethics (Selim Berker | Harvard)  
Neuroscience and Moral Responsibility (Walter Sinnott-Armstrong | HUJI)

SERVICE

*TO PROFESSION*

Founder and President of Societas Sapiens (a nonprofit academic translation press)  
Referee for *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*  
Volunteer for French Embassy's NYC 2015 *A Night of Philosophy*

*TO UNIVERSITY*

Member of the MIT Think Tank  
Judge for the 2017 MIT INSPIRE High School Competition  
Reviewer for the MIT Graduate Student Council Travel Fund

*TO DEPARTMENT*

Referee for the Harvard-MIT Graduate Conference in Philosophy  
Coordinator of the 2014-2015 MIT Graduate Teaching Training in Philosophy  
Co-Organizer of the 2013-2014 MIT Colloquia Series in Philosophy  
Organizer of the Fall 2013 MIT Reading Group in Evolutionary Debunking  
Co-Organizer of the 2013 MITing of the Minds (MIT alumni conference)

REFERENCES

Roger White  
Professor of Philosophy  
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Kieran Setiya  
Professor of Philosophy  
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Susanna Rinard  
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Alex Byrne  
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Tufts University  
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Philip Kitcher  
John Dewey Professor of Philosophy  
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