

SAID SAILLANT

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CURRENT 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. Highest possible general and departmental honors. McNair Scholar.

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

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

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION & COMPETENCE

AOS

Epistemology, Philosophy of Biology

Meta-Ethics

AOC

Philosophy of Mind & Cognitive Science, Logic

Philosophy & Cognitive Science of Religion

See also EXPERIENCE

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

2/17 Comments on Katia Vavova's “A Dilemma for Darwinian Debunkers,” MITing of the Minds (MIT alumni conference)

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

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,” Post-Graduate Seminar Series,
Leeds University
- “The Evolutionary Rebuttal of Skepticism,” The 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), Harvard University
- 8/10 “Glut Varieties and a Modal Conception of Truth,” Truth Matters Intl. Conference
University of Toronto
- 4/10 “The Logic of Mentalistic and Physicalistic Language,” Pacific APA, San Francisco, CA
- 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 Assistant , Harvard University	PRESENT
<u>Fall 2017</u> : Philosophy of Probability (3 Sections Susanna Rinard) Metaphysics (Andrew Graham)	
<u>Spring 2016</u> : Philosophy of Psychology (2 Sections Güven Güzeldere)	
Fellow in Ethics and Biology , Centre for Moral and Political Philosophy (HUJI)	5/17-6/17
Writing Advisor , MIT	2 SEMESTERS
<u>Spring 2016</u> : Classics of Western Philosophy (Sally Haslanger)	
<u>Spring 2014</u> : Bioethics (Julia Markovitz & Natasha Schull)	
Teaching Assistant , MIT	5 SEMESTERS
<u>Fall 2014</u> : Minds & Machines (2 Sections Alex Byrne)	
<u>Spring 2014</u> : Theory of Knowledge (Declan Smithies)	
<u>Fall 2013</u> : Philosophy of Language (Justin Khoo)	
<u>Spring 2013</u> : Minds & Machines (Alex Byrne)	
<u>Fall 2012</u> : Problems of Philosophy (Caspar Hare)	
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)

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)

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)
17th Century Substance Ontology (Martha Brandt Bolton | Rutgers)

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 MIT

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

TO DEPARTMENT

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

REFERENCES

Roger White	Kieran Setiya	Alex Byrne
Professor of Philosophy	Professor of Philosophy	Professor of Philosophy
MIT	MIT	MIT
rog@mit.edu	ksetiya@mit.edu	abyrne@mit.edu

Philip Kitcher	Dilip Ninan (teaching)
John Dewey Professor of Philosophy	Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Columbia University	Tufts University
psk16@columbia.edu	dilip.ninan@tufts.edu

N.B. Please direct requests for letters of recommendation to Jennifer Purdy (purdy@mit.edu).