

Curriculum Vitae

TOM DOUGHERTY

Contact Details

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Areas of Specialization

- Ethics (especially Normative Ethics & Bioethics), Philosophy of Action.

Areas of Competence

- Political Philosophy, The History of Moral and Political Philosophy, Feminism.

Education

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2005 – present.
PhD, expected June 2010.
- Balliol College, Oxford University, 2001 – 2004.
BA with first class honours in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, ranked 7th in a class of 243.

Dissertation Summary

- Title: Help! Not Just Anybody.
Essays on Altruism and Conflicts of Interest.
- Committee: Rae Langton (co-chair), Richard Holton (co-chair), Judith Jarvis Thomson.
- Abstract: The dissertation consists of three papers on the ethics of altruism. “Rational Numbers” proposes an explanation of why you ought to help a larger group of people, rather than a smaller group of people, all else equal. “Altruism and Ambition in the Dynamic Moral Life”, argues that typically you ought to increase the amount you sacrifice to help others over time. “Claims, Harm and Help”, proposes an explanation of why people do not have a right to your help, unless you have given them such a right.

Awards

- MIT Presidential Fellowship, 2005.
- Balliol Scholarship (Markby Exhibitioner), Oxford, 2003 – 2004.

Presentations

- “Rape: must victims prosecute?”, Workshop on Gender and Philosophy, scheduled for 2010.
- “Untangling Imperfect Duties”, Work In Progress (department presentation forum), MIT, 2009.
- “Why should the numbers count?”, NYU / Columbia Graduate Conference, 2009.
- “Autonomy in Altruism”, M.A.T.T.I. (student presentation forum), MIT, 2009.
- “Should we be sad the holidays are over?”, MIT-ing of the Minds Conference, 2009.
- “Why should the numbers count?”, Work in Progress, MIT, 2008.
- “Aggregation without adding up value?” M.A.T.T.I., MIT, 2007.
- Commentary on Rae Langton’s “Disenfranchised Silence”, MIT-ing of the Minds Conference, 2007.
- “A problem for cognitivism about instrumental reason”, M.A.T.T.I., MIT, 2006.

Teaching Assistantships

- Classics of Western Philosophy, Fall 2008, (Rae Langton).
- Moral Problems and the Good Life, Spring 2008, (Sally Haslanger).
- Problems of Philosophy, Fall 2007, (Steve Yablo).
- Bioethics, Spring 2007, (Caspar Hare and David Jones MD).

Guest Lectures

- “The Kingdom of Ends in Kant’s moral theory”, (Classics of Western Philosophy).
- “Rawls’s Theory of Justice”, (Moral Problems and the Good Life).
- “Resource allocation and utilitarianism”, (Bioethics).

Credited Graduate Courses

- Proseminar I: The History of Analytic Philosophy from Frege to Carnap, (Rae Langton & Alex Byrne).
- Proseminar II: The History of Analytic Philosophy from Quine to Kripke, (Robert Stalnaker & Richard Holton).
- Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason, (Rae Langton).
- The Social Contract Tradition, (Richard Holton).

- Kant's Ethical Theory, (Christine Korsgaard).
- Ethics & the Philosophy of Action, (Judith Jarvis Thomson).
- Practical Reason, (Christine Korsgaard).
- Practical Reason and Ethics, (Thomas M. Scanlon & Derek Parfit).
- Moral Philosophy, (Caspar Hare).
- Moral Psychology, (Richard Holton).
- Issues in Contemporary Philosophy of Mind, (Alex Byrne).
- The Philosophy of the Social Sciences, (Sally Haslanger).

Audited Graduate Courses

- Bioethics, (Frances Kamm).
- Gender, Objectification and Pornography, (Rae Langton & Sally Haslanger).
- Topics in Mind and Morality, (Caspar Hare & Alex Byrne).
- Modality, (Robert Stalnaker).
- Perceptual Experience, (Alex Byrne & Susanna Siegel).
- Kantian Ethics, (Rae Langton).
- Justice and Institutions, (Joshua Cohen, Amartya Sen & Philippe Van Parijs).

Service

- Captain of intramural philosophy team, "The Existential Eliminators", and organizer of informal departmental soccer, 2007 - present.
- Co-organizer of MIT Colloquia Series, 2008 - 2009.
- Co-founder of the MIT Philosophy Retreat, 2008.
- Co-organizer of Prospective Student Visits, 2006 - 2008.
- Co-organizer of MIT- Harvard Graduate Conference, 2008.
- Graduate Council Representative for the Philosophy Department, 2007.
- Co-organizer of MIT-ing of the Minds Conference, 2006.

References

Rae Langton (research and teaching reference)
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