

S. F. Aikin, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae (Summer 2009)

AOS: Epistemology, Argumentation, Pragmatism

AOC: Philosophy of Religion, Environmental Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Vanderbilt University (2006)

M.A. in Philosophy, University of Montana (1999)

A.B. in Classics, Washington University in St. Louis (1994)

Books

- *Pragmatism: A Guide for the Perplexed*. With Robert B. Talisse. Continuum Books (2008).
- (Edited) *The Pragmatic Turn*. With Robert B. Talisse. Princeton University Press (In Press).
- (Edited) *Thinking about Logic: A Reader*. With Steven Cahn and Robert Talisse. Westview (In Press).

Books in Progress

- *Epistemology and the Regress Problem*. Routledge
- *A Moral Case for Atheism*. With Robert B. Talisse.
- *Why We Argue*. With Robert B. Talisse

Professional Essays by Year:

Forthcoming

- “Nagel on Public Education and Intelligent Design” With Robert B. Talisse and Michael Harbour; *Journal of Philosophical Research* (Forthcoming, 2010).
- “The Problem of Worship.” *Think* (Forthcoming).
- “A Self-Defeat Problem for the Rhetorical Theory of Argument” *Argument Cultures: Proceedings of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation*. Ed. Juho Ritola (Forthcoming, 2009).
- “Reply to MacIntosh and Wein” In *Argument Cultures: Proceedings of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation*. Ed. Juho Ritola (Forthcoming, 2009).

2009

- “Prospects for Peircian Epistemic Infinitism.” *Contemporary Pragmatism* (2009) 9:2.
- “Levinasian Otherism, Skepticism, and the Problem of Self-Refutation” With J. Aaron Simmons. *The Philosophical Forum* (2009) 40:1.*
- “Don’t Fear the Regress: Epistemic Infinitism and Cognitive Value.” *Think* 23 (2009).
- “Pragmatism, Experience, and the Given.” *Human Affairs* (2009) 19:1.
- “The Significance of Al Gore’s Purported Hypocrisy.” *Environmental Ethics* (2009) 31:1.
- “A Consistency Challenge for Moral and Religious Beliefs.” With Brian Ribeiro. *Teaching Philosophy* (2009) 32:2.
- “Evolution, Intelligent Design, and Public Education: A Comment on Thomas Nagel.” With Michael Harbour and Robert B. Talisse. *Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science* (2009) 9:2.

2008

- “Meta-epistemology and the Varieties of Epistemic Infinitism.” *Synthese* (2008) 163:2.
- “Holding One’s Own.” *Argumentation* (2008) 22:4.
- “Modus Tonens.” With Robert B. Talisse. *Argumentation* (2008) 22:4.
- “Evidentialism and James’s Argument from Friendship.” *Southwest Philosophy Review* (2008) 24:1.
- “Three Objections to the Epistemic Theory of Argument Rebutted.” *Argumentation and Advocacy* (2008) 44:4.
- “The Dogma of Environmental Revelation.” *Ethics and the Environment* (2008) 13:2.

- “Perelmanian Universal Audience and the Epistemic Aspirations of Argument.” *Philosophy and Rhetoric* (2008) 41:3.
- “Moore’s Hand and the Dialectical Demands of Anti-Skepticism.” *Southwest Philosophy Review* (2008) 24:2.
- “*Tu Quoque* Arguments and the Significance of Hypocrisy.” *Informal Logic* (2008) 28:2.
- “Rockmore on Analytic Pragmatism.” With Robert B. Talisse. *Metaphilosophy* (2008) 39:2.

2007

- “Prospects for Skeptical Foundationalism.” *Metaphilosophy* (2007) 38:5.
- “Kitcher on the Ethics of Inquiry.” With Robert B. Talisse. *The Journal of Social Philosophy* (2007) 38:4. Published with a response from Philip Kitcher, “Reply to Aikin and Talisse.”
- “Evidentialism for Everyone.” *Think* 15 (2007).

2006

- “Modest Evidentialism.” *International Philosophical Quarterly* (2006) 46:3.
- “Deliberative Democracy, Public Reason, and Environmental Politics.” *Environmental Philosophy* (2006) 3:2. Published with a response from Adam Briggie and Robert Frodeman, “Response to Aikin’s ‘Deliberative Democracy, Public Reason, and Environmental Politics.’”
- “Environmental Politics and Public Reason Revisited: A Reply to Briggie and Frodeman.” *Environmental Philosophy* (2006) 3:2.
- “Contrastive Self-Attribution of Belief.” *Social Epistemology* (2006) 20:1.
- “Two Forms of the Straw Man.” With Robert B. Talisse. *Argumentation* (2006) 20:3.
- “Pragmatism, Naturalism, and Phenomenology.” *Human Studies* (2006) 29:3.
- “Wittgenstein, Dewey, and the Possibility of Religion.” With Michael Hodges. *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy* (2006) 20:1. Reprinted in *American and European Values: Contemporary Perspectives*. Ed. John Lachs, Matthew Caleb Flamm, Krzysztof Piotr Skowronski (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008).
- “Argumentative Norms in *Republic I*.” With Mark Anderson. *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* (2006) 13:2.

2005

- “Why Pragmatists Cannot Be Pluralists.” With Robert B. Talisse. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* (2005) 41:1. Published with responses from Cheryl Misak, Michael Eldridge, John Lysaker, Michael Sullivan, and Henry Jackman.
- “Still Searching for Pragmatist Pluralism: A Reply to Our Critics.” With Robert B. Talisse. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* (2005) 41:1.
- “Who’s Afraid of Epistemology’s Regress Problem?” *Philosophical Studies* (2005) 126:2.

Other Publications (Popular Essays, Published Comments, Encyclopedia Entries, and Interviews):

- Comment on E.T. Feteris’s “Strategic Manoeuvring with Linguistic Arguments in the Justification of Legal Decisions” In *Argument Cultures: Proceedings of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation*. Ed. J. Ritola. Forthcoming 2009.
- “Armed for the War on Christmas.” In *Christmas and Philosophy*. Ed. Scott Lowe. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Interview: “Ethical Communication” by Katherine Pennevaria, in *The Western Scholar* (2009) 9:2.
- “Teaching Plato with Emoticons.” With J. Aaron Simmons. *American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy* (2009) 9:2.
- Two essays: “Personal Scholarship as a Model for Taking Class Material Seriously,” and “Class Presentations as a Prelude to Scholarship.” In *It Works for Me – In Scholarship*. Ed. Hal Blythe and Charlie Sweet. Stillwater, OK: New Forums Press. (2008).
- “The Truth about Hypocrisy.” With Robert B. Talisse. *Scientific American: Mind*. (2008).
- Six entries: “The Myth of the Given,” “Knowledge: A Priori,” “Knowledge: by Description,”

“Conception / Concept,” “Given,” and “Argumentation.” *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia*. Eds. John Lachs and Robert Talisse. New York: Routledge (2007).

- “What do you do when they call you a ‘tree hugger’?” *Tennessee Environmental Educators Association Newsletter* (Winter, 2007).
- “Bar Room Knowledge and Epistemic Pragmatism: A Comment on Jamie Phillips.” *Southwest Philosophy Review* (2007) 23:2.

Book Reviews

- Wilfrid Sellars, *In the Space of Reasons*. Ed. Kevin Scharp and Robert Brandom. In *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* (2008) 44:2.
 - Richard Paul and Linda Elder. *The Thinker’s Guide to Fallacies*. In *The Teaching Spirit* (2008) 19:11.
 - Richard Paul and Linda Elder. *The Thinker’s Guide to Socratic Questioning*. In *The Teaching Spirit* (2007) 19:4.
 - Paul Moser and Arnold vander Nat, eds. *Human Knowledge: Classical and Contemporary Approaches*. In *Teaching Philosophy* (2004) 27:3.
 - Paul Moser, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Epistemology*. In *Teaching Philosophy* (2004) 27:2.
 - Laurence Bonjour. *Epistemology: Classic Problems and Contemporary Responses*. In *Teaching Philosophy* (2003) 26:3.
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Teaching

Academic Positions Held:

2009-2010 Lecturer, Vanderbilt University
2007-2009 Lecturer, Western Kentucky University
2007-2009 Visiting Scholar, Vanderbilt University
2006-2007 Lecturer, Vanderbilt University
1998-2005 Teaching Assistant, Vanderbilt University
1995-1997 Teaching Assistant, University of Montana

Classes Taught Independently:

2 semesters of English Composition: (F1995, S1996) at Montana
7 semesters of Introduction to Philosophy: (F1998, S1999, F2000, S2001, F2006) at Vanderbilt, and (S2008, S2009) at Western Kentucky
1 semester of Environmental Ethics: (F2005) at Vanderbilt
2 semesters of Freshman Composition: (F2001, S2002) at Vanderbilt
7 semesters of General Logic: (Summer 2002, F2002, F2005, F2006, S2007, F2009) at Vanderbilt, and Western Kentucky (F2007, F2008)
1 semester of Modern Philosophy: (S2007) at Vanderbilt
3 semesters of Ethics: (F2007, S2008, F2008) at Western Kentucky

Classes as a Teaching Assistant/Grader:

2 semesters of General Ethics (S1997, F2005) at Montana and Vanderbilt respectively
2 semesters of Ancient Philosophy (F1996, F2000) at Montana and Vanderbilt respectively

Teaching Awards:

2006 Outstanding Faculty Member Recognition – Vanderbilt Gamma Beta Phi Honors Society
2005 Graduate Teaching Mentorship – Vanderbilt University Center for Ethics
2001 Franklin J. Machette Teaching Excellence Award – Vanderbilt University
2001 Interdepartmental (English and Philosophy) Composition Fellowship – Vanderbilt University
2000 Burke Teaching Fellowship in Philosophy – Vanderbilt University
1996 Graduate Teaching Assistant Award in Philosophy – University of Montana

Conference and Invited Paper Presentations

Presentations listed with an asterisk (*) were at refereed conferences

Upcoming

- “Knowing Better and Cognitive Command: A Case for Moderate Epistemic Informatism” Tennessee Philosophical Association.
- “Environmental Ethics and the Expanding Problem of Evil.” Inter-Religious Dialogues on the Environment Conference. Western Kentucky University. February, 2010.
- “Three Problems for Jamesian Ethics.” With Robert B. Talisse. Central APA Main Program.*

2009

- “A Self-Defeat Problem for the Rhetorical Theory of Argument.” The Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation. Windsor, Ontario *
- “Religious Pluralism, Exclusivism and Third Options: The Case of Nicholas of Cusa’s *De Pace Fidei*.” With Jason Aleksander. MidSouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis TN.*

2008

- “The Ethics of Belief and the Justification of Democracy.” With Robert B. Talisse. Epistemology and Liberal Democracy Conference. Copenhagen, Denmark.*
- “The Problem of Worship.” Lipscomb University. Nashville, TN.
- “A Self-Defeat Problem for the Rhetorical Theory of Argument” Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN. *
- “Skepticism, Levinasian Otherism, and the Problem of Self-Refutation.” With Aaron Simmons. Mid-South Philosophy Conference. Memphis, TN.*

2007

- “Democratic Deliberation, Public Reason, and Environmental Ethics.” Pacific APA Main Program.*
- “Evidentialism and James’ Argument from Friendship,” Central APA, Group Program: William James Society and Southwest Philosophical Society. San Antonio, TX. *
- “Don’t Fear the Regress: Cognitive Values and Epistemic Informatism,” University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.
- “Holding One’s Own.” Hendrix College. Conway, AR.
- “*Tu Quoque* Arguments and the Significance of Hypocrisy,” Tennessee Philosophical Association.*
- “Pragmatism, the Given and Experience” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. Columbia, SC. *

2006

- “Kitcher on the Ethics of Inquiry.” (With Robert B. Talisse) Eastern APA Main Program. Washington, D.C.*
- “Environmental Ethics and Activism.” Tennessee Environmental Educators Association. Burns, TN.
- “A New Puzzle for the Pragmatist Theory of Truth.” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. *
- “The Problem of Evil and the Politics of Theodicy.” Lipscomb University. Nashville, TN.
- “The Ethics of Belief and the Justification of Democracy.” University of Tennessee – Chattanooga.
- “Two Dogmas of Environmentalism.” East Tennessee State University and the Tennessee Philosophical Association *

2005

- “Frege’s Regress and the Peircian Theory of Truth.” Society for Classical Pragmatism Studies. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL*
- “Prospects for Peircian Epistemic Informatism.” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. Bakersfield, CA*

2004

- “Prospects for Skeptical Foundationalism.” Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference: Knowledge and Skepticism *
- “Modest Evidentialism.” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans.*
- “The Given Ain’t a Myth: How Pragmatists Can Live with That.” Pacific APA. Group Program. Pasadena, CA.
- “Quotational Iterability, Explanation, and the Pragmatist Theory of Truth.” Tennessee Philosophical Association.*
- “Can Pragmatists Be Pluralists?” With Robert B. Talisse. Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy.*

2003

- “Lenn Goodman and the Three Bugbears.” Vanderbilt Friday Faculty Colloquium, a special session devoted to critical discussion of Lenn Goodman’s *In Defense of Truth: A Pluralistic Approach*. Nashville, TN.
- “Modest Evidentialism.” Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN.*
- “Pragmatism’s Failed Evasion of Epistemology,” Vanderbilt Friday Faculty Colloquium. Nashville, TN.
- “Why Pragmatists Cannot be Pluralists,” With Robert B. Talisse. Philosophical Collaborations Conference at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, IL.
- “Is Phenomenology Consistent with Pragmatism’s Naturalism?” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Graduate Session on Pragmatism and Phenomenology. Denver, CO.*

2002

- “Who’s Afraid of Epistemology’s Regress Problem?” Vanderbilt Friday Faculty Colloquium. Nashville, TN.
- “What’s Wrong with an Infinite Regress of Reasons?” Mid-South Philosophy Conference. Memphis, TN.*

2001

- “Dewey’s Demolition of the Religious.” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, session, *What Dewey Got Wrong*. Las Vegas, NV.
- “Pragmatism and Religion.” With Michael Hodges. Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, session on American philosophy and religious belief, Las Vegas, NV.* (*This paper was later presented by Michael Hodges as the Presidential Address for the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology in Atlanta, 2003*).
- “The Case for Epistemic Infinitism.” Vanderbilt Graduate Colloquium. Nashville, TN.
- “Rorty at the Crossroads.” With Andrew Sergienko. Vanderbilt Graduate Conference: Pragmatism at the Crossroads. Nashville, TN.

2000

- “A Phenomenalism about Norms? Some Worries about Brandomian Semantics.” Tennessee Philosophical Association.*
- “Pragmatism and the Possibility of the Religious.” With Michael Hodges. Philosophical Collaborations Conference at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Prior to 2000

- “The Genetic Fallacy and Genealogical Philosophy.” 1999. Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN.*
- “Are the Sciences Unified or Plural? Aristotle’s *Tertium Quid*.” 1998. Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN.*
- “Wittgenstein’s Two Senses of ‘Understanding’.” 1996. *Buridan’s Ass*, University of Montana Graduate Philosophy Colloquium. Missoula, MT.

Conference Commentaries (1998-present)

- June, 2008: Comments on Eveline Feteris, “Strategic Manouvering with Linguistic Arguments in the Justification of Legal Decisions.” Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation. Windsor, ON.
- March, 2008: Comments on Mylan Engel, “The Darwinian Problem of Evil: Theism and Animal Suffering.” MidSouth Philosophy Conference. Memphis, TN.
- November, 2008: Comments on Andy Cling, “The problem of the criterion and the epistemic regress problem.” Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN.
- November, 2008: Comments on Thomas Mether, “Reality as Semiosis.” Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN.
- February, 2008: Comments on Matthew Goodwin, “Aesthetic Phenomenology.” MidSouth Philosophy Conference. Memphis, TN.
- November, 2007: Comments on Nick Jones, “Why It Is Impossible to Justify Belief in the Existence of a Changeless Duration.” Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN
- November, 2006: Comments on Allen Coates, “On the Value of Truth and the Nature of Belief.” Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN.
- November, 2006: Comments on Jamie Phillips, “What Can a Drunk Really Know?: Solving a Puzzle for Epistemic Pragmatism.” Southwest Philosophical Society. Nashville, TN.
- November, 2004: Comments on James Bednar, “Irregular Arguments and Philo’s Attenuated Conclusion in Hume’s *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*.” Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN.
- March 2004: Comments on John Dryden, “The Epistemological Problem of Religious Diversity.” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. Birmingham, AL.
- November, 2003: Comments on David Martens, “Confidence in Unwarranted Knowledge.” Tennessee Philosophical Association. Nashville, TN.
- March, 2003: Comments on Cynthia Townley, “Trust Me: It’s a Commitment.” Pacific APA Main Program. San Francisco, CA.
- February, 2002: Comments on Kevin Timpe, “A Modal Realist Problem for Libertarians.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference. Memphis, TN.
- November, 2000: Comments on Brian Ribiero, “Skeptical Insulationism.” Tennessee Philosophical Association.
- November, 1999: Comments on Phil Oliver, “Dewey’s Nurture Assumption.” Tennessee Philosophical Association.
- November, 1998: Comments on Nathaniel Vaprin, “Freud and Cognitive Inheritance.” Tennessee Philosophical Association.

Service

Departmental and University Service

- 1995-1997 Founder and Organizer of *Buridan’s Ass*, the University of Montana Graduate Colloquium
- 1997 Graduate student representative for Philosophy department faculty search committee, University of Montana
- 1998-2001 Organizer of the Vanderbilt University Graduate Colloquium
- 2000-2002 Graduate representative for the philosophy department, Vanderbilt University
- 2000-2001 Burke Teaching Fellow, Vanderbilt University
- 2003-2006 Editor of Vanderbilt Philosophy Department Newsletter
- 2005 Graduate Teaching Mentor – Vanderbilt University Center for Ethics

Professional Service

- 2001 Organizer of the Vanderbilt Graduate Philosophy Conference, *Pragmatism at the Crossroads*
- 2003-2005 Graduate Student Representative and organizer of the Graduate Sessions for the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy
- 2005-9 Reviewer for *Synthese*, *Mind*, *Philosophia*, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Southwest Philosophy Review*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, and *Social Influence*
-

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology
Southwestern Philosophical Society
Tennessee Philosophical Association

References

Lenn E. Goodman (Vanderbilt University)

Office: 117 Furman Hall
Nashville, TN 37240
Phone: (615) 343-3158
Email: lenn.e.goodman@vanderbilt.edu

Michael Hodges (Vanderbilt University)

Office: Furman Hall 111-A
Nashville, TN 37240
Phone: (615) 343-6430
Email: michael.p.hodges@vanderbilt.edu

Joseph Margolis (Temple University)

Office: 727 Anderson Hall
Department of Philosophy
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Phone: (215) 204-8594

Robert B. Talisse (Vanderbilt University)

Office: Furman Hall 017-A
Nashville, TN 37240
Phone: (615) 343-8671
Email: robert.talisse@vanderbilt.edu

Jeffrey Tlumak (Vanderbilt University)

Office: Furman 105
Nashville, TN 37240
Phone: (615) 343-5909
Email: jeffrey.tlumak@vanderbilt.edu