

Curriculum Vitae

Leigh Duffy

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Education

PhD, Philosophy, 2009. University at Buffalo. (SUNY)

Dissertation: "Modal Illusions: Making Sense of the Necessary A Posteriori"

Abstract: My dissertation focused on the question of modal illusions or illusions of possibility. I argue against two prominent explanations of the phenomenon, including the Kripkean view that has been dominant in the history of analytic philosophy. I then propose a better way of understanding why a person might believe that the impossible is possible. My explanation makes use of the distinction between epistemic possibility and metaphysical possibility. According to my account, mind-body dualism is a modal illusion and can be explained away with this theory.

Supervisor: James Beebe

Committee: James Beebe, John Kearns, and Michael McGlone

BA, Philosophy and English, 2000. Geneseo State University (SUNY)

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Meaning of Life

Areas of Competence

Yoga and Philosophy, Logic, Emotion Theory, Ancient Philosophy, Eastern Philosophy

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor (Temporary full-time). Buffalo State College (SUNY). Buffalo, NY. 2014-present

Emotion Theory – 300 level (one section)

Philosophy and Yoga (three sections)

Introduction to Philosophy (two sections)

Meaning of Life (seven sections)

Introduction to Logic (three sections)

Adjunct Professor. Buffalo State College (SUNY). Buffalo, NY. 2009-2014

Philosophy of Mind – 300 level (one section)

Philosophy and Yoga (one section)

Women and Philosophy, team-taught (one section)

Introduction to Philosophy (nine sections)

Meaning of Life (six sections)

Introduction to Mathematical Logic (two sections)

Research Fellow. Experimental Epistemology Research Group (EERG). University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2010- 2012

Experimental philosophy research on epistemology, modal illusions, and cognitive science of religion.

Responsibilities include research, collecting data, analyzing data, and contributing to scholarly articles.

Adjunct Professor. Geneseo State University. Geneseo, NY. Fall 2009

Writing Seminar: Humans as Emotional Beings (two sections)

Academic Appointments (continued)

Adjunct Professor. Trocaire University. Buffalo, NY. Summer 2009
Introduction to Philosophy (one section)

Instructor with full responsibility for all courses. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. Fall 2005-Fall 2008
Critical Thinking (four sections)
Introduction to Logic (three sections)
Introduction to Philosophy (two sections)

Graduate Assistant. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2004-2005

Research Assistant. Samuel Capen Research Assistantship. NEH Institute on Latin American
Philosophy. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. Summer 2005

Teaching Assistant. Geneseo State University. Geneseo, NY. Spring 2000
Introduction to Deductive Logic. Responsible for tutoring students, grading homework and exams.

Awards

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award. Presented by student leaders in Student Success at Buffalo State
College. 2014-2015

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. State University of New York. 2012-2013

Excellence in Teaching Award. University at Buffalo. 2009

Graduate Student Retention Scholarship. University at Buffalo Philosophy Department. 2007

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophy Association. 2006-present

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. 2011-present

Registered Yoga Teacher, 200 Hours. Registered with the Yoga Alliance. 2012-present

Center for Cognitive Science, University at Buffalo. 2006-2009

Society for Student Philosophers, 2005-2009

Graduate Philosophy Association. University at Buffalo Department of Philosophy. 2004-2009

Publications

“Anything is Possible?: Explaining False Beliefs About Possibility.” *Grazer Philosophische Studien – International Journal for Analytic Philosophy* (peer reviewed). Forthcoming.

“The Chicken and the Egg-sistential Crisis” in *Orange is the New Black and Philosophy*. Ed., Richard Greene and Rachel Robison-Greene. Open Court Publishing. Forthcoming.

Review of Kartina Hutchison's and Fiona Jenkins' (eds.) “Women in Philosophy: What Needs to Change?” (Oxford, 2013) in *Journal Of Value Inquiry*. January 2015.

Review of Louise M. Antony's (ed.) “Philosophers Without Gods: Meditations on Atheism and the Secular Life” (Oxford, 2010) in *Journal of Value Inquiry*. February 2014

Publications (continued)

“What’s Wrong With Childhood Today?” *Philosophy Pathways* (peer reviewed). January 2014

<http://www.philosophypathways.com/newsletter/issue182.html>

“How to Find Balance through Yoga and Aristotle’s Teachings” in *Yoga – Philosophy for Everyone: Bending Mind and Body*. Ed., Liz Stillwaggon Swan. Wiley-Blackwell. 2011

“Modal Illusions.” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (peer reviewed). 2010

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/mod-illu/>

Works in Progress

“Motherhood and Academic Philosophy.” (With Julie Kirsch)

“The Ethics and Philosophy of Yoga”.

“The Meaning of ‘Life’ and the “Meaning” of Life”

“Moral Norm Violations and Counterintuitive Concepts in the Cognitive Science of Religion: Experimental Philosophy Meets Experimental Theology.” (With James Beebe)

“Unlikely but Not Impossible: New Contributions to the Minimal Counterintuitiveness Debate in the Cognitive Science of Religion.” (With James Beebe)

Professional Presentations

“The Ethics and Philosophy of Yoga.” Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion. American Philosophical Association Pacific Meeting. San Francisco, CA. Scheduled for Spring 2015.

“The Ethics and Philosophy of Yoga.” Buffalo State College Philosophy Department Colloquia. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY. Scheduled for Fall 2015.

“Motherhood and the Profession” (with Julie Kirsch). Buffalo Ladies in Philosophy conference. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY. September 2015.

“The Chicken and the Egg-sistential Crisis: Orange is the New Black and the Meaning of Life.” Buffalo State College Philosophy Department Colloquia. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY. March 2015

“Can My Virtual Life Add Meaning to My Life?” Buffalo State College Philosophy Department Colloquia. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY. November 2013

“The Meaning of ‘Life’ and the “Meaning of Life.” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference. Philosophy and Popular Culture Division. Washington, DC. March 2013

“Anything is Possible?: Explaining False Beliefs About Possibility.” Northwest Philosophy Conference. Portland, OR. November 2011

“Balance in Yoga and Aristotle’s Ethics.” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference. Philosophy and Popular Culture Division. San Antonio, TX. April 2011

“Balance in Yoga and Aristotle’s Ethics.” Buffalo State College Philosophy Department Colloquia. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY. November 2010

“Unlikely but not Impossible: New Contributions to the Minimal Counterintuitiveness Debate in the Cognitive Science of Religion.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Baltimore, MD. October 2010

Professional Presentations (continued)

- “Epistemic Possibility Accounts of Modal Illusions.” Buffalo State College Philosophy Department Colloquia. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY. October 2009
- “Similarity Accounts of Modal Illusions.” Society for Student Philosophers Panel. American Philosophical Association. Vancouver, Canada. April 2009
- “Conceivability Accounts of Modal Illusions.” Presentation. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. April 2008
- “Conceivability Accounts of Modal Illusions.” Geneseo State University Philosophy Department Colloquia. Geneseo State University. Geneseo, NY. April 2008
- “Quasi-Absolutism and the Frege-Geach Problem.” 8th Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference. Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI. March 2007
- “Knowledge of Substance in Aristotle’s Metaphysics.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference. University at Memphis. Memphis, TN. February 2007

Commentator on Professional Presentations

- “The Dispositionalist Gambit.” Northwest Philosophy Conference. Portland, OR. November, 2011
- “Meanings of Implication” by John Corcoran. Buffalo Logic Colloquium. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. July 2008
- “Kant’s Critique of Formal Logic.” Mid-south Philosophy Conference. University at Memphis. Memphis, TN. February 2007

Professional Activities

- Buffalo Ladies in Philosophy (BLIP) Group. Informal support group for women working in philosophy in the Western New York Area. 2014-present.
- Women in Philosophy (WIP) Group. Co-founder. Informal support group for female philosophy majors. SUNY Buffalo State College. Spring 2012-present.
- “Where are the Women in Philosophy?” (With Kimberly Blessing, Sarah Caputi, Carissa Handiman, Rachel Saathoff and Sam Wezowicz). 15th Annual Student Research and Creativity Celebration. Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY. May 2013
- Writing Workshop (Sue McMillan, leader). Buffalo State College. Buffalo, NY. Spring 2013
- Guest Coach, Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. Buffalo State College. Buffalo NY. Spring 2013
- Reviewer, *Philosophy and Technology*. 2011
- Proofreader for John Corcoran. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2004-2011
- Grading assistant. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2005-2008
- Assistant for the Undergraduate Ethics Bowl Team. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2008
- Proofreader for various dissertations. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2007- 2008
- Tutor, LSAT exams. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2006-2009
- Tutor, Introduction to Deductive Logic. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2005 and 2007
- Tutor, Advanced Logic. University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2007

Professional Activities (continued)

Treasurer, Graduate Philosophy Association. University at Buffalo Department of Philosophy. Buffalo, NY.
Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Winter Conference for Teaching Assistants sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning Resource
University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. 2005

Other Activities

Yoga and Philosophy for the Workplace, Invited speaker, University at Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. November 2013
Presentation of yoga, yoga theory, and meditation to do in the work place stress reduction.

Introduction to Yoga Practice and Philosophy Seminar, Defensive Arts Dojo. Hamburg, NY. September 2012
Presented yoga philosophy, relating it to Western philosophy, and lead an hour-long yoga practice.

Yoga instructor, Defensive Arts Dojo, Hamburg NY. Fall 2012-present

Yoga instructor, World Gym, Hamburg NY. Spring 2012-December 2013

Yoga teacher training, Healing Waters. East Aurora, NY. 2011-2012

Volunteer, Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Buffalo, NY. 2006-2009

Fulfillment Manager. National Science Teachers Association. Washington, D.C. 2001-2004 (for the duration of
time in between completing undergraduate degree and beginning work toward graduate degree)
Worked in publications for non-profit teachers' organization. Duties included writing, proofreading, and
website management and development.

Graduate Course Work

All course work was completed at the University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, 2004-2009.

Epistemology

Topics in Epistemology (audited) (Spring 2008, James Beebe)
Graduate Tutorial: the A Priori (Fall 2007, James Beebe)
Graduate Tutorial: Skepticism (Spring 2007, James Beebe)
Topics in Epistemology: the A Priori (Spring 2005, James Beebe)

Philosophy of Mind/Cognitive Science

Two-Dimensionalism (audited) (Fall 2008, Michael McGlone)
Introduction to Cognitive Science (Fall 2006, Stuart Shaprio)
Topics in Metaphysics and Epistemology: Philosophy of Mind (Spring 2006, Michael McGlone)
Emotion Theory (Spring 2005, Carolyn Korsmeyer)

Logic

Graduate Tutorial: *Logical Investigations* (Spring 2007, John Corcoran)
Philosophical Analysis (Spring 2007, John Kearns)
Philosophy of Language (Spring 2006, John Kearns)
Logical Theory I (Fall 2005, John Kearns)
Modal Logic (Spring 2005, John Kearns)
Introduction to Logic for Advanced Students (Fall 2004, John Corcoran)

History of Philosophy

Topics in History of Philosophy: Berkeley, Locke, and Hume (Spring 2007, Kenneth Barber)
Aristotle (Fall 2006, Jiyuan Yu)
Plato (Fall 2005, Jiyuan Yu)

Graduate Course Work (continued)

Ethics

Ethical Theories: Metaethics (Spring 2006, Kenneth Shockley)

Teaching

Supervised Teaching (Fall 2006, Kenneth Barber)

Supervised Teaching (Fall 2005, Kenneth Barber)

Teaching Philosophy (Spring 2005, Kenneth Barber)

Other

Writing Seminar (Fall 2008, Neil Williams)

Racial and Ethnic Identity (Fall 2004, Jorge Gracia)

Comparative Philosophical Issues (Fall 2004, Kah Kyung Cho)

References

James Beebe, Associate Professor of Philosophy (University at Buffalo). 716-645-0153. jbeebe2@buffalo.edu

Kimberly Blessing, Chair and Associate Professor of Philosophy (Buffalo State College). 716-878-5136.

blessika@buffalostate.edu

John Corcoran, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy (University at Buffalo). 716-645-0154. corcoran@buffalo.edu

John Kearns, Professor of Philosophy (University at Buffalo). 716-645-8481. kearns@buffalo.edu