

# JOSH MAY

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## APPOINTMENTS

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Philosophy Department  
Associate Professor (with tenure), 2018 – present

Assistant Professor, 2013 – 2018

Monash University, Melbourne Australia, Philosophy Department

Lecturer, 2011 –2013 (U.S. equivalent: Visiting Assistant Professor)

## EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara    Ph.D., Philosophy, June 2011

Massachusetts Institute of Technology    Visiting Student, Fall 2009

California State University, Sacramento    B.A., Philosophy, June 2005

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

*Specialization:* Ethics (theoretical and applied), Epistemology

*Competence:* Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science, History of Modern Philosophy

## BOOKS

*Agency in Mental Disorder: Philosophical Dimensions*, co-edited w/Matt King (under contract w/OUP)

*Regard for Reason in the Moral Mind* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Reviewed in: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Behavioral & Brain Sciences* (symposium),  
*CHOICE*, *Ethics*, *Heythrop Journal*, *Metapsychology*, *Utilitas*

## JOURNAL ARTICLES (16)

May, J. (forthcoming). "Bias in Science: Natural and Social." *Synthese*.

May, J. (2019). "Précis of Regard for Reason in the Moral Mind." *Behavioral & Brain Sciences* 42(e146): 1-60. [Target discussion with 21 commentaries and my replies.]

King, M. & May, J. (2018). "Moral Responsibility & Mental Illness: A Call for Nuance." *Neuroethics* 11(1): 11-22.

Feltz, A. & May, J. (2017). "The Means/Side-Effect Distinction in Moral Cognition: A Meta-Analysis" *Cognition* 166: 314–327.

- May, J. (2016). "Emotional Reactions to Human Reproductive Cloning." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 42(1): 26-30. [Made "Editor's Choice."]
- May, J. (2014). "Does Disgust Influence Moral Judgment?" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 92(1):125-141.
- May, J. (2014). "On the Very Concept of Free Will." *Synthese* 191(12): 2849-2866.
- May, J. (2014). "Moral Judgment and Deontology: Empirical Developments." *Philosophy Compass* 9(110): 745-755.
- Shepard, J. & May, J. (2014). "Does Belief in Dualism Protect against Maladaptive Psycho-social Responses to Deep Brain Stimulation?" *American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience* 5(4): 40-42.
- Allen, T. & May, J. (2014). "Does Opacity Undermine Privileged Access?" *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 22(4): 617-629. [Critical Notice]
- May, J. (2013). "Skeptical Hypotheses and Moral Skepticism." *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 43(3): 341-359.
- May, J. (2013). "Because I Believe It's the Right Thing to Do." *Ethical Theory & Moral Practice* 16(4): 791-808.
- May, J. & Holton, R. (2012). "What in the World Is Weakness of Will?" *Philosophical Studies* 157(3): 341-360.
- May, J. (2011). "Egoism, Empathy, and Self-Other Merging." *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 49(s1): 25-39, Spindel Supplement: Empathy & Ethics, Remy Debes (ed.), Emerging Scholar Prize Essay. (Other contributors include: Stephen Darwall, John Deigh, Peter Goldie, Jesse Prinz, Michael Slote.)
- May, J. (2011). "Relational Desires and Empirical Evidence against Psychological Egoism." *European Journal of Philosophy* 19(1): 39-58.
- May, J., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Hull, J. G. & Zimmerman, A. (2010). "Practical Interests, Relevant Alternatives, and Knowledge Attributions: an Empirical Study." *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* 1(2): 265-273, Special Issue, guest editors: E. Machery, T. Lombrozo, & J. Knobe.

## BOOK CHAPTERS (6)

- May, J., Workman, C., Haas, J. & Han, H. (forthcoming). "The Neuroscience of Moral Judgment: Empirical and Philosophical Developments." *Neuroscience & Philosophy*, eds. F. de Brigard & W. Sinnott-Armstrong. MIT Press.
- Kumar, V. & May, J. (2019). "How to Debunk Moral Beliefs." *Methodology and Moral Philosophy*, eds. Jussi Suikkanen & Antti Kauppinen. Routledge.
- May, J. (2018). "The Limits of Emotion in Moral Judgment." *The Many Moral Rationalisms*, eds. K. Jones & F. Schroeter, Oxford University Press.
- May, J. (2018). "The Limits of Appealing to Disgust." *The Moral Psychology of Disgust*, eds. N. Strohminger & V. Kumar, Rowman & Littlefield.
- May, J. (2017). "Getting Less Cynical about Virtue" [commentary on C. D. Batson], *Moral Psychology, Vol. 5: Virtue & Character*, W. Sinnott-Armstrong & C. Miller (eds.), MIT Press, pp. 45-52.
- May, J. (2016). "Repugnance as Performance Error: The Role of Disgust in Bioethical Intuitions." *The Ethics of Human Enhancement: Understanding the Debate*, Stephen Clarke et al (eds.), OUP.

**REFERENCES WORKS (4)**

- May, J. & Kumar, V. (2018). "Moral Reasoning and Emotion." *The Routledge Handbook of Moral Epistemology*, eds. K. Jones, M. Timmons, & A. Zimmerman. Routledge.
- May, J. (2017). "Empathy and Intersubjectivity." *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Empathy*, Heidi Maibom (ed.), Routledge. [Volume won CHOICE's Outstanding Academic Title of the Year 2018.]
- May, J. (2017) "Empirical Work in Moral Psychology." *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. (5,000 words) [Originally published in 2012; updated and expanded in 2017.]
- May, J. (2011). "Psychological Egoism." *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. (10,000 words).

**BOOK REVIEWS & COMMENTARIES (7)**

- "Experimental Philosophical Bioethics" (w/B. Earp et al.), *AJOB Empirical Bioethics* Vol. 11, No. 1 (2020): 30-33.
- "A Limited Skeptical Threat," commentary on John Doris's *Talking to Our Selves*, in *Behavioral & Brain Sciences*, Vol. 41, e52 (2018): 35-6.
- Review of *Bound: Essays on Free Will & Responsibility* (by Shaun Nichols, 2015, OUP), the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (2016): 416-17.
- Review of *Just Babies: The Origins of Good and Evil* (by Paul Bloom, 2013, Crown), *Metapsychology* Vol. 18, No. 33 (2014).
- Review of *Experimental Philosophy* (ed. by Joshua Knobe & Shaun Nichols, 2008, OUP), *Philosophical Psychology* Vol. 23, No. 5 (2010), pp. 711-715.
- Review of *Willing, Wanting, Waiting* (by Richard Holton, 2009, OUP), *Metapsychology* Vol. 13, No. 23 (2009).
- Review of *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality behind the Curtain* (by Tamler Sommers, 2009, McSweeney's), *Metapsychology* Vol. 13, No. 53 (2009). [Featured on *Arts & Letters Daily*.]

**WORK IN PROGRESS**

- A book monograph on neuroethics (in progress)
- A paper on how moral exemplars motivate emulation (under review)
- A paper on moral rationalism and neuroscience (in progress)
- A paper on motivated moral reasoning in charitable giving (in progress)
- A paper on ethical vegetarianism and social change (early stages)

**AWARDS & PRIZES**

- Outstanding Professor Award, UAB's Early Medical School Acceptance Program, class of 2017
- Emerging Scholar Prize, Spindel Conference on Empathy & Ethics, U. of Memphis, Oct. 2010  
(*External referees*: Martha Nussbaum, Russ Shafer-Landau, and Lori Gruen)

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Prize, American Philosophical Association, March 2010  
 Grad Student Fellowships, Church & Humphrey Funds, UC Santa Barbara, 2005-06

#### GRANTS & STIPENDS [COMPETITIVE]

Academic Cross-Training Fellowship in neuroscience, John Templeton Foundation, 2020-2022  
 Grant, Emulating Moral Exemplars, John Templeton Foundation via Duke University, 2017-18  
 Stipend, Summer Seminar in Neuroscience & Philosophy, Duke University, Jun. 2017  
 UAB Faculty Development Grant, “Moral Responsibility and Mental Illness” w/Matt King, May 2017  
 Dean’s Humanities Grant for “Rationalizing Moral Mediocrity,” UAB, Apr. 2019  
 UAB Center for Teaching and Learning, Affordable Instructional Materials grant, 2017-18  
 Travel Bursary, Institut de Recherches Cliniques de Montréal, Apr. 2015  
 Dean’s Humanities Grant for “Contours of Moral Judgment,” UAB, Apr. 2015  
 Stipend, CEU Summer Seminar on Moral Epistemology, Budapest, Hungary, Jul. 2014  
 Travel Grants, Monash University Faculty of Arts, Dec. 2011 & Jul. 2012  
 Stipend, Big Questions in Free Will Summer Seminar, Florida State University, Jun. 2012  
 School Research Funding for “Conceptions of Free Will,” Monash University, Jun. 2012  
 Stipend, Summer Seminar on Skepticism, Purdue University, Jun. 2011

#### PRESENTATIONS (67) [\* = REFEREED]

\* Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Princeton University, July 2021  
 \* International Scientific Conference on Neuroethics - 12th edition, Milan, Italy, May 2021  
 \* Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology Conference, Univ. of Texas at Dallas, May 2021  
 National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics, Joint Bioethics Colloquium, March 2021  
 \* Philosophy of Science Association, Annual Meeting, Virtual Poster Session, Feb. 2021  
 \* American Philosophical Association - Central Division, New Orleans, LA, Feb. 2021  
 \* International Neuroethics Society, Washington, DC, Oct. 2020 [moved online]  
 \* Philosophy and Neuroscience at the Gulf III, Pensacola, FL, Oct. 2020 [moved online]  
 Philosophical Psychology Group, Florida State University, Sept. 2020 [online]  
 Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals, Virtual Talk Series, Sept. 2020  
 Neuroimaging Journal Club, University of Alabama at Birmingham, May 2020 [moved online]  
 University of Alabama, Cognition, Brain, & Autism Lab, Feb. 2020  
 Mississippi State University, Dept. of Philosophy & Religion, Nov. 2019  
 Experimental Bioethics Workshop, Yale University, Oct. 2019  
 \* Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, Sept. 2019

- American Phil. Assoc. – Pacific Division, author-meets-critics session on my book, Vancouver, Apr. 2019  
(Critics: Nomy Arpaly, Joanna Demaree-Cotton, and Antti Kauppinen)
- \* Australasian Society for Philosophy & Psychology, author-meets-critics session on my book, Sydney Australia, Dec. 2018 (Critics: Daniel Cohen, Philip Gerrans, Robin Zheng)
- Alabama Philosophical Society, Workshop on Neuroscience & Philosophy, Pensacola, FL, Sept. 2018
- \* Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Ann Arbor MI, July 2018
- Canadian Philosophical Association, author-meets-critics session on my book, Montréal, June 2018  
(Critics: Heidi Maibom, Neil Sinhababu, Christine Tappolet)
- \* American Philosophical Association – Pacific, Colloquium, San Diego CA, Mar. 2018
  - \* Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, San Antonio TX, Mar. 2018
- University of Alabama in Huntsville, Philosophy Dept., Feb. 2018
- \* Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Baltimore MD, June 2017
- American Philosophical Association - Pacific, Invited Symposium, Seattle WA, Apr. 2017
- Cal State Fullerton Symposium on Moral Sentimentalism, Fullerton, CA Mar. 2017
- Tennessee Philosophical Association, author-meets-critics session, Nashville, Nov. 2016
- \* Tennessee Value and Agency Conference, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual, Knoxville, Oct. 2016
- Amer. Phil. Assoc., Session organized by Committee on Asian Philosophy, San Francisco, Apr. 2016
- \* New Methods of Ethics, Univ. of Birmingham (UK), Sept. 2016
  - \* Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Austin TX, June 2016 (poster)
  - \* Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, Louisville KY, Mar. 2016
  - \* Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis TN, Feb. 2016
  - \* Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola FL, Oct. 2015
- Prindle Institute for Ethics, DePauw University, Jul. 2015
- \* Neuroethics Conference for Young Researchers, IRCM Montréal Québec, Apr. 2015 (poster)
  - \* Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, Aug. 2015
  - \* Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, New Orleans, Apr. 2015
  - \* Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis TN, Mar. 2015
  - \* University at Buffalo, Experimental Philosophy Conference, Sept. 2014
- Southern Soc. for Philosophy & Psychology, Invited Symposium, Charleston SC, Feb. 2014
- University of Melbourne in Australia, Human Enhancement Workshop, Mar. 2014
- Monash University in Australia, Philosophy Department, Mar. 2014
- \* Georgetown University, Conference on Emotions, Apr. 2014
- University of Mississippi, Dept. of Philosophy & Religion, Apr. 2014
- \* American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Colloquium Session, Dec. 2011

University of Melbourne, Ethics Workshop, Jan. 2012  
 University of Sydney, Philosophy Dept., Oct. 2011  
 \* Naturalisms in Ethics Conference, University of Auckland, New Zealand, Jul. 2011  
 \* Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, New Orleans, Mar. 2011  
 \* University at Buffalo, Experimental Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2013  
 University of Melbourne, Philosophy Department, Aug. 2012  
 Charles Stuart Univ. at Wagga Wagga, Philosophy Department, Apr. 2013  
 Deakin University, Melbourne, Philosophy Department, Mar. 2013  
 \* Australasian Association of Philosophy, Annual Conference, Jul. 2012  
 Australian National University, Philosophy Department, Apr. 2012  
 Macquarie University, Philosophy Department, May 2012  
 \* Purdue University, Summer Seminar on Scepticisms, June. 2011  
 La Trobe University, Philosophy Department, Mar. 2012  
 \* University of Miami, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop on Mind & Ethics, Nov. 2010  
 \* Spindel Conference on Empathy & Ethics, University of Memphis, Oct. 2010  
 \* American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Colloquium Session, Apr. 2010  
 \* University at Buffalo, Experimental Philosophy Conference, Oct. 2009  
 American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Group Program, Dec. 2010  
 State University of New York, Fredonia Philosophical Society, Oct. 2009  
 \* University of South Alabama, Philosophy Conference, Sept. 2008  
 \* Virginia Tech, Graduate Philosophy Conference on Ethics, Nov. 2006

#### COMMENTING (5)

Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Feb. 2016 (Justin Bell)  
 Southern Soc. for Philosophy & Psychology, New Orleans, Apr. 2015 (Mike Roche)  
 Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Mar. 2015 (Matt Waldschlagel)  
 American Philosophical Association, San Diego, Apr. 2014 (Kelly McCormick)  
 American Philosophical Association, San Diego, Apr. 2011 (Mark Wheeler & Dwight Furrow)

#### TEACHING & SUPERVISION

**Independent Instructor** (50+ courses)

*Lower Division:* Bioethics [x16]; Intro to Philosophy [x11]; Contemporary Moral Issues [x2];  
 Intro to Ethics [x1]; Critical Thinking [x1].

*Upper Division*: Ethical Theory [x8]; Neuroethics [x5]; Moral Psychology [x3]; Philosophy of Mind [x2]; Freedom & Determinism [x1]; Metaphysics [x1].

### Curriculum Development

Courses: *Neuroethics* – PHL 402 (2016); *Philosophy Internship* – PHL 498 (2017).

Philosophy major: *Ethics Track* (2017).

### Supervision

*Research Assistants*: Elizabeth Beckman (2017); Samantha Sandefur (2017), Clara Wan (2017), JaVarus Humphries (2018), Campbell Mackenzie (2018), Kimberly Chieh (2020).

*Honors theses*: Timothy Allen (2012); Francis Li (2012); Brandon Murphy (2014).

*MA/PhD (Monash)*: Richard Baker (2011); Christina Majoinen ('11); Parisa Vidifar ('12).

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### To the Profession

Executive Committee Member, Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2018-2021 (3 year term)

Program Chair, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 112<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2020, moved online

Referee for journals (66): *AJOB Neuroscience* (2017), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2013x2, 2015x2, 2017, 2019), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2019), *Cognition* (2016, 2020), *Dialectica* (2013, 2014), *Economics & Philosophy* (2012), *Ergo* (2014, 2017), *Erkenntnis* (2013, 2014), *Ethical Theory & Moral Practice* (2014x2, 2016), *European Journal of Philosophy* (2010), *Filozofia Nauki* (2020), *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy* (2015), *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* (2020), *Journal of Medical Ethics* (2019), *Journal of Philosophy* (2019, 2020), *Journal of Philosophical Research* (2013, 2015, 2017), *Journal of Value Inquiry* (2015), *Mind* (2014, 2017), *Mind & Language* (2020), *The Monist* (2011), *Neuroethics* (2014x2), *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (2011), *Philosophical Explorations* (2014), *Philosophical Papers* (2014), *Philosophical Psychology* (2011x2, 2012x2, 2013x2, 2014, 2017x2, 2020), *Philosophical Quarterly* (2020), *Philosophical Studies* (2010, 2012x2, 2013, 2015, 2019), *Philosophy Compass* (2013, 2014), *Philosophy of Science* (2017, 2019), *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research* (2010), *Psychological Review* (2019), *Public Affairs Quarterly* (2016), *Review of Philosophy & Psychology* (2013x2, 2015x2), *Synthese* (2014x2, 2015, 2016, 2018x3, 2019x2), *Utilitas* (2018).

Referee for book manuscripts (4): Oxford University Press (2014, 2018x2, 2020).

Referee for book proposals or chapters (13): Bloomsbury (2019), Continuum (2012), Routledge (2011, 2016x2, 2020), Oxford (2009, 2010x2, 2011, 2016, 2019, 2020).

Referee for conference papers (10): British Soc. for Ethical Theory (2015); Canadian Philosophical Association (2016; 2017); Central States Phil. Assoc. (2017), Soc. for Phil. & Psych. (2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), Southern Soc. for Phil. & Psych. (2013).

Editor of 9 categories for *PhilPapers.org*, D. Chalmers & D. Bourget (eds.), 2009–present

Associate Faculty Member for *F1000Prime*, writing short recommendations of science articles

External reviewer for tenure cases (2019, 2020); honours thesis (2012)

Contributor to blogs, *Philosophy CFPs* (2008–2011) and *Experimental Philosophy* (2008–2018)

**To the University & Department**

- Member, Ethics Track Development Committee, 2016-2017
- Member, Philosophy Internship Development Committee, 2016-2017
- Organizer, Departmental Colloquium Series at UAB, 2013-present
- Coach, UAB Ethics Bowl debate team, 2016-present [Won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Nationals in 2019]
- Assistant Coach, UAB Ethics Bowl debate team, 2014-2015
- Member, Search Committee for: Visiting Assistant Professor (2020); Philosophy Dept. Chair (2018, 2019); NTE Assistant Professor (2015-16)
- Department Liaison, Online Teaching Network at UAB, 2015-2017
- Speaker, "Morality & Rationality," UAB Haddin Forum, Sept. 2017
- Organizer, Colloquium ("Seminar") Series, Monash University, 2012
- Organizer, Mind & Morality Workshop, Monash University, July 2012
- Talks: Galen Strawson, Michael Smith, Michelle Montague, Tristram McPherson, Monima Chadha.
- Flexible Learning Coordinator, Philosophy Department, Monash University, 2012
- Oversaw all 11 online philosophy courses, run primarily through Blackboard or Moodle

**To Public/Outreach**

- Assistant to General Editors, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2009-present
- Op-ed, "The Impossible Whopper, Reviewed" *The Birmingham News*, Nov. 2019
- Op-ed, "Why Do Politicians Appeal to Our Disgust?" *The Birmingham News*, May 2016
- Op-ed, "What's the Real Threat to Family Values?" *The Birmingham News*, Sept. 2015
- Public talks: "Neuroscience & Free Will" (Feb. 2014), "Disgust in Politics" (Feb. 2016), "Political Opinions: How to Keep it Friendly" (Nov. 2019)
- Interview on neuroethics, UAB's *The Mix*, 2015
- Quoted in story about crowd-sourced research, UAB's *The Mix*, 2015
- Assistant to General Editors, *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2009-present

**REFERENCES**

- Richard Holton** (Cambridge University) Professor of Philosophy
- Jeanette Kennett** (Macquarie University), Professor of Philosophy
- Walter Sinnott-Armstrong** (Duke Univ.), Chauncey Stillman Prof. of Ethics, Kenan Institute for Ethics
- Stephen P. Stich** (Rutgers University), Distinguished Professor of Philosophy & Cognitive Science
- Aaron Zimmerman** (UC Santa Barbara), Professor of Philosophy