

SHARON E. MASON, PH.D.

Department of Philosophy & Religion
University of Central Arkansas
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

analytic epistemology, virtue epistemology, social epistemology, feminist epistemology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

early modern philosophy, philosophy of science, symbolic logic, philosophy of food

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Indiana University: June 2016 (minor in History and Philosophy of Science)

M.A., Philosophy, Northern Illinois University: August 2007

B.A., Philosophy & B.A., Communications, Cedarville University: May 2003

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Central Arkansas, Department of Philosophy & Religion, Assistant Professor (2017-present)

Courses include:

PHIL 1301, PHILOSOPHY FOR LIVING

PHIL 3302, MODERN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 3310, SYMBOLIC LOGIC

PHIL 3341, THEORIES OF KNOWLEDGE

PHIL 3380, PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

PHIL 4300, READINGS IN PHILOSOPHY (EPISTEMIC INJUSTICE SEMINAR)

University of Central Arkansas, Department of Philosophy & Religion, VAP (2016-2017)

Indiana University, Department of Philosophy, Associate Instructor (2007-2016)

Waubensee Community College, Department of Philosophy, Adjunct Faculty (2007-2013)

Northern Illinois University, Department of Philosophy, Teaching Assistant (2005-2007)

PUBLICATIONS: ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Mason, S. (2020). "Closing the Hermeneutical Gap in STEM Education: A Reply to Lawrence Torcello" (11th ed., vol. 9, pp. 53-58). In Jim Collier, Eric Kerr, Kamili Posey, Adam Riggio (Eds.), *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*. <https://wp.me/p1Bfg0-5wM>

Mason, S. (2020). "Climate Change Denial as Willful Hermeneutical Ignorance". *Social Epistemology*, 34(5), 469-477. www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsep20/current

Mason, S. (2019). "Agent-Awareness in Reflective Knowledge". *Erkenntnis*, Vol 84: 239-255. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-017-9956-5>

PUBLICATIONS: BOOK REVIEWS

Review of David Kaplan, *Food Philosophy: An Introduction*. Columbia University Press 2020. Teaching Philosophy. [forthcoming]

Review of Daniel DeNicola, *Understanding Ignorance: The Surprising Impact of What We Don't Know*. MIT Press 2017. *Philosophy in Review*, Vol 39, No 3 (2019): August.

Review of Robert Pasnau, *After Certainty: A History of Our Epistemic Ideals and Illusions*. Oxford University Press 2018. *Philosophy in Review*, Vol 38, No 4 (2018): November.

Review of Brett Coppenger and Michael Bergmann, eds., *Intellectual Assurance: Essays on Epistemic Internalism*. Oxford University Press 2016. *Philosophy in Review*, Vol 37, No 2 (2017): April.

Review of Robert Audi, *Means, Ends, & Persons: The Meaning & Psychological Dimensions of Kant's Humanity Formula*. Oxford University Press 2016. *Metapsychology Online*, Mar 7th 2017 (Volume 21, Issue 10)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (REFEREED)

"Structural Epistemic Injustice: Resisting Oppression through Revised Epistemologies" Global Structural Injustice and Minority Rights Conference, Northeastern University; Boston, MA: March 13-15, 2020 (accepted, canceled due to COVID-19)

"Getting Some Perspective on the First Person Perspective" American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting; Chicago, IL: February 26-29, 2020

"Survivor Standpoints: Evaluating Standpoint Theory through Research on Modern Slavery" Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World Annual Conference; Conway, AR: July 2019

"Enhancing Equity in STEM Disciplines through Interdisciplinary Course Design" Poster presentation. Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2019 Diversity, Equity, and Student Success Conference. Pittsburgh, PA: March 28-30

"Climate Change as Willful Hermeneutical Ignorance" Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World Annual Conference; Estes Park, CO: August 2017

"The Sophisticated Thermometer Problem" Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN: March 2017

"Externalism for Doxastic Agents?" Tennessee Value and Agency Conference; University of Tennessee-Knoxville, September 4-5: 2015

"The Perspective of Rational Deliberation" American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting; St. Louis, MO: February 18-21, 2015

“Knowledge and Certainty: The case against dogmatism” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN: February 22-23, 2008

OTHER PRESENTATIONS (INVITED)

"Developing anti-racist learning activities and assignments: Philosophy as lived experience video assignment," workshop mini-presentation, American Association of Philosophy Teachers “2020 Anti-Racist and Pandemic Pedagogies Virtual Conference”: July 24, 2020.

“What is Our Challenge?” Wrap-up discussion, 2020 Challenge Week, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas. October 2, 2020: Conway, AR.

“Why Go to College?” Presentation to 8th Grade class at Conway Junior High School on the value of liberal arts. November 18, 2019: Conway, AR

“The Human Face of Climate Change: Why Hope?” 2019 Challenge Week, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas. September 30, 2019: Conway, AR.

“Getting Some Perspective on the First Person Perspective” Virtuous Conversations Series, Steel Center for the Study of Religion and Philosophy, Hendrix College. September 18, 2019: Conway, AR.

“Is that Fake News? Debunking Pseudoscience in the Public Realm” STEM Arkansas Hall Residential College Co-Curricular Program, University of Central Arkansas. September 9, 2019: Conway, AR.

“Why Go to College?” Presentation to 8th Grade class at Conway Junior High School on the value of liberal arts. November 12, 2018: Conway, AR

“Don’t Be Such a Scientist?” Panel discussion hosted by STEM Arkansas Hall, University of Central Arkansas. November 8, 2018: Conway, AR

“Just Knowledge: The Ethics of Listening to Others” Presentation at the University of Central Arkansas Humanities and Social Sciences Fair, hosted by the College of Liberal Arts. November 1, 2018: Conway, AR

“Global Supply Chains: Philosophical Perspectives” Public lecture hosted by Challenge Week, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas. October 22, 2018: Conway, AR

“Is Philosophy the Original Science?” Panel discussion hosted by STEM Arkansas Hall, University of Central Arkansas. September 14, 2018: Conway, AR

“Standpoint Theory: Feminist Contributions to the Philosophy of Science” Guest lecture on feminist contributions to the philosophy of science in “Women and Minorities in STEM” course at the University of Central Arkansas. March 14, 2018: Conway, Arkansas

“Eating the Other” Presentation and panel discussion for the University of Central Arkansas College of Liberal Arts Immigration & America – “The Melting Pot: Politics & Culture in a Diverse Society”; November 9, 2017: Conway, AR

“The Science of Science” Panel discussion at Science Wednesday, sponsored by the University of Central Arkansas Society of Physics Students; September 27, 2017: Conway, AR

“The Sophisticated Thermometer Problem” Valparaiso University, Department of Philosophy; January 19, 2015: Valparaiso, IN

“Externalism for Doxastic Agents?” Northwestern University Epistemology Brownbag Series; October 16, 2013: Chicago, IL

“The Perspective of Rational Deliberation” Brand Lecture, Indiana University, Department of Philosophy; April 5, 2013: Bloomington, IN

“The Knowing Agent” Indiana University Graduate Student Colloquium Series, February 12, 2010: Bloomington, IN

“Food & Memory” Guest Lecture for Human Biology Seminar, Indiana University, Bloomington. September 17, 2015

CHAired Sessions and Commentaries:

Chair for Central Division APA Colloquium Session, “Laws of Nature.” February 27, 2021: Virtual Session (due to COVID-19)

Chair for Central Division APA Colloquium Session, “Circularity, Closure, and Meno Problems.” March 1, 2017: Kansas City, MO

Commentator for Alisbeth Ayars’s “Promising ‘Against the Evidence’ by Challenging the Evidence”, Mid-South Philosophy Conference, March 2017: Memphis, TN

Chair for John Greco’s session on “Testimony and the Transmission of Religious Knowledge” Social Epistemology of Religious Belief Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington: October 8-10, 2015

Commentator for Nellie Wieland’s “Hearing the Voice of Competence”, Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 22-23, 2008: Memphis, TN

Commentator for the Northern Illinois University Graduate Student Aesthetics Conference April 21-22, 2006: DeKalb, IL

GRANTS

Faculty Development Grant, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Central Arkansas. This grant supported travel to the Teaching Hub at the American Philosophical Association, Central Division Annual Meeting. Conference sessions focused on diversifying the curriculum and revising the canon, with special sessions on teaching Modern Philosophy. Chicago, IL: February 26-29, 2020

Faculty Development Grant, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Central Arkansas. This grant supported travel for a poster presentation and participation in the Association of American Colleges & Universities 2019 Diversity, Equity, and Student Success Conference. Pittsburgh, PA: March 28-30, 2019

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS SUPERVISION

Honors Thesis Committee Member, Nelson Graves: "Bullet Holes and the WNBA: Silencing Activist Speech Through Appropriation," University of Central Arkansas, Philosophy & Religion Departmental Honors Thesis. Completed Fall 2020.

Honors Thesis Committee Member, Jules Merguie: "Destroyed by Madness: The Use and Misuse of Mental Disorder Diagnosis," University of Central Arkansas, Philosophy & Religion Departmental Honors Thesis. Completed Spring 2020.

Honors Thesis Committee Member, Ge'Shaun Faison: "An Analysis of the Weaponization of Meme Culture: Origins and Impact", University of Central Arkansas, Philosophy & Religion Departmental Honors Thesis. Completed Fall 2019.

Honors Thesis Committee Member, Colton Reinke: "Education as Play: Imagining a Better Curriculum. University of Central Arkansas Honors Program, Schedler Honors College. Completed Spring 2019.

Honors Thesis Advisor, Mary Ellen Johnson: "Fair to Blame?: Exploring Moral Luck through a Pedagogical Computer Game", University of Central Arkansas Honors Program, Schedler Honors College. Completed Fall 2017.

ADVISING/MENTORING ACTIVITIES

Faculty Advisor for PhiRe Club (Philosophy and Religion Club), Student Organization of the Philosophy and Religion Department, University of Central Arkansas. 2017-present.

Supporting Coach for the UCA Ethics Bowl Team, sponsored by the Philosophy and Religion Department, University of Central Arkansas, 2017-present. The team competes annually at the Central States Regional Competition (Indianapolis) and has competed at nationals in 2017-2018 (Chicago) and 2018-2019 (Baltimore). Ethics Bowl is a national organization sponsored by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE).

Student advising, 2018-present.

COMMITTEE WORK

Liberal Arts Advocacy Committee, College of Liberal Arts: Member. University Of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, 2018-present.

Curriculum and Assessment Committee, Department of Philosophy and Religion: Member. University of Central Arkansas, Conwa, AR, 2018-present.

Foundation Funds Oversight Committee, Department of Philosophy and Religion: Member. University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, 2017-present.

Philosophy Department Climate Committee, Graduate Student Liaison. Indiana University, Bloomington. 2015-2016. This committee works to promote inclusiveness and diversity in the IU philosophy department.

Graduate Colloquium Committee, Northern Illinois University, Academic Year 2006-2007

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Residential College Faculty Associate, STEM@HughesHall (formerly STEM@ArkansasHall), University of Central Arkansas, 2017-present.

Workshop Organizer (team member), Residential College Annual Workshop, May 12, 2021.

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Academic Leadership (CETAL), completion of the Diversity and Inclusion Recognition Track, 2019-2020.

Reviewer, Conference, Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World. (June 8, 2020 - June 28, 2020).

Reviewer, Conference, Indiana Philosophical Association, Indiana Philosophical Association, Fall 2017 meeting. (September 13, 2017 - September 23, 2017).

Reviewer, Ad Hoc, Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World. (April 2017).

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

STEM@ArkansasHall Faculty Associate of the Year, University of Central Arkansas, 2018-2019

Clark Essay Prize, Indiana University, May 2014

Myles and Peg Brand Graduate Fellowship in Philosophy, Indiana University, Academic Year 2012-2013

C. Mason and Madeline Myers Graduate Philosophy Award, Northern Illinois University, Academic Year 2006-2007

University Fellowship, Northern Illinois University, Academic Year 2006-2007

References available upon request.