

DAVID K PHILLIPS

Dept. of Philosophy  
University of Houston.  
Houston TX 77204-3004  
[DPhillips@uh.edu](mailto:DPhillips@uh.edu)

Education: Lincoln College, Oxford University, 1983-6  
B. A. with first class honours in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, July 1986.  
Cornell University, 1986-93  
M. A. in Philosophy, September 1989.  
Ph. d in Philosophy, May 1993.

Faculty Positions: Professor of Philosophy, University of Houston, 2012-present.  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Houston, 1999-2012.  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Houston, 1993-99.

Major Administrative Positions:

Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Houston (September 2013- present)

Associate Dean for Faculty and Research, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of Houston (September 2012-August 2013)

Interim Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of Houston (January-August 2012)

Interim Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Houston (Spring 2010, Fall 2011)

Areas of Specialization:

Ethics, History of Ethics.

Areas of Competence:

Applied Ethics.

Academic Awards and Honors:

University of Houston 50-in-5 Award, 2022.

University of Houston 50-in-5 Award, 2019.

Southwest Philosophy Society Prize for best paper presented by a graduate student or recent PhD at annual meeting, November 1994.

McEvoy Trust Fellowship, Cornell University, Fall 1990.

Telluride Association Fellowship, Cornell University 1986-8

Shared Henry Wilde prize for best performance in Philosophy by an undergraduate in any final honours school, Oxford University, July 1986

College Scholarship, Lincoln College, 1984-6

### Publications:

#### Books

The Moral Philosophy of W.D. Ross: Metaethics, Normative Ethics, Virtue, & Value (co-edited with Robert Audi) (forthcoming from Oxford University Press in March 2025)

Sidgwick's *The Methods of Ethics*: A Guide (Oxford University Press, May 2022)  
(Reviews: Anthony Skelton in Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews; Choice)

Rossian Ethics: W.D. Ross and Contemporary Moral Theory (Oxford University Press, July 2019) (Reviews: Philip Stratton-Lake in Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, Rob Shaver in Utilitas; Choice)

Sidgwickian Ethics (Oxford University Press, October 2011) (Reviews: Bart Schultz in Ethics; Rob Shaver in Journal of the History of Philosophy; Anthony Skelton in Journal of Moral Philosophy; Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek in Mind; Choice; Utilitas; Victorian Studies)

#### Articles and Chapters

“Can Sidgwick and Ross Converge In Moral Theory?” in Audi and Phillips, edited, The Moral Philosophy of W.D. Ross (Oxford University Press: forthcoming March 2025).

“Introduction” (co-authored with Robert Audi) in Audi and Phillips, edited, The Moral Philosophy of W.D. Ross (Oxford University Press: forthcoming March 2025).

“Whewell on Moral Philosophy,” in L.M. Verburgt, ed., William Whewell: Victorian Polymath (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, October 2024).

“Sidgwick’s Kantian Account of Moral Motivation,” pp. 84-104 in Tyler Paytas and Tim Henning, eds., Kantian and Sidgwickian Ethics (Routledge, July 2020)

\*“Sympathy for the Error Theorist: Parfit and Mackie,” Ethical Theory and Moral Practice 17 (June 2014)

\*”Sidgwickian Ethics: An Overview,” and “Replies to Crisp, Shaver and Skelton,” (part of a symposium on my book, Sidgwickian Ethics), Revue d’etudes benthamiennes, December 2013.

\* “The Puzzle in Sidgwick’s Moral Epistemology,” Revue Internationale de Philosophie, December 2013.

“Joseph Butler,” International Encyclopedia of Ethics 2013.

‘Sidgwick on Promises,’ in Hanoch Sheinman (ed.), Understanding Promises and Agreements: Philosophical Essays, Oxford University Press, March 2011.

\* ‘Mackie on Practical Reason,’ Ethical Theory and Moral Practice 2007, reprinted in A World Without Values: Essays on John Mackie’s Moral Error Theory (Philosophical Studies Series), eds. Richard Joyce and Simon Kirchin (Springer: Jan 2010)

\*“Hume on Practical Reason: Normativity and Psychology in Treatise 2.3.3,” Hume Studies, November 2005

\*“Thomson and the Semantic Argument against Consequentialism,” Journal of Philosophy, September 2003.

“Gert, Sidgwick, and Hybrid Theories of Rationality,” The Journal of Value Inquiry, December 2001.

\*"Butler and the Nature of Self-Interest," Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, March 2000.

\* "Contractualism and Moral Status," Social Theory and Practice, Summer 1998.

\* "The Middle Ground in Moral Semantics," American Philosophical Quarterly, April 1998.

\* "Sidgwick, Dualism and Indeterminacy in Practical Reason," History of Philosophy Quarterly, January 1998.

\* "How to Be a Moral Relativist," Southern Journal of Philosophy, September 1997.

\* "The Foundations of Ethics and the Conflict between Liberty and Equality", in Schonsheck et.al., Liberty, Equality, and Plurality (Lawrence, KS: Univ. of Kansas Press, 1997).

\* "On Moral Relativism" Southwest Philosophy Review Vol. 11 no. 1, January 1995.

(\*indicates refereed journal article)

### Reviews and Short Encyclopedia Entries

Review of Sarah McGrath, Moral Knowledge, Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews 2020.

Review of Philip Pettit, The Birth of Ethics: Reconstructing the Role and Nature of Morality, Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews 2019. (The subject of a Pea Soup NDPR Review forum in September 2019)

Review of Bart Schultz, The Happiness Philosophers: The Lives and Works of the Great Utilitarians, Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews 2017.

Review of Roger Crisp, The Cosmos of Duty: Henry Sidgwick's Methods of Ethics, Utilitas 28.4 (2016).

Review of Katarzyna de Lazari-Radek and Peter Singer, The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick & Contemporary Ethics, Mind 125.497 (2016).

Review of Thomas Hurka, ed., Underivative Duty: British Moral Philosophers from Sidgwick to Ewing, Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews 2012.

"Emotive Meaning," The Shorter Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (New York: Routledge, 2005) (article reprinted from the longer 1998 version of the Encyclopedia)

Review of Marcel S. Lieberman, Commitment, Value, and Moral Realism, Philosophical Review, April 2001.

Review of Michelle Moody Adams, "Fieldwork in Familiar Places," Philosophical Review, July 1999.

"Emotive Meaning," The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (1998).

Review of Paul Anand Foundations of Rational Choice Under Risk, The Philosophical Review July 1995.

Review of Dan Hausman, The Inexact and Separate Science of Economics, The Philosophical Review April 1994.

### Book in Progress

Moore's *Principia Ethica: A Guide*, under contract with Oxford University Press (delivery date February 2026; seven of the nine chapters drafted summer 2024).

### Shorter Work in Progress

“Rossian Deontology”, promised to The Oxford Handbook of Deontology, ed. J. Piers Rawling, delivery date February 2026.

### Grants

**Title:** *EESE: Experiencing Ethics* **Sponsors:** National Science Foundation (grant # IIS-1135357)

**Investigators:** Ioannis Pavlidis (PI), Ioanna Semendeferi (co-PI), Dov Lieberman (co-PI), David Phillips (co-PI)

**Performance Period:** 09/01/2011 – 08/31/2014 **Funding:** \$299,325

### Presentations and Conference Papers

International Society for Utilitarian Studies, University College London, June 2024: “Skelton on Sidgwick on Egoism”.

International Society for Utilitarian Studies, University College London, June 2024: “Can Sidgwick and Ross Converge in Moral Theory?”

APA Pacific Division, March 2024: “Sidgwick and Moore on Egoism” (part of an invited symposium commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of *The Methods of Ethics*).

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2023: “Philosophical Intuitionism in Sidgwick and Ross”

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2022: “Can Sidgwick and Ross Converge in Moral Theory?”

Notre Dame/ACU International Ethics Conference, April 2022: “Can Sidgwick and Ross Converge in Moral Theory?”

12<sup>th</sup> Annual LSU Graduate Philosophy Conference April 2019, Keynote Address: “The Best of Sidgwick and Ross”.

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress August 2018: “Sidgwick on Moral Motivation”.

TwinStar Conference, LoneStar College CyFair, February 2018: “The Best of Sidgwick and Ross”.

APA Eastern Division January 2018: (invited) Comments on Tyler Paytas, “Sidgwick’s Critique of Deontology: Scrupulous Fairness or Serpent-Windings?”

Sidgwick Symposium, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress August 2017: “The Best of Sidgwick and Ross”.

Conference on Sidgwick and Kant, University of Stuttgart, May 2016 (invited): “Sidgwick on Practical Reason.”

Book Symposium on Thomas Hurka, British Ethical Theorists from Sidgwick to Ewing, APA Pacific Division, San Francisco, March 2016 (invited). “Conceptual Minimalism and the Choice of Conceptual Schemes.”

Book Symposium on Kasia de Lazari-Radek and Peter Singer, The Point of View of the Universe: Sidgwick and Contemporary Ethics (Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western University, September 19 2015; invited): “Unfairness, Benevolence, and Evolution.”

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress August 2015: “Deontology Without Paradox.”

APA Pacific Division, San Diego, April 2014: (invited) Comments on Terry Kelly, “Promises, Practices, and Persuasion”.

Sidgwick Workshop, University of Hamburg, January 2014 (invited): “Sidgwick, Ethics and Evolution”

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2013: Comments on Colin Hickey, “Reactive Attitudes, Responsibility, and Structural Injustice.”

International Society for Utilitarian Studies, Stern School of Business, NYU, August 2012: “Some Responses”. Part of a Symposium on my book, Sidgwickian Ethics. (Other participants: Roger Crisp, Oxford University; Robert Shaver, University of Manitoba; Anthony Skelton, University of Western Ontario).

Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, University of Sussex,

England, July 2011: "The Puzzle in Sidgwick's Moral Epistemology."

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2010: "Error Theory and the New Non-Naturalism".

Hume and His Critics Conference, Baylor University, Spring 2005: "Hume on Practical Reason"

A.P.A. Eastern Division, December 2003: (invited) Commentary on David Merli, "Disagreement and Convergence: Naturalist Realism's Semantic Problem".

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 2003: "Why Moore's Questions Are Really Open: Indexicality, Normativity and Goodness."

Rice University, April 2001: "How to be a Skeptic about Practical Reason."

APA Pacific Division, March 2001: Commentary on "Rights as Moral Conclusions."

Utilitarianism 2000, Winston-Salem, March 2000: "Thomson and the Semantic Argument against Consequentialism"

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 1998: "The Middle Ground in Moral Semantics".

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 1997: "How To Be a Moral Relativist".

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 1996: "Sidgwick, Dualism and Indeterminacy in Practical Reason".

Southern Methodist University, Easterwood Lecture, October 1995 (invited): "Relativism and Indeterminacy in Ethics".

Conference on Value Inquiry, April 1995: "Public and Private Reason".

Southwest Philosophy Society, November 1994: "On Moral Relativism".

Amintaphil Conference, November 1994: "Narveson on Liberty, Equality, and Distributive Justice".

Service at the University of Houston:

University

Faculty Senate Representative, Fall 2008-Fall 2012.

Member, Faculty Senate Budget Committee, 2011.

Member, Faculty Senate Educational Policies and Student Affairs Committee, Fall 2008-Fall 2010.

Member, University Scholarship Committee, (An appointed committee that meets weekly to administer university merit scholarship programs), Fall 2003-Fall 2007, Fall 2011-Spring 2012.

College

Chair, CLASS Governance and Advisory Committee, Fall 2003-Fall 2007. (This is the college committee responsible for college governance and bylaws, and, together with the Chairs and Directors Committee, for consulting with the Dean on college policy. The Chair is elected by the committee's members.)

Member, RM Lence Teaching Award Committee, Spring 2011.

Member, CLASS Governance and Advisory Committee, Fall 2001-Fall 2003.

Member, CLASS Undergraduate Studies Committee, Fall 2001-Fall 2005. (1 1/2 hour meetings approximately once every two weeks, covering undergraduate curricular issues).

Member, HFAC Undergraduate Studies Committee, Fall 1994-2000 (Ditto)

Member, HFAC Faculty Development Leave Committee, Fall 2000.

Member, HFAC Exploratory Committee on Master of Liberal Arts, Fall 1995-Spring 1996.

Department

Co-organizer, Graduate Student Writing Sample Workshop, 2014-present.

Chair, Search Committee, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

Faculty Undergraduate Advisor, Philosophy Dept., Fall 1999-Fall 2007.

Chair, Search Committee for Joint Ethics Search with Honors College, Fall 2007-Spring



2008.

Member, Philosophy Department Merit Committee, Spring 2004-Spring 2011. (This is an elected position. The Merit Committee is responsible for evaluating and categorizing faculty performance to determine merit raises)

Chair, Yoes Scholarship Committee, Philosophy Department, 2000-2001

#### Other Professional Service:

Manuscript Referee for Journals including: Philosophical Review, Ethics, Philosophy and Economics, Journal of the History of Philosophy, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian of Philosophy, Journal of Philosophical Research, Nous, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice.

Manuscript Referee for Book Publishers Oxford University Press, McGraw-Hill, Simon and Schuster, and Broadview Press.

Presentation on Affirmative Action for Humanist Conference, University of Houston, 1996.

Presentation for Humanists of Houston, Summer 2004

Multiple presentations at Lee High School for Houston Independent School District Inservice training program for teachers of the Gifted and Talented, 2000-2006.

#### Teaching:

Regular Courses Taught:

Introductory: Introduction to Ethics (every semester for many years, in both classroom and distance education formats)

Advanced Level: Classics in the History of Ethics (4 versions: Hobbes, Butler and Sidgwick; Hume and Kant; Kant, Mill and Sidgwick; Mill, Sidgwick, Moore and Ross); Contemporary Moral Issues; 18<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy (Hume and Kant)

Graduate Seminars: Metaethics; Ethical Intuitionism; Sidgwickian Ethics; *The Methods of Ethics*; Morality, Reason, and Self-Interest; Agent-Relative Reasons.

#### Master's Thesis Supervision:

Completed Graduate Theses Supervised as Committee Chair:

Adrian Scholl on error theory, 2015.

Wade Allen, on Temkin, Transitivity, and the Mere Addition Paradox, 2007.

Aaron Hebble on Just War Theory, 2007.

John Gray on Ethical Egoism, 2000

Lara Ohanian on Human Cloning, 1999.

Steven Pena on Abortion, 1995.

I have also served as a member on probably another four or five masters thesis committees, and supervised at least 2 completed undergraduate honors theses, and served on several other undergrad thesis committees.

#### Ph.D Thesis Committee:

I served on the committee of Stan Husi, who successfully defended his Ph.D Thesis in Philosophy at Rice in April of 2011 (and is now tenured at U. Wisconsin-Milwaukee).