

Kelly Becker, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Contact Information

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University of New Mexico Address:

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Areas of Specialization

Epistemology
Philosophy of Language and Mind

Areas of Competence

20th Century Analytic Philosophy
Logic

Education

University of California, San Diego	Fall, 1992 to Spring, 1999
Ph.D. in Philosophy, June, 1999	
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	Summer, 1990 to Spring, 1991
B.A. 1991 with Honors (Philosophy)	
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN	Fall, 1984 to Winter, 1988
B.S. 1988 with Distinction (Management; Philosophy Minor)	

Professional Experience

Professor, University of New Mexico	Fall, 2015 to Present
Associate Professor, University of New Mexico	Fall, 2007 to Spring, 2015
Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico	Fall, 2002 to Spring, 2007
Department Chair (Acting)	Fall, 2010

Undergraduate Courses:

Introduction to Philosophy
Ancient Philosophy
Philosophy of Mind

Reasoning and Critical Thinking
Theory of Knowledge (First and Second Courses)
Sentential and First-Order Predicate Logic

Seminars:

W.V. Quine
Skepticism
Contextualist and Virtue Epistemologies
Williamson, *Knowledge and its Limits*
Epistemic Sensitivity
Knowledge First Epistemology

Philosophy of Language
Burge, *Origins of Objectivity*
Anti-Individualism
Singular Thought
Mental Causation
Perception

Assistant Professor, Tenure Track, Centre College

Fall, 1999 to Summer, 2002

Courses: Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics, Practical Logic, Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Seminar on Thought Experiments, Upper-Division Theory of Knowledge, Sentential and First-Order Predicate Logic, Humanities (Ancient Greece and Rome)

Research: Publications (Books) (3)

Monograph

Epistemology Modalized (Routledge, 2007). A monograph that critically assesses extant versions of modalized epistemology and defends the thesis that knowledge is reliably formed, sensitive true belief.

Edited

The Cambridge History of Philosophy, 1945-2015 (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

The project consists of 53 newly commissioned essays covering the gamut of prominent philosophical topics and issues since WWII, edited by Kelly Becker and Iain Thomson.

The Sensitivity Principle in Epistemology (Cambridge UP, 2012).

An anthology of new essays on (Nozickean) sensitivity, edited by Kelly Becker and Tim Black.

Publications (Papers)

1. "Post-Gettier Epistemology," in K. Becker and I. Thomson, eds. *The Cambridge History of Philosophy, 1945-2015* (Cambridge UP), 125-34. 2019.
2. "The Sensitivity Response to the Gettier Problem," in S. Hetherington, ed. *Classic Philosophical Arguments: The Gettier Problem* (Cambridge UP), 108-24. November 2018.
3. "Deductive Closure Principle," in *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, doi:10.4324/9780415249126-P011-2, 4000 words. April 2017.
4. "BIVs, Sensitivity, Discrimination, and Relevant Alternatives," in S. Goldberg, ed. *The Brain in a Vat* (Cambridge UP), 111-28. July, 2016.
5. "Epistemology without Certainty or Necessity," in *Journal of Philosophical Research* 41, 285-319. October, 2016.
6. "Why Reliabilism Does not Permit Easy Knowledge," in *Synthese* 190:17, 3751-75. November, 2013.
7. "Methods and How to Individuate Them," in *The Sensitivity Principle in Epistemology*, 81-98. August, 2012. (See 'Books' above.)
8. "Basic Knowledge and Easy Understanding," *Acta Analytica* 27:2, 145-61. December, 2011.
9. "Reliabilism," in *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 15,000 words. August, 2009.
10. "Contrastivism and Lucky Questions," *Philosophia* 37:2, 245-60. June, 2009.
11. "Margins for Error and Sensitivity: What Nozick Might Have Said," *Acta Analytica* 24:1, 17-31. March, 2009.
12. "Epistemic Luck and the Generality Problem," *Philosophical Studies* 139:3, 353-66. June, 2008.
13. "Reliabilism and Safety," *Metaphilosophy* 37:5, 691-704. October, 2006.
14. "Is Counterfactual Reliabilism Compatible with Higher-Level Knowledge?" *Dialectica* 60:1, 79-84. February, 2006.
15. "Knowing and Possessing Knowledge," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 41:1, 21-36. January, 2004.
16. "Individualism and Self-Knowledge: *Tu Quoque*," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 39:3, 289-95. July, 2002.
17. "Kuhn's Vindication of Quine and Carnap," *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 19:2, 217-35. April, 2002.
18. "Understanding Quine's Famous 'Statement'," *Erkenntnis* 55:1, 73-84. July, 2001.
19. "On the Perfectly General Nature of Instability in Meaning Holism," *Journal of Philosophy* 95:12, 635-40. December, 1998.

20. Co-authored with Iain Thomson, "Philosophical Reflections on Recent History of Philosophy," in *The Cambridge History of Philosophy, 1945-2015*, 2019, 1-12. (See 'Books' above.)
21. Co-authored with Tim Black, "The Resilience of Sensitivity," in *The Sensitivity Principle in Epistemology*, August, 2012, 1-8. (See 'Books' above.)

Publications (Other)

1. "Review of Martin Smith, *Between Probability and Certainty: What Justifies Belief*," *Mind*, March, 2017. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzx002> (Review Article)
2. "Review of Dylan Dodd and Eliz Zardini, eds. *Scepticism and Perceptual Justification*," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, November 17, 2014.
3. "Review of José Zalabardo, *Scepticism and Reliable Belief*," *Philosophical Review*, April, 2014. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1215/00318108-2400634>.
4. "Review of Scott F. Aikin, *Epistemology and the Regress Problem*," *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, June 27, 2011.
5. "Modal Epistemology," *Oxford Bibliographies in Philosophy (online)*, ed. Duncan Pritchard. New York: Oxford UP, 2010.
 - 5a. Revised and updated, 2013.
 - 5b. Revised and updated, 2017.
6. "Review of Quentin Smith, ed. *New Essays in Epistemology*," *Mind*, April, 2010.

Dissertation

Meaning Holism: An Articulation and Defense

Committee: *Philosophy*: Paul Churchland, Patricia Kitcher (co-chair), Gila Sher, Steven Yalowitz (chair) *Cognitive Science*: David Kirsh and John Batali

Works Under Review or In Progress

Drafts of papers on two very different topics seem to come and go with greater and greater frequency. Rather than updating this area constantly, I simply indicate that (a) I continue to work on papers related to externalist epistemology, but recently have been interested in (b) mental causation within the framework of anti-individualist individuation of mental properties, and, completely unrelatedly, (c) the implications of secrets for issues of contemporary interest in social epistemology.

Conference and Colloquia Presentations: Original Papers Presented

1. "Secrets and Social Epistemology" presented at The Bled Philosophy Conference, Bled, Slovenia, June, 2019.
2. "Content Externalism and Knowledge First Epistemology," *European Epistemology Network*, Amsterdam, June 2018.
3. "Is an appearance-based individuation of basic methods compatible with epistemological and content externalism? (Yes. Well, that depends...)," *Metaphysics of Knowledge I Workshop: Epistemic Indexing*, Arché Research Centre, St. Andrews Scotland, September, 2016. **Invited.**
4. "Two Problems for Strengths of Anti-Individualism (On Confusion, Conflation, and Mental Causation)," presented to Tim Crane's *New Directions in the Study of Mind* group at Cambridge University, November 2015. **Invited.**
5. "Sorting out Burge and McDowell on Disjunctivism [completely overhauled]," presented at The Bled Philosophy Conference, Bled, Slovenia, June, 2015.

6. "Sorting out Burge and McDowell on Disjunctivism," presented at New Mexico State University Colloquium Series, March, 2015. *Invited.*
7. "BIVs, Sensitivity, Discrimination, and Relevant Alternatives," presented at Southwest Epistemology Workshop, August, 2014.
8. "Mental Blocks, Blind Spots, Deaf Ears, and Dumb Animals," presented at University of New Mexico Philosophy Colloquium Series, December, 2013.
9. "Anti-Individualism as a Theoretical Framework for Reliabilist Foundationalism," scheduled for presentation (canceled due to family emergency) at Bled (Slovenia) Philosophy Conference, June, 2013.
10. "Basic Knowledge and Understanding," presented at Bled (Slovenia) Philosophical Conference, Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom, May-June, 2011.
11. "Methods and How to Individuate Them," presented at Simon Fraser University, November, 2009. *Invited.*
12. "Contrastivism and Relevant Alternatives," presented at Linguistics and Philosophy Conference, Aberdeen (UK), May, 2007.
13. "Epistemic Luck and the Generality Problem," presented at The University of Manchester (UK), February, 2007. *Invited.*
14. "Reliabilism and Safety," presented at Virtue Epistemology Conference, University of Stirling (Scotland), November, 2004.
15. "Reliabilism and the Skeptical Paradox," presented at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Meeting, March, 2004.
16. "Why Justification Is Important, and Why It Has Little to Do with Knowledge," presented at the Central States Philosophical Association, October, 2003.
17. "Anti-Individualism and Self-Knowledge," presented at The University of New Mexico Philosophy Colloquium, January, 2002. (Also presented at The University of Delaware, February 2002.) *Invited.*
18. "Kuhn's Vindication of Quine *and* Carnap," (short version) presented at The APA Central Division Meeting, May, 2001.
19. "Kuhn's Vindication of Quine *and* Carnap," (long version) presented at The University of Kentucky Philosophy Colloquium, March, 2001. *Invited.*
20. "The Significance of a 'Trivial' Thesis," presented at The Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Meeting, April, 2000. (Also presented at the Kentucky Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, November, 1999.)
21. "Is Logic Compatible with Quine's Rejection of Analyticity?" presented at the Midsouth Philosophy Conference, February, 2000.
22. "What Has the Quine-Duhem Thesis to Do with Meaning Holism?" presented at the University of California, San Diego Philosophy Colloquium, December, 1998.

Conference and Colloquia Presentations: *Comments* (7)

- "Comment on Peter Murphy's 'Reliabilism and Suspended Judgment'," presented at the APA, Pacific Division Meeting, April, 2014.
- "Comment on Allan Hazlett's 'Limning Structure as an Epistemic Goal'," presented at the APA, Pacific Division Meeting, April, 2012.
- "Comment on David Alexander's 'Inferential Internalism and the Argument from Responsible Belief'," presented at the APA, Central Division Meeting, April, 2011.
- "Comment on Geoffrey Pynn's 'The Bayesian Explanation of Transmission Failure'," presented at the APA, Central Division Meeting, February, 2010.

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- “Comment on Julianne Chung’s ‘The Assumptions Account of Knowledge Attributions’,” presented at the APA, Central Division Meeting, February, 2009.
- “Comment on Samuel Ruhmkorff’s ‘Partial Belief and the No-Distinction Problem’,” presented at the Central States Philosophical Association Conference, October, 2005.
- “Comment on J.M. Fritzman’s ‘Margolis’ Biopsy of Recent Analytic Philosophy: A Second Opinion’,” presented at the Midsouth Philosophy Conference, February, 2000.

Service

Department and University Service Work and Committees

- Outcomes Assessment Coordinator, Fall 2019-present
- Graduate Director (includes Graduate Admissions Sub-committee), Fall 2017-Fall 2018 (Leave of absence required me to leave the post.)
- UNM Faculty Senate, Fall 2017-Fall 2018. (Leave of absence required me to leave the post.)
- Graduate Director, 2005-07
- Graduate Advisory Committee (w/Graduate Admissions Sub-committee), 2002-04; 2011-13
- Undergraduate Advisor, 2003-05; Acting, Spring 2014
- Coordinator, Logic and Critical Thinking (and General TA Coordinator), 2003-Fall 2017.
- Numerous MA and Ph.D. Thesis Committees (Chair, Krupa Patel, Ph.D. (Fall 2018); Co-chair, Carlos Sanchez, Ph.D. (Spring 2006))
- Qualifying Exam/Comprehensive Exam Committees
- Department Chair (Acting), Fall 2010
- Placement Director, Philosophy, 2010-12
- UNM Core Writing and Speaking Outcomes Ad Hoc Committee, 2013-14
- Junior T&P Committee, AY 13-14, 14-15
- Numerous Ad Hoc Committees

Service to Philosophical Community

- Manuscript referee for Routledge (2)
- Referee for *Acta Analytica*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Diametros*, *Episteme*, *Erkenntnis*, *Grazer Philosophische Studien*, *Indiana Philosophical Association 2017*, *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Logic and Logical Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Res Philosophica*, *Social Epistemology*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*
- Program Committee, APA Pacific Division, 2005 to 2008. (I conceived and organized invited sessions, refereed papers, and organized sessions on accepted papers.)
- External Reviewer for Tenure/Promotion Cases (5)
- Philosophical Gourmet Report Evaluator, Fall 2014
- Original co-editor, JanusBlog, A Virtue Theory Discussion Group
- Panelist to determine reading standards for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Spring, 2011.
- External Reviewer of Philosophy Majors’ Writing Portfolios for purposes of outcomes assessment, Oklahoma University, Summer 2013.

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Fellowships and Awards

UNM Teacher of the Year Nominee	AY 12-13
UNM Teacher of the Year Nominee	AY 08-09
Gunter Starkey (Outstanding Arts and Sciences) Teaching Award Winner	AY 06-07
Gunter Starkey Teaching Award Nominee	AY 04-05 and 05-06
University of New Mexico Research Term	Spring, 2005
Centre College Course Development Stipend	Summer, 2001
Centre College Summer Research Stipend	Summer, 2000
UCSD Dissertation Fellowship	Winter, 1998; Fall, 1997; Fall, 1996
UCSD Academic Senate Summer Research Grants	1998 and 1996
Graduation with Honors, University of Pittsburgh	1991
Graduation with Distinction, University of Minnesota	1988

Languages

French – reading, some writing and speaking	German – reading
Modern Greek – working on it	

References

Available upon request