

YISHAI COHEN

University of Southern Maine
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Liberal Studies, University of Southern Maine (2017 – present)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. with distinction, Philosophy, Syracuse University (May 2016)

- **Dissertation** *Incompatibilist Alternative Possibilities*
- **Committee** Mark Heller (chair), Janice Dowell, André Gallois, John Martin Fischer (external member), Derk Pereboom (external member)

B.A. Philosophy, Religious Studies, Southern Methodist University (May 2010)

AREAS OF INTEREST

Philosophy of Agency, Ethics, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion

RESEARCH

1. Forthcoming. "The Opposition of Omnibenevolence Towards Evil", *Religious Studies*.
2. 2024. "Probabilism: An Open Future Solution to the Actualism/Possibilism Debate", *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 10 (2): 349–370. (with Travis Timmerman)
3. 2023. "Freedom and the Open Future", *Analytic Philosophy* 64 (3): 228–255.
4. 2020. "The Limits of Virtue Ethics", *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* 10: 255–282. (with Travis Timmerman)
5. 2020. "Actualism, Possibilism, and the Nature of Consequentialism", in the *Oxford Handbook of Consequentialism*, Douglas W. Portmore (ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 139–161. (with Travis Timmerman)
6. 2019. "Actualism and Possibilism in Ethics", *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2019/entries/actualism-possibilism-ethics/>>. (with Travis Timmerman)
7. 2018. "An Analysis of Recent Empirical Data on 'Ought' Implies 'Can'", *Philosophia* 46 (1): 57–67.
8. 2018. "Deliberating in the Presence of Manipulation", *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 48 (1): 85–105.
9. 2017. "Atonement's Axiological Boundaries", *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 9 (3): 177–195.
10. 2017. "Fischer's Deterministic Frankfurt-Style Argument", *Erkenntnis* 82 (1): 121–140.
11. 2016. "Actualism Has Control Issues", *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 10 (3): 1–18. (with Travis Timmerman)

12. 2016. "Moral Obligations: Actualist, Possibilist, or Hybridist?", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 94 (4): 672–686. (with Travis Timmerman)
13. 2016. "Leeway Compatibilism and Frankfurt-Style Cases", *Thought* 5 (2): 89–98.
14. 2016. "Counterfactuals of Divine Freedom", *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 79 (3): 185–205.
15. 2015. "Endless Future: A Persistent Thorn in the *Kalām* Cosmological Argument", *Philosophical Papers* 44 (2): 165–187.
 - Reprinted in *The Kalam Cosmological Argument, Volume 1: Philosophical Arguments for the Finitude of the Past*, eds. Paul Copan and William Lane Craig (Bloomsbury Press, 2017).
16. 2015. "The Manipulation, at the Very Least, Undermines Classical Compatibilism", *Philosophia* 43 (2): 291–307.
17. 2015. "Molinists (Still) Cannot Endorse the Consequence Argument", *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 70 (3): 231–246.
18. 2015. "Reasons-Responsiveness and Time Travel", *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (2015): 1–7. [Discussion Note]
19. 2015. "Agential-Settling Requires a Conscious Intention", *Journal of Cognition and Neuroethics* 3 (1): 140–155.
20. 2014. "Don't Count on Taurek: Vindicating the Case for the Numbers Counting", *Res Publica* 20 (3): 245–261.
21. 2013. "Skeptical Theism and the Threshold Problem", *Forum Philosophicum* 18 (1): 73–92.

REVIEWS

1. 2014. Review of Robert C. Roberts, *Emotions in the Moral Life*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013, *Faith and Philosophy* 31 (3): 337–40.

POPULAR PHILOSOPHY

1. "Actualism and Possibilism" (With Travis Timmerman) *The Philosopher's Magazine* 72: 107–108.

PRESENTATIONS

1. July 2025. "The Opposition of Omnibenevolence Towards Evil", SPAWN 2025, Syracuse University.
2. March 2025. "The Opposition of Omnibenevolence Towards Evil", Toronto Philosophy of Religion Working Group, Toronto Metropolitan University.
3. April 2021. "Responsibility for the Remote Past: A Puzzle for Leeway Compatibilism", Pacific APA, San Francisco, CA. (with Simon Kittle)
4. March 2020. "Probabilism: An Incompatibilist Solution to the Actualist/Possibilist Debate", College of William & Mary Workshop. (with Travis Timmerman)
5. August 2019. "Probabilism: An Incompatibilist Solution to the Actualist/Possibilist Debate", Twelfth Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. (with Travis Timmerman)
6. April 2019. "Manipulation, Responsibility, and the Self: An Incompatibilist Guide to Evading Blameworthiness", Pacific APA, Vancouver, British Columbia.

7. January 2019. "Searching for Virtue in Normative Ethics", Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics, University of Arizona. (with Travis Timmerman)
8. July 2018. "Reductive Omnism", Romanell Summer Workshop, University at Buffalo.
9. February 2017. "Can a Determinist Rationally Deliberate?", University of Southern Maine.
10. February 2016. "Theistic Modal Realism and Gratuitous Evil?", Ryerson University Philosophy of Religion Work-In-Progress Group.
11. September 2015. "Counterfactuals of Divine Freedom", Ryerson University Philosophy of Religion Work-In-Progress Group.
12. April 2015. "Virtue Ethics as a Substantive Normative Ethical Theory", (co-authored with Travis Timmerman) 9th Annual Felician Ethics Conference, Felician College.
13. February 2015. "A Grounding Solution to the Davidsonian Challenge", Colloquium Presentation, Pacific APA, Vancouver, British Columbia.
14. December 2014. "Manipulating Deliberators: a Challenge for Compatibilists, a Dilemma for Hard Incompatibilists", Colloquium Presentation, Eastern APA, Philadelphia, PA.
15. November 2014. "A Grounding Solution to the Davidsonian Challenge", Syracuse University Working Papers, Syracuse, NY.
16. November 2014. "Free Will Primitivism", Society of Christian Philosophers, Eastern Meeting, Lewiston, NY.
17. October 2014. "Agential Settling Requires Intentionality", Free Will conference at the Center for Cognition and Neuroethics, University of Michigan-Flint.
18. August 2014. "Normativity without Metaphysical Vagueness", (co-authored with Travis Timmerman) Poster session at the Seventh Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference, University of Colorado Boulder.
19. August 2014. "The Manipulation Argument, At the Very Least, Undermines Leeway Compatibilism", Free Will Summer School, Center for Consciousness Studies, Moscow.
20. April 2014. "Actualism's Ad Hoc Problem." (co-authored with Travis Timmerman) Colloquium Presentation, Pacific APA, San Diego, CA.
21. October 2013. "Dual Obligations Hybridism", (co-authored with Travis Timmerman) 65th Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, Pacific University/ June 2013. British Postgraduate Association Conference, University of Glasgow.
22. November 2012. "Street's Evolutionary Debunking Argument and Epistemic Possibility", Illinois Philosophical Association, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
23. November 2012. "Molinism's Divine Problems", Syracuse University Working Papers, Syracuse, NY.
24. March 2012. "Minimalism, Moral Realism, and Persons", Kent State Graduate Conference, Kent State University.
25. June 2012. "Skeptical Theism and the Threshold Problem", Annual Conference of the Australasian Philosophy of Religion Association, Australian Catholic University/ February 2012. 36th annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College.

COMMENTS

1. September 2022. Comments on Seth Shabo's "A More Promising Argument Against Libertarianism". The William Alston Lecture Series, Syracuse University.

2. January 2018. Comments on August Gorman's "How Should Deep Self Theorists Account for Weakness of Will?" Symposium Session, Eastern APA, Savannah, GA
3. August 2014. Comments on David Killoren's "Robust Moral Realism: An Excellent Religion." Seventh Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference, University of Colorado Boulder.
4. April 2013. Comments on Andrew Jones' "Brutal Persistence." Syracuse Graduate Conference, Syracuse University.
5. April 2012. Comments on Melissa Frankel's "Berkeley on Divine Archetypes." Syracuse University.
6. February 2012. Comments on Tully Borland's & T. Allan Hillman's "God's Hiddenness, Coerced Persons, and the Threat of Moral Nihilism." 36th annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College.

TEACHING

University of Southern Maine

- LSH 240 Introducing the Humanities: Meaning, Morality, and Religion** (Spring 2018: online, face-to-face / Spring 2019)
- LSH 440 Capstone in the Humanities: Free Will and Moral Responsibility** (Spring 2020 / Spring 2021 / Fall 2021 / Spring 2022 / Fall 2022 / Spring 2023 / Fall 2023 / Spring 2024 / Fall 2024)
- PHI 199 Intro to Philosophy Topics: World Philosophy Day Course** (Fall 2017 / Fall 2018 / Fall 2019)
- PHI 199 Intro to Philosophy Topics: Knowledge, Reality, and Value** (Fall 2025)
- PHI 205 Logic** (Summer 2018 / Fall 2019 / Fall 2020 x2 online / Fall 2021 / Spring 2022 / Fall 2022 / Spring 2023 / Summer 2023 / Fall 2023 / Spring 2024 / Fall 2024 / Fall 2025)
- PHI 310 Ethical Theories** (Spring 2022 / Fall 2024)
- PHI 225 Philosophy of Mind** (Spring 2019)
- PHI 230 Philosophy of Religion** (Fall 2018: online, face-to-face / Summer 2019 / Summer 2019 / Spring 2020: online, face-to-face / Spring 2021: online, face-to-face / Fall 2021)
- PHI 290 Problems in Philosophy: Free Will** (Spring 2019)
- PHI 291 Death and Dying** (Fall 2017: online, face-to-face / Fall 2019 / Summer 2020 / Summer 2021 / Summer 2022)
- PHI 310 History of Ancient Philosophy** (Fall 2018)
- PHI 320 History of Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy** (Fall 2025)
- PHI 370 Analytic Philosophy** (Fall 2019 / Fall 2022 / Spring 2024)
- PHI 398 Independent Study: Henri Bergson** (Spring 2018) / **The Metaphysics of Identity** (Spring 2024)
- PHI 400 Philosophy Topics Seminar: Time** (Fall 2020)
- PHI 405 Major Figure Seminar in Phil.: David Hume Seminar** (Spring 2018)

Syracuse University

- PHI 107 Theories of Knowledge and Reality** (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017)
- PHI 383 (Online): Free Will** (Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017)

PHI 192 Intro to Moral Theory (Fall 2016)
PHI 197 Human Nature (Spring 2017)

Monroe Community College

PHL 102 Introduction to Logic (Spring 2017)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

PHI 107 Theories of Knowledge and Reality (Spring 2013)
PHI 191 Ethics and Contemporary Issues (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)
PHI 197 Human Nature (Spring 2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Organizer

2019 74th Annual Maine Philosophical Institute at the University of Southern Maine, March 29th

Conference Referee

2012 Ohio Philosophical Association

Journal Referee

2015 Res Philosophica, Neuroethics, Philosophia, Philosophical Papers
2016 Thought, Synthese, Philosophical Quarterly, Dialogue, Analysis
2017 Utilitas, Philosophia (x2), Religious Studies, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, TheoLogica
2018 Philosophia, Analysis (x2), Erkenntnis, Synthese, Philosophical Studies
2019 The Journal of Ethics
2021 Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Philosophical Studies
2022 Philosophers' Imprint
2023 Ergo
2024 Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Ethics
2025 Philosophia, Journal of Ethics

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Founder of USM's Religious Studies Minor (2019)
Teacher Education Pathway Faculty Advisor (2018-2022)
Faculty Senate Member (2022-2024)
Advising Liaison, Philosophy & Liberal Studies (2018-)
Graduate Student President, Syracuse University Philosophy Department (2014–2015)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2016 All-University Doctoral Prize (Syracuse University)
2015 Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship
2015 Departmental Summer Research Fellowship (Syracuse)

2013 Departmental Summer Research Fellowship (Syracuse)

2012 Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

2015 Free Will Summer School, Center for Consciousness Studies of Moscow State University

2013 Analytic Theology Summer Workshop, Southern Methodist University

2012 Analytic Theology Summer Workshop, Southern Methodist University

AFFILIATIONS

Fellow, Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, University at Buffalo

Member, The American Philosophical Association

Member, Society for Philosophy of Agency

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

(* indicates courses audited)

Syracuse University

Free Will

M. Heller (Fall 2013)

Metaethical Naturalism

H. Paakkunainen (Spring 2013)

Leibniz

K. McDaniel (Spring 2013)

Metaphysics

A. Gallois (Fall 2012)

Moral and Political Philosophy

H. Paakkunainen (Fall 2012)

Independent Study: Expressivism

H. Paakkunainen (Spring 2012)

Independent Study: Causation

M. Heller (Spring 2012)

History of Philosophy

K. Richardson (Spring 2012)

Husserl's Logical Investigations

K. McDaniel (Spring 2012)

Ontology

M. Heller (Fall 2011)

Lang/Epist/Mind/Metaphysics

A. Gallois (Fall 2011)

Logic and Language

T. McKay (Fall 2011)

Cornell University

*Free Will

D. Pereboom (Fall 2013)

Metaphysics (On Grounding)

T. Sider (Spring 2013)

Metaphysics (On Properties)

T. Sider (Fall 2011)

Rochester University

Causation

B. Weslake (Fall 2012)

REFERENCES

Mark Heller, *heller@syr.edu*

Professor of Philosophy, Syracuse University

John Martin Fischer, *john.fischer@ucr.edu*
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, UC Riverside

Derk Pereboom, *dp346@cornell.edu*
Stanford H. Taylor '50 Chair of the Sage School of Philosophy, Cornell University

Robert Van Gulick, *mvangul@syr.edu* (Teaching Reference)
Professor of Philosophy, Syracuse University