

[CV for web: 6/2008]

Steven A. Gross

Work

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Academic Positions

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2006-
(secondary appointment in Cognitive Science)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2005-6
Researcher, 2006-
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, 1999-2005
Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania,
1999-2005
Faculty, Language and Communication Science (IGERT interdisciplinary graduate
training program), University of Pennsylvania, 2004-5
Lecturer (Permanent Member of the Faculty), University College London, 1998-1999

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. in philosophy, June 1998
Dissertation: *Essays on Linguistic Context-Sensitivity and its Philosophical Significance*
(advisors: Professors Warren Goldfarb and Richard Heck)
University of California, Los Angeles, 1987-9, doctoral candidate
Harvard University, A.B. with honors in philosophy, 1987

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics

Areas of Competence

Epistemology, Early Modern Philosophy, Kant, History of Analytic Philosophy, Philosophy
of Religion, Undergraduate Logic

Publications

1. "Wittgenstein and the Constitution of Meaning," in a volume on Wittgenstein and the
Philosophy of Mind (forthcoming).
2. "Innateness" (with Georges Rey), in *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy &
Cognitive Science*, eds. E. Margolis, R. Samuels, and S. Stich (Oxford, forthcoming).
3. "Sincerely Saying What You Don't Believe Again," *Dialectica* (forthcoming).
4. "Reply to Jackendoff," *The Linguistic Review* 24, 2007, pp. 423-9.
5. "Relating Conscious and Unconscious Semantic Knowledge," *Croatian Journal of
Philosophy* 7, 2007, pp. 427-45.
6. "Trivalent Semantics and the Vaguely Vague," *Synthese* 156, 2007, pp. 97-117.
7. "Can Empirical Theories of Semantic Competence Really Help Limn the Structure of
Reality?," *Nous* 40, 2006, pp. 43-81.
8. "Can One Sincerely Say What One Doesn't Believe?," *Mind & Language* 21, 2006, pp.
11-20.

9. "The Nature of Semantics: On Jackendoff's Arguments," *The Linguistic Review* 22, 2005, pp. 249-270.
10. "The Biconditional Doctrine: *Contra* Kölbel on a 'Dogma' of Davidsonian Semantics," *Erkenntnis* 62, 2005, pp. 189-210.
11. "Context-Sensitive Truth-Theoretic Accounts of Semantic Competence," *Mind & Language* 20, 2005, pp. 68-102.
12. "Linguistic Understanding and Belief," *Mind* 114, 2005, pp. 61-6.
13. "Putnam, Context, and Ontology," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 34, 2004, pp. 507-54.
14. "Vagueness, Indirect Speech Reports, and the World," *Protosociology* (Special Issue on Semantic Theory and Reported Speech) 17, 2002, pp. 153-68.
15. "Is Context-Sensitivity Elimidable? Some Remarks," *The Dialogue* (Yearbook of Philosophical Hermeneutics: The Legitimacy of Truth, Proceedings of the Third Meeting, Italian-American Philosophy) 2, 2002, pp. 21-38.
16. "Putnam, Kontext und Ontologie," in *Hilary Putnam und die Tradition des Pragmatismus*, eds. Marie-Luise Raters and Marcus Willaschek (Suhrkamp, 2002), pp. 404-36. (An abridged translation of an early version of (10).)
17. "Vagueness, Indeterminacy, and Uncertainty," in *Indeterminacy*, ed. Jose Cipurut (MIT Press, forthcoming).
18. "Vagueness in Context," in *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, eds. Lila Gleitman and Avarind Joshi (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2000), pp. 208-13.
19. *Essays on Linguistic Context-Sensitivity and its Philosophical Significance*, Studies in Philosophy: Outstanding Dissertations (Routledge, 2001), pp. xvi + 148.
Contents: Introduction; I. The Pervasiveness and Utility of Context-Sensitivity; II. What is a Context?; III. Context-Sensitivity and Truth-Theoretic Accounts of Semantic Competence; IV. Context, Vagueness, and the Sorites Paradox; V. Context and Ontology (Some Initial Considerations)

Reviews, Encyclopedia Entries, Etc.

20. "Natural Kind Terms," *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd ed., ed. Keith Brown (Elsevier, 2006), vol. 8, pp. 492-6.
21. "Normativity," *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd ed., ed. Keith Brown (Elsevier, 2006), vol. 8, pp. 698-701.
22. Review of Robert Brandom, *Articulating Reasons*, in *The Philosophical Review* 111 (April 2002), pp. 284-7.
23. Review of Jerry Fodor, *Concepts*, in *Mind* 110 (April 2001), pp. 469-75.
24. Review of Fiona Cowie, *What's Within? Nativism Reconsidered*, in *The Philosophical Review* 110 (January 2001), pp. 94-7.
25. "What is a Hole?" (review of Roberto Casati and Achille Varzi, *Holes and Other Superficialities*), *The Harvard Review of Philosophy* IV (Spring 1994), pp. 76-80.
26. "An Interview with Henry Allison," *The Harvard Review of Philosophy* VI (Spring 1996), pp. 31-45. Reprinted in *Philosophers in Conversation* (Routledge, 2002), pp. 81-97.

Honors and Awards

- "Philosophy of Religion" selected as a Gilman Lecture Course in the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2008
- Principal Investigator, "Evolution, Cognition, and Culture" (awarded Metanexus grant of \$130,000 per year for 3-4 years, 2007-)
- Penn Faculty Fellow, Penn Humanities Forum (2003-4)
- Fellowship Nominee, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University (2002)
- Dissertation selected for Studies in Philosophy: Outstanding Dissertations, edited by Robert Nozick, Routledge (2001)
- Robert M. Martin Fellow (1997-8)

Minna de Gunzburg Scholar (1992)
John T. Hoopes Prize (1987)

Recent presentations (since 2007)

- “Are Linguists Better Subjects?” (with Jennifer Culbertson)
 - Society of Philosophy and Psychology, Philadelphia, June 2008
- “Comments on Louise Antony’s ‘In Praise of Loose Talk’”
 - Society of Philosophy and Psychology, Philadelphia, June 2008
- “Problems of Free Will”
 - Undergraduate Humanities Colloquium, Johns Hopkins University, October 2007
- “Problems of Consciousness”
 - Undergraduate Cognitive Science Club, Johns Hopkins University, September 2007
- “Is Assertion a Natural Kind?”
 - Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik, September 2007
- “Reply to Jim Hopkins’ ‘Rules, Privacy, and Physicalism’”
 - “Wittgenstein and the Philosophy of Mind,” University of California, Santa Cruz, June 2007
- “Thoughts in Words on *Words and Thoughts*”
 - Book Symposium on Rob Stainton’s *Words and Thoughts*, Canadian Philosophical Association, Saskatoon, May 2007
- “The Right to Risk: Clifford vs. James”
 - Faculty Keynote Address, Hopkins-Georgetown-Maryland Philosophy Graduate Conference, April 2007
- “Contextualism and Shared Content”
 - Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University, April 2007
- “Reply to Noë’s ‘Conscious Reference’”
 - “Putnam at 80,” University College Dublin, March 2007
- “Are We Understanding Innateness Yet?”
 - Philosophy of Linguistics Workshop, University of Maryland, February 2007

Service

University

Johns Hopkins University

University:

Neuroeducation Initiative Committee

Krieger School of Arts and Sciences:

Mellon Committee

Tenure Ad Hoc Committee (twice)

Dissertation Defense Committee:

-*Christological Nihilism in the Twelfth Century: The Contested Reception of Peter Lombard’s Sententiae*, Clare Monagle (History)

-*Modality Dependence and Independence in Human Spatial Memory*, Naohide Yamamoto (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

-*Learning to Attend: Effects of Practice on Information Selection*, Todd Kelley (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

-*Creation, Eden, Temple and Mountain: Literary Presentations of Sacred Space in the Hebrew Bible*, Seung Il Kang (Near Eastern Studies)

-*Formal and Cognitive Restrictions on Vowel Harmony*, Sara Finley (Cognitive Science)

-*Kant’s Transition Project in Practical Philosophy: From Spontaneity to Perception*, Oliver Thorndike (Philosophy) [alternate]

Department: Senior Search Committee (multiple), Miller Prize Committee (twice), Miller Retreat Committee, Colloquium Committee

University of Pennsylvania

University: Interdisciplinary Oversight Committee for “Mind, Religion, and Ethics in Dialogue”

College: Symposium on Curricular Reform, Penn Reading Project, IRCS/CCN Undergraduate Summer Workshop in Cognitive Science and Cognitive Neuroscience, Spruce House Faculty Associate, Faculty Commentator: Penn Humanities Forum Undergraduate Conference

Department: Philosophy Library Committee, Secretary to Philosophy Faculty Meeting, Philosophy Job Search Committee, Flower Prize Committee, Philosophy Graduate Admissions Committee, Philosophy Colloquium Committee

UCL

Affiliates Tutor, Job Placement, Library Advisor

Professional

Program Committee, Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, 2007-9

Organizer, Workshop on Expression and Self-Knowledge, Georgetown University, May 2007

Moderator, Conference on Induction, Johns Hopkins Center for History and Philosophy of Science, March 2007

Chair, Session at “Putnam at 80,” University College Dublin, March 2007

Co-organizer, Philosophy of Linguistics Workshop, University of Maryland, February 2007

Chair, Round Table Discussion, AHRB International Workshop on Word-Meaning, Concepts and Communication, September 2005

Chair, Colloquium on Philosophy of Language, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, December 2002

Referee:

Book – Oxford University Press (multiple); Routledge

Journal – *Mind* (multiple); *Mind & Language* (multiple); *Nous* (multiple); *Philosophers’ Imprint* (multiple); *Philosophical Papers*; *Philosophical Review*; *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (multiple); *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*; *Synthese* (multiple)

Conference/Proceedings – 14th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information

Fellowship – Harris Fellowship, Grinnell College

Expert Witness: DLA Piper

Community

Education-related volunteer work: Writing Coach, College Summit; Mentor, Brown v. Board of Education Project (Thurgood Marshall Academy); Consultant, RIME (Renovation in Music Education); Moderator, Clinton Global Initiative; Civilian Invited Participant: Strategy Implementation Seminar (U. S. Army War College)

Teaching

Johns Hopkins University

Undergraduate

Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy and Cognitive Science

-The New Synthesis and Fodor’s Challenge

-The Cognitive Science of Religion

Philosophy of Language

Senior Honors Essay

-Sam Messing

Graduate

Topics in the Philosophy of Language

- Foundations of Linguistics
- Shared Content

Dissertation Advising:

- Michael Hicks
- Julia Krause
- Patrick Leland
- Martin Moran
- Youngsup Park
- Diana Puglisi (Georgetown)
- Nicholas Tebben

Third-Year Paper Advising and Examining:

- Nicholas Tebben
- Giorgi Lebanidze
- Nicholas Goldberg
- Jeffery Maynes
- Jonathan Hricko

Qualifying Examination Advising:

- Nicholas Goldberg
- Jeffery Maynes
- John Waterman

Georgetown University

Undergraduate

Philosophy of Religion

Graduate

Topics in the Philosophy of Language

University of Pennsylvania

Undergraduate

Introduction to Philosophy

Perspectives on Cognitive Neuroscience (co-taught)

Metaphysics

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophy of Language

Epistemology

Philosophy of Religion

Directed Reading Courses and Honors Projects

- Skepticism about Meaning
- Modularity
- Wittgenstein on Rule-Following
- Externalism and Slow-Switching
- Perceptual Interfaces, Skeptical Hypotheses, and Metaphysical Hypotheses

Graduate

Self-Knowledge and Consciousness

Topics in the Philosophy of Language

- Context-Sensitivity
- Quantifiers and Ontology
- Vagueness
- The Semantics-Pragmatics Border

Dissertation Advising:

- Attention to Consciousness*, Morgan Wallhagen
- The Bundling of the Self: The Empirical Basis for the Unity of the Self in Hume and James*, Yumiko Inukai
- Kant on the Unity of Reason*, Michael Rohlf

-*Kant's Moral Idealism: The Logical Basis and Metaphysical Origin of the Ideas of
Community and Autonomy*, Lucas Thorpe
-*Perception in Action*, Jeffrey Scarborough

UCL

Undergraduate

Logic

Epistemology

Philosophy of Language

Diverse Tutorials

Graduate

MA Seminar

Diverse Tutorials

MA Thesis supervising: Jesse Norman, *Diagrammatic Reasoning and Propositional
Logic*

PhD Thesis supervising: Mark Jenkins, *Frege's Logicism*

Harvard (as sole responsibility instructor)

Undergraduate

The Nature and Existence of God

Old and New Riddles of Induction

Ontology

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association, Aristotelian Society, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*
associate, Cognitive Science Society, European Society for Analytic Philosophy,
European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, North American Kant Society, Society
for Exact Philosophy, Society for Philosophy and Psychology