

Sean M. Smith, Ph.D – Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Studies
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Employment

- July 2020 - Chair of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Aug. 2018- Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Education

- 2012-2018 PhD in Philosophy at the University of Toronto
- 2008 B.A. Honours, University of Toronto, Woodsworth College, with distinction. Specialist in Philosophy, Major in English

Areas of Specialization: Indian Buddhist Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind (including Cognitive Science and Philosophy of Psychology)

Areas of Competence: Phenomenology, Existentialism, Philosophy of Biology, Ethics and Moral Psychology, Classical Chinese Philosophy

Publications

Peer Reviewed

- 2022 “The Affectively Embodied Perspective of the Subject” in *Philosophical Psychology*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2022.2081143>
- 2021 “The Epistemic Role of Consciousness from a Practical Point of View” in *Contemporary Pragmatism* Vol 18, No. 3: 242-62.
- 2021 “The Negation of Self in Indian Buddhist Philosophy” in *Philosopher's Imprint*, Vol. 21, No. 13: 1-23.
- 2020 “A Pāli Buddhist Philosophy of Sentience: Reflections on *Bhavaṅga Citta*” in *Sophia*, Vol. 59: 457-88.

2019 “Phenomenal Overflow, Embodied Affect, and Some Varieties of Access” in *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*, Vol. 10: 787-808.

2019 “A Buddhist Analysis of Affective Bias” in *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, Vol. 47, No. 1: 155-85.

Invited

Forthcoming “Review of *Buddhist Philosophy and the Embodied Mind* by Matthew MacKenzie” for *Philosophical Psychology*

2022 “Review of *Other Lives: Mind and World in Indian Buddhism* by Sonam Kachru” for *Mind* <https://doi.org/10.1093/mind/fzac062>

2022 “Review of *The Non-Existence of the Real World* by Jan Westerhoff” for *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2022.05.08:
https://ndpr.nd.edu/reviews/the-non-existence-of-the-real-world/?fbclid=IwAR1zuP2jLf_zoi0DeY2LB_OpgOyN7iAS2k7WNVEzlcOnF5Qk29jH_oVtGITk

2021 “Buddhist Modernism, Scientific Explanation, and the Self” in *Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, Vol. 12, No. 1: 157-69.

2020 “Paying Attention to Buddhaghosa and Pāli Buddhist Philosophy” in *Philosophy East/West*, Vol 69, No. 4: 1125-51.

2015 Sean M. Smith and Evan Thompson "Searching for Affect: From William James to Neurophenomenology," *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, Vol 2(1): 19-23.

Under Review

“Affective Bias and Some Norms of Attention”

“Pain, Suffering, and the Time of Life”

In Progress

“Rationality and Freedom in Madhyamaka Buddhist Philosophy”

“Metaphysics and Phenomenology in Abhidharmic Buddhist Philosophy”

Talks

Refereed

“Ledi Sayadaw and Buddhaghosa on Bhavanga Citta”

- International Symposium of Contemplative Studies, San Diego, CA, 2016
- International Association for Buddhist Studies Congress, University of Toronto, 2017

“A Novel Approach to the Phenomenal Overflow Thesis”

- Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary, AB, 2016
- Central APA, Baltimore, MD, 2017

"The Phenomenology of Attention and the Mereology of the Self"

- Pacific APA, Vancouver, BC, 2015

"Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Mind in the light of Contemplative Neuroscience"

- Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison, NY, 2014

"The Evolutionary Function of Phenomenal Consciousness"

- *Canadian Philosophical Association* Congress, St Catherines, ON, 2014

"The Spatial Dynamics of Political Subjectivity"

- *Concordia Graduate Conference*, Montreal, QC, 2014

"The Explanatory Scope of Early Indian Buddhist Teachings on *Anatta*"

- Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison, NY, 2013

"With a View to Nibbana: Buddhist Soteriology and its Various Western Appropriations"

- Mind and Life Summer Research Institute, Garrison, NY, 2011

“Consciousness does not Supervene Locally over the Brain”

- University of Toronto’s Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind (UTISM), 2006

"Neutral Monism and the Nature of Consciousness"

- *Toward a Science of Consciousness*, Tucson AZ, 2006

Invited

“Pain, Suffering, and the Time of Life”

- ANU/UHM Workshop, Honolulu, 2023

“Affective Bias and Some Norms of Attention”

- Pacific APA, San Francisco, 2023

“Interrogating Constructive Realism About the Self”

- Pacific APA, San Francisco, 2023

“The Rhetoric of Science in the Construction of Buddhist Modernism”

- International Cultural Studies Speaker Series, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, USA 2020

“Perspective, Bias, and Attention Norms”

- Central APA, Chicago IL, 2020

“Pain as a Scaffold for the Lifeworld”

- Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver, Canada, 2019
- Symposium on Practical Philosophy, National University of Taiwan, 2019

“Some Norms of Affectively Biased Attention: Lessons from Buddhaghosa”

- Norms of Attention Workshop, University of Virginia, 2019

“Are Emotions Conceptually Constructed? Cross Cultural Philosophical Reflections”

- Keynote Address for UH Mānoa Philosophy Dept. Graduate Conference, Honolulu, USA, 2019

“Embodiment and Consciousness: Phenomenological and South Asian Buddhist Philosophical Perspectives”

- South Asian Studies Symposium, Honolulu, USA 2019

“Cross-Cultural Philosophical Pedagogy”

- Pacific Meeting of the APA, Vancouver, Canada, 2019

“How to Conduct Interdisciplinary Research”

- Pacific Meeting of the APA, Vancouver, Canada, 2019

“The Buddhist Roots of 4e Cognition”

- University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan, 2018
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI, 2018

“The Near and Far Enemies of Contemplative Science”

- Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, 2018
- Institute for Transcultural Psychiatry, McGill University, Montreal, QC, 2018

“The Dynamics of the Subliminal Mind in Theravāda Buddhism”

- Australasian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, Asian Perspectives on Mind, Action and Cultivation, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2015

“The Status of Animals in Early Indian Buddhist Moral Psychology”

- University of Toronto Animal Rights Club, 2013

Panel discussion with Andy Clark, Brian Cantwell Smith and others

- University of Toronto Interdisciplinary Symposium on the Mind, 2006

Commentaries

“Comments on How to Object to Jackson’s Knowledge Argument”

- Pacific Meeting of the APA, Vancouver, Canada, 2019

“Death as the Ultimate Transformative Experience: Response to Thompson”

- University of Toronto Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2017

"The Hyper-Illusory Account of Normative Valence"

- Pacific APA, Vancouver, BC, 2015

“An Anti-Intellectualist Theory of Know-How”

- *Canadian Philosophical Association* Congress, Victoria, BC, 2013

Awards

Research

- Dean’s Travel Award, 2022 (\$1700)
- Dean’s Travel Award, 2020 (\$1300)
- Faculty Research Travel Award, 2019 (\$1700)
- Dean’s Travel Award, 2019 (\$1000)
- University of Toronto Philosophy Fund Award, 2017 (\$5000)
- Julia Ching Memorial Prize, 2017 (\$2213.73)
- University of Toronto Doctoral Completion Award, 2017 (\$6266.41)
- Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages - Summer Institute on Buddhism and Science, 2017 (\$1000)
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2013-17 (\$60 000)
- American Philosophical Association Travel Grant, 2016 (\$300)
- Senior Doctoral Fellow at New College in the University of Toronto - Buddhist Psychology and Mental Health, 2015 (\$1000)
- George Paxton Young Memorial Prize in Philosophy, 2015
- Gordon Cheesbrough Graduate Fellowship in Philosophy, 2014, 2016-17 (\$4000)
- Sandhya and Ritten Ray Award for Indian Philosophy, University-wide award for merit, 2014 (\$1000)
- Junior Research Fellow - *Mind and Life* Summer Research Institute, 2011, 2013, and 2014
- Sunflower Scholarship for Most Improved Student in Philosophy, 2006
- Queen Elizabeth Reaching for the Top Scholarship, 2003

Teaching

College of Arts, Languages & Letters Excellence in Teaching Award at University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, 2021 (\$1000)

Faculty Teaching Award, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa (nominated), 2020, 2022

Runner up for the Martha Lile Teaching Prize in Philosophy, 2016

TATP University of Toronto Teaching Assistant Award, 2015 – This award is given out yearly to the top 4 of the University's 6000 TA's.

Teaching Experience

Professor

Introduction to Philosophy: Morals and Society, PHIL 101 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Philosophy and Evolution, PHIL 313 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Fall 2020, Spring 2023

Bodies, Minds, and Selves, PHIL 321 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Spring 2022

Buddhist Philosophy, PHIL 360 at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Introduction to Phenomenology, PHIL 402 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Spring 2022

Philosophical Psychology, PHIL 422 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2022

Graduate Seminar in Buddhist Philosophy, PHIL 790 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2021

Graduate Seminar in Philosophical Topics: Philosophy of Mind, PHIL 725 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Spring 2023

Instructor

Introduction to Philosophy: Persons and Value, PHL 113 at the University of Toronto Mississauga, 2018

Philosophy of Religion: Indian Buddhism, PHL 235 at the University of Toronto, Mississauga, 2018

The Continental Tradition: Phenomenology and its Discontents, PHL 324 at the University of Toronto, Mississauga, 2017

Seminar in Cognitive Science: Conceptual Foundations for the Science of Consciousness, COG 401 at the University of Toronto, 2015

Persons, Minds and Bodies, PHL 240 with Luke Roelofs at the University of Toronto, 2015

Teaching Assistant

Person's, Minds, and Bodies, PHL 240, 2017

Introduction to Philosophy, PHL 100, 2013-14, and 2016-17

Introduction to Continental Philosophy, PHL 217, 2015 and 2016

Socrates Project Teaching Assistant Position and Seminar Participant, 2007-08

Grader

Existentialism, PHL B30H3So, 2015

Professional Service

Referee

Buddhist Studies Review
Oxford University Press
Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences
Philosophy East and West
Journal of Dharma Studies
Theory and Psychology
Topoi

Conferences

Content steering committee for *Canadian Philosophical Association* annual congress, 2019
Advisor for Uehiro Graduate Conference at UH Mānoa, 2020, 2021

Planning Committee for UHM/ANU Philosophy Workshop for Spring 2023

Steering Committee for East-West Philosophers Conference for Spring 2024

Languages

Pāli and some Sanskrit