

Tamler Sommers
Curriculum Vitae
513 Agnes Arnold Hall
Houston, TX 77204-3004
Email: tssommers@uh.edu

Employment

2012- Associate Professor of Philosophy with Tenure, University of Houston. Philosophy Department and Honors College (joint appointment)

2008-2012 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Houston. Philosophy Department and Honors College

2005-2008. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Minnesota, Morris.

Education

2000-2005 Duke University. Ph.D. in Philosophy. (Dissertation: *Beyond Freedom and Resentment: An Error Theory of Free Will and Moral Responsibility*.)
Awarded December 31, 2005

1988-1992 University of Pennsylvania. B.A. English. *Cum Laude*. May 1992.

Research

Books

- *Why Honor Matters*. Basic Books. May 8, 2018
- *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain*, 2nd edition. (Features eight new interviews with Susan Wolf, Peter Singer, Anthony Appiah, Simon Blackburn, Nancy Sherman, Valerie Tiberius, Paul Bloom, and Alan Fiske and Tage Rai.) Routledge 2016.
- *Relative Justice: Cultural Diversity, Free Will, and Moral Responsibility*. Princeton University Press. December, 2012.
- *A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain*. December, 2009. McSweeney's Press.

Peer Reviewed Articles:

- "Negotiating Responsibility." *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 41:44-45 (commentary on John Doris' *Talking to Our Selves: Reflection, Ignorance, and Agency*.)
- "The Three Rs: Retribution, Revenge, Reparation." *Philosophia*. 44:2 327-342*
- "Relative Responsibility and Theism." in *Free Will and Theism: Connections, Contingencies, and Concerns*. Timpe, K. and Speak, D. eds. Oxford University Press. 2016*
- "Free Will and Experimental Philosophy: an Intervention." in *Handbook of Neuroethics*. Clausen, Jens; Levy, Neil (Eds.) Springer. December 2014.*

- “Partial Desert.” in *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility*. David Shoemaker ed. Oxford University Press. July, 2013 *
- “Experimental Philosophy” Knobe, J., Buckwalter, W., Nichols, S., Robbins, P., & Sommers, T. (2011). Experimental Philosophy. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 63, 81-99.*
- “Experimental Philosophy and Free Will.” *Philosophy Compass*. 5:199-212, 2010.
- “More Work for Hard Incompatibilism.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 79, 3: 511-521. November, 2009.
- “The Two Faces of Revenge: Moral Responsibility and the Culture of Honor.” *Biology and Philosophy*. 24,1 (2009):35-50.
- “The Objective Attitude.” *The Philosophical Quarterly*. 57, 28 (2007): 321-342
- “The Illusion of Freedom Evolves.” In *Distributed Cognition and the Will*, David Spurrett, Harold Kincaid, Don Ross, Lynn Stephens (eds). MIT Press. 2007.
- “Darwin’s Nihilistic Idea: Evolution and the Meaninglessness of Life,” (with Alex Rosenberg). *Biology and Philosophy*. 18: 653-668. November 2003.
- “Of Zombies, Color Scientists, and Floating Iron Bars,” *Psyche: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Consciousness* 8(22). November 2002.

Reviews and Other Publications:

- Review of *Freedom Regained: The Possibility of Free Will* by Julian Baggini. 800 words, The Philosophers Magazine. April 2016 *
- “Restorative Justice.” 800 words. The Philosophers Magazine. January 2016 *
- Review of *Building Better Beings* by Manuel Vargas. *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*. September 16, 2013 *
- Review of *Yuck: The Nature and Moral Significance of Disgust* by Daniel Kelly. *Philosophical Quarterly*. 2012 *
- Editor for “Metaethics” unit and author of unit introduction, in *Philosophy: Traditional and Experimental Readings* Fritz Allhoff, Ron Mallon, and Shaun Nichols (general eds.) Oxford University Press. November 2012. *
- “Required Reading: Thoughts on the Ethics of Punishment.” *The Philosophers Magazine*: First Quarter 2012. *
- Review of *Responsibility and Distributive Justice*. Carl Knight and Zofia Stemplowska (eds.). *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*. October, 2011. *
- “In Memoriam: The X-Phi Debate” *The Philosophers Magazine*. First Quarter. 2011
- “Reasonably Disposed: A Review of The Emotional Construction of Morals by Jesse Prinz.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. May 8, 2009.
- “A Review of The Self, edited by Galen Strawson.” *The Times Literary Supplement* January 6, 2006. P. 26. .

- “A Review of Can God Be Free? by William T. Rowe.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. January 21, 2005. P. 26
- “Diane Decides: A Review of Justice, Luck, and Knowledge, by S.L. Hurley.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. May 7, 2004. P. 6.
- “Rightly Determined: A Review of Deontic Morality and Control, by Ishtiyaque Haji.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. October 17, 2003. P. 8.

Presentations

- “Comments on Avner Baz’s *The Crisis of Method in Analytic Philosophy*.” American Philosophical Association (Pacific) Meeting, March 2018
- “Handling Your Business: Honor and Conflict” Philosophy and Humanities TwinStar Conference on Global Values. Lone Star Community College. February 2018
- “Honor, Revenge, and Justice.” Center for Practical and Professional Ethics and the Philosophy Department at the California State University, Sacramento. October 2017. (Invited, funded.)
- “Philosophical Busybodies” Moral Responsibility Workshop. Bonn Germany, June 2017
- “Philosophical Busybodies.” Invited (funded) by University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Undergraduate Philosophy Club. Co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department. October 2106
- “Is David Shoemaker Really a Strawsonian? Yes and No.” Comments on David Shoemaker’s Responsibility from the Margins. Invited (funded) for Gothenburg Responsibility Project annual conference. Gothenburg Sweden. August 24-27, 2016
- “Philosophical Busybodies.” Presented at the Pacific APA. Invited by the Society of Philosophy of Agency along with Derk Pereboom and Galen Strawson. Comments by Kelly McCormick (TCU). April 1, 2016.
- “Is David Shoemaker Really a Strawsonian? Yes and No.” Comments on David Shoemaker’s Responsibility from the Margins. Invited (funded) for Gothenburg Responsibility Project annual conference. Gothenburg Sweden. August 24-27, 2016
- “Philosophical Busybodies.” Invited (funded) by University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Undergraduate Philosophy Club. Co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department.
- “Moral Responsibility and Human Diversity” Kyoto Moral Psychology Workshop. July 2014. (invited)
- "How Do They Get Away With That? A "Theory" of Offensive Humor." Workshop on Jokes, Slurs, and Promises. Lawrence University, Appleton Wisconsin. May 2014 (Invited)
- "The Three Rs: Retribution, Restoration, and Revenge." The Ethics and Forgiveness Workshop. Union College. Schenectady, NY. May 2014. (Invited)
- "Moral Responsibility and Human Diversity." Workshop on my book *Relative Justice*, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. March 2014.
- “Courage: The Forgotten Virtue in the Philosophy of Punishment.” American Philosophical Association, 2013 Central Division Meeting. (Invited)*

- “Philosophical Busybodies” University of British Columbia, Spring Colloquium. March 15th, 2013 (Invited.)
- “Free Will and Experimental Philosophy: An Intervention.” Society for Experimental Philosophy. American Philosophical Association (Pacific) 2012 meeting. Seattle, Washington. April 4-8, 2012. (invited).
- “The Limits of Moral Argument.” TEDx Talk. Hogeschool Utrecht. Utrecht, Netherlands. November 8, 2011. (Invited)
- “Partial Desert,” New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility. Intercontinental Hotel. November 3-5, 2011.
- “Old School Retributivism: A Defense of Vigilante Justice” Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2011 Meeting. New Orleans, LA. March 10-13. (Invited)
- “Moral Responsibility and Human Diversity.” Society of Philosophy and Psychology, 2010 Meeting. Lewis and Clark University. Portland, OR. June 9-12.
- “Metaskepticism About Moral Responsibility.”
 - Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. University of Colorado, Boulder. Aug 7-10, 2008.
 - (Invited) Colloquium Series. University of Haifa. January 8, 2008.
- “The Two Faces of Revenge: Moral Responsibility and the Culture of Honor.”
 - (Invited) Philosophy Research Seminar. School of History, Philosophy, Religion, and Classics. University of Queensland. Brisbane, Australia. May 17, 2007.
 - International Society for Research on the Emotions (ISRE) 2006 Conference. Atlanta, GA. August 6-10, 2006.
 - The Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2006 Meeting. Washington University, St. Louis. June 1-4, 2006.
- “The Illusion of Freedom Evolves: How Darwinism Supports an Error Theory of Free Will and Moral Responsibility.”
 - The Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2005 Meeting. Wake Forest University. June 9-12, 2005.
 - The Second Conference of the Mind AND World Working Group. Distributed Cognition and the Will: Individual Volition and Social Context. University of Alabama at Birmingham. March 18-21, 2005.
- “Of Zombies, Color Scientists, and Floating Iron Bars.” Fifth Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness. Duke University. Durham, North Carolina. May 2001.

Other Projects:

- *The Very Bad Wizards Podcast* (co-hosted with David Pizarro: Cornell University). Biweekly podcast on issues in moral psychology. 137 episodes. Over 9 million downloads.

Honors and Awards (Since arriving at UH in 2008)

- A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain. (Nine New Interviews). Small Grants Program. University of Houston. 2012-2013*
- Faculty Fellow. Center of Ethics and Public Affairs. Murphy Institute. Tulane University. (Research Project: “Removing the Blindfold from Lady Justice: A Partially Retributive Theory of Punishment.”) Stipend: \$61,000. 2011-2012.
- 2010 Texas Book Festival. *A Very Bad Wizard* selected for inclusion and panel discussion.
- NEH Fellow. National Endowment of Humanities, Summer Institute on Experimental Philosophy. University of Utah. 2009.
- QEP Grant. University of Houston. Redesigned Phil 3395 (“Punishment”) to emphasize undergraduate research.
- Small Grants Fund. University of Houston. Travel to Ann Arbor, MI and San Francisco, CA for interviews with William Ian Miller and Philip Zimbardo.