

GARY OSTERTAG

Department of Philosophy
Nassau Community College
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PhD Program in Philosophy
The Graduate Center, CUNY
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 1994

M.A., Philosophy, Binghamton University, 1984

B.A., Philosophy, SUNY College at Oneonta, 1982

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Language
History of Analytic Philosophy

AREA OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics
Philosophy of Music
Early Modern Women Philosophers

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Nassau Community College, Department of Philosophy, Chair, from fall 2020; Professor, from Fall 2019; Associate Professor, Fall 2015 – Spring 2019; Assistant Professor, with tenure, 2007 – Spring 2015; Lecturer, Spring 2002 - Spring 2007
- The Graduate Center, CUNY, Department of Philosophy, Affiliated Associate Professor, fall 2014 – present; Visiting Associate Professor, Fall 2010 - Spring 2013
- The Saul Kripke Center, The Graduate Center, CUNY, Director, 2009 – 2014; Affiliated Scholar, from 2020.
- New York University, Department of Philosophy, Adjunct Associate Professor, Spring 2012, Spring 2016, Spring 2019; Visiting Scholar, 1996-2000, 2004 - 2011; Adjunct Assistant Professor, 1998, 2000-04
- University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Department of Philosophy, Visiting Scholar, Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Books

- Eileen O’Neill, *Disappearing Ink: Essays in Early Modern Philosophy*. Oxford University Press, forthcoming
- *Meanings and Other Things: Themes from Stephen Schiffer*. Oxford University Press, 2016
- *Definite Descriptions: A Reader*. MIT Press, 1998

Journal Articles and Critical Notices

- “E. E. Constance Jones on the Dualism of Practical Reason” (with Amanda Favia), *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 29 (2021), 346-342 (special issue, Nineteenth-Century Women Philosophers in Britain and America)
- “Pleonastic Propositions and *De Re* Belief,” *Philosophical Studies* 177 (2020), 3529-3547
- “The Analytic Tradition in Philosophy,” critical notice of Scott Soames, *The Analytic Tradition in Philosophy, Volume 2: A New Vision, Analysis* 79 (2019), 560-71

- “Propositions and the Logical Form of Predication,” *Synthese* 196 (2019), 1475-1499
- “Cruelty and Kinds: Scalia and Dworkin on the Constitutionality of Capital Punishment,” *Inquiry*, 61 (2018), 422-43
- “Two Aspects of Propositional Unity,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 43 (2013), 518-33
- “The ‘Gödel’ Effect,” *Philosophical Studies*, 166 (2013), 65-82
- Critical study of Julian Dodd, *Works of Music, Noûs* 46 (2012), 355-74
- “A Problem for Russellian Theories of Belief,” *Philosophical Studies* 92 (2009), 363-89
- “A Puzzle about Disbelief,” *The Journal of Philosophy* 102 (2005), 573-93
- “Has the Problem of Incompleteness rested on a Mistake?” (with Ray Buchanan), *Mind*, 114 (2005), 889-913
- “A Scorekeeping Error,” *Philosophical Studies* 96 (1999), 123-46

Book Chapters

- “E. E. Constance Jones on Identity and Predication,” in Jeanne Peijnenburg and Sander Verhaegh (eds.), *Women in the History of Analytic Philosophy*, Springer, forthcoming 2021.
- “You are an *P*: Elizabeth Bishop’s ‘In the Waiting Room,’” in Patricia Kitcher (ed.) *The Self: A History*. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2021.
- “Fine on Frege’s Puzzle,” *Metaphysics, Meaning, and Modality: Themes from Kit Fine*, Mircea Dumitru (ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020
- Introduction (pp. 1- 33), Gary Ostertag, *Meanings and Other Things: Themes from Stephen Schiffer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016
- “Propositional Platitudes,” in Gary Ostertag, *Meanings and Other Things: Themes from Stephen Schiffer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016
- “Russell and Quine,” in *A Companion to W. V. O. Quine*, Gilbert Harman and Ernest Lepore (eds.). Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 2014
- “Descriptions and Logical Form,” in Dale Jacquette (ed.) *Blackwell Companion to Philosophical Logic*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 2002
- Introduction (pp. 1-34) to *Definite Descriptions: A Reader*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998
- “Individualism, Ostensive Definition and Rule-Following,” in S. Tegerarian *et al* (eds.) *Wittgenstein: a Symposium*. Wakefield, NH: Longwood Academic, 1990
- “Normativity and Perception,” in R. Haller (ed.) *Wittgenstein: Toward a Re-evaluation*. Vienna: Holder-Pichler-Tempsky, 1990

Reviews and Rejoinders

- Review of Karen Neander, *A Mark of the Mental: In Defense of Informational Teleosemantics*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 97 (2019), 628-31.
- Review of John Burgess, *Kripke*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2013.12.29
- Review of Scott Soames, *Philosophical Essays, Volume 1: Natural Language: What It Means and How We Use It*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2010.07.14
- Review of Kit Fine, *Semantic Relationism*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 87 (2009), 345-9
- Review of Jason Stanley, *Language in Context*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2008.05.25
- Review of Robert Fiengo and Robert May, *De Lingua Belief*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2007.09.19

- Review of Anne Bezuidenhout and Marga Reimer, *Descriptions and Beyond*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2005.08.10
- Review of Rosanna Keefe, *Theories of Vagueness, History and Philosophy of Logic* 23 (2002), 291-2
- “In the Realm of Sense,” review of Gideon Makin, *The Metaphysicians of Meaning*, *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies* 21 (2001), 167-75
- “Rejoinder to Dejnozka’s Reply,” *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies* 21 (2001), 266-7
- “Russell’s Modal Logic?” Review of Jan Dejnozka, *Bertrand Russell on Modality and Logical Relevance*, *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies* 21 (2001), 1, 165-72

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Emily Elizabeth Constance Jones” (12,500 words), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Revisions to main text and bibliography, 2020; first published 2011
- “Descriptive Thought” (2000 words), in Hal Pashler (ed.) *Encyclopedia of the Mind*. Sage Publications, 2013
- “Definite and Indefinite Descriptions, Philosophical Aspects” (3900 words), in Keith Brown (ed.) *The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd Ed. Oxford: Elsevier, 2005

RECENT AND UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

- Roundtable on Women in the History of Analytic Philosophy, Society for the History of Analytic Philosophy, Vienna, Austria (planned for July, 2020; postponed until 2021)
- APA Webinar on Academic Careers, with Lauren Ashwell, Sam Cowling, Eileen Nutting and Victor Kumar, December 2, 2020
- “E. E. Constance Jones on Identity and Predication.” NYU Philosophical Forum (NYU’s undergraduate philosophy club; the two other speakers the students invited that semester were Kwame Anthony Appiah and David Chalmers), November 20, 2019
- “E. E. Constance Jones on ‘The Dualism of Practical Reason.’” Tilburg-Groningen Workshop on Women in the History of Analytic Philosophy, October 27, 2019.
- “E. E. Constance Jones on Identity and Diversity.” Keynote Lecture, OZSW Autumn School, Beyond the Canon: Unexplored Topics and Forgotten Thinkers, October 25-26 2019.
- “Lessons from Eileen: Strategies for Including Early Modern Women Philosophers in the Undergraduate Curriculum” (with Christia Mercer). Minds of Our Own Conference, MIT, November 11, 2018.
- “Locating Speaker Meaning.” Philosophy of Linguistics and Language, Dubrovnik, Croatia, September 13, 2018.
- “Pleonastic Propositions and *De Re* Belief.” New York Philosophy of Language Workshop, April 9, 2018.
- “Bonardi on Schiffer, Salmon and Frege’s Constraint” (response to Paolo Bonardi). Pacific Division Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, March 28, 2018.
- “Thriving on a Riff: The Ontology of Jazz Performance.” The Graduate Center, CUNY, October 3, 2017.
- “Implicit Bias in Poullain De La Barre.” Women’s and Gender Studies Project Faculty Seminar, Nassau Community College, September 14, 2017

- “The Daoist Dialectic of Enlightenment” (with Graham Priest, respondent). Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University, March 31, 2017
- “Bradley and Russell on Relations and Propositional Unit.” Logic in Kant’s Wake, May 16-18, 2016, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
- “Dworkin On Scalia: A Textualist Response.” CUNY/IP/IALS Workshop on Language and Law, April 18, 2016
- “Propositions and the Logical Form of Predication.” Barcelona Workshop on Reference, LOGOS Research Centre, June 2015
- “Propositions as Performances.” Cognitive Approaches to Propositions or their Replacements, NYU, June 13, 2014; seminar at UMass-Amherst, May 5, 2014
- Symposium on John Burgess, *Kripke*. Philosophy Department, Princeton University, November 15, 2013
- “Kripke, Lewis, and Footnote 13.” conference on The Work of Saul Kripke, University of Nebraska, Omaha, May 20-22, 2013
- Comments on Sandeep Sreekumar, “Without Agents or Duties: Aspects of Krishna’s Theory of Persons and Actions in *The Bhagavad Gītā*.” Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy, Columbia University, March 1, 2013

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Research Grant, Nassau Community College Foundation, 2007, 2010, 2016, 2018
- Sabbatical Leave, Nassau Community College, 2008-2009, 2019-2020
- SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship, 2007
- CUNY Research Foundation Fellowship, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, 1987-93
- Northeast Association of Graduate Schools Award for Best Masters Thesis, Humanities, 1986 (awarded for 1984 Masters Thesis, *Fact and Meaning in Quine’s Philosophy of Language*)
- Graduate Fellowship, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 1984-87

SERVICE TO NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Department Chair, 2020 – present
- Academic Senate, 2018 – 19, 2020 – present
- Institutional Review Board, 2017 - 2019
- College-wide Curriculum Committee, 2007-2010, 2013-2018
- College-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2015 - 2017
- Committee on Writing Across the Curriculum, 2006 - 2008
- Chair, Critical Thinking Subcommittee, General Education Committee, Spring 2005
- Co-Founder and Chair of Honors Colloquium, 2005 -2007
- Affirmative Action Committee, 2004 - 2007

SERVICE TO THE GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY

- Meyer Kripke Fellowship Committee, 2009-2014
- Organized “Saul Kripke’s Philosophical Troubles,” September 15-16, 2011; international conference with 8 speakers and 120 attendees
- Reader and advisor for qualifying papers

- Dissertation supervisor for Oliver Marshall (Ph.D. 2016); committee member for Daniel Boyd (Ph.D. 2019), Amanda Favia (Ph.D. 2016), Ryan Felder (in progress), Daniel Harris (Ph.D. 2014), Alex Kiefer (Ph.D. 2018), Michael Maumus (Ph.D. 2013), Rachel McKinney (Ph.D. 2015), Svetlana Novikova (in progress), John Ostling (in progress), Romina Padró (Ph.D. 2014), David Pereplyotchik (Ph.D. 2013), Ben Phillips (Ph.D. 2016), Jesse Rappaport (PhD 2018), Richard Stillman (in progress), Elmar Geir Unnsteinsson (Ph.D. 2015), Monique Whitaker (Ph.D. 2016), Yale Weiss (Ph.D. 2018), and Chun-Ping Yen (Ph.D. 2016).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Program Committee, Eastern Division of the APA, 2021-23
- Refereed journal articles for: (*Indicates multiple reviews)
 - Analysis**
 - Analytic Philosophy*
 - Australasian Journal of Philosophy**
 - Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie**
 - British Journal for the History of Philosophy*
 - Ergo*
 - Erkenntnis**
 - European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*
 - Grazer Philosophische Studien*
 - Journal of Philosophical Logic**
 - Journal of Philosophy*
 - The Journal of Philosophical Research**
 - Legal Theory*
 - Linguistics and Philosophy**
 - Mind*
 - Noûs**
 - Pacific Philosophical Quarterly**
 - Philosopher's Imprint**
 - Philosophia*
 - Philosophical Studies**
 - Philosophical Quarterly**
 - Ratio*
 - Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies**
 - Synthese**
 - Thought**
- Refereed book manuscripts for:
 - Oxford University Press*
 - McGraw-Hill
 - MIT Press*
 - Routledge
- Referee, Austrian Science Fund (FWF), 2009, 2015
- PSC-CUNY Research Award Committee, 2003
- Section Editor, Attitude Ascriptions, *PhilPapers*
- Editorial Panel, *Thought*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Philosophical Association
- Bertrand Russell Society

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Senior Programmer, WideLines, LLC, New York, NY, Software Developer, October 2000-June 2001. C programming on the UNIX platform. Helped develop an online insurance marketplace.
- Senior Programmer, Information Builders, Inc., New York, NY, March 1999-September 2000. Systems programming for the VMS operating system using DEC C and DCL (Digital Command Language).
- Programmer, Donovan Data Systems (now MediaOcean), New York, NY, January 1996-March 1999. Helped develop and maintain graphical interface to a mainframe system, enabling users to request, update and display advertising data.
- Item Writer and Evaluator, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ, GRE General Exam, 1995-2001.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Women in Early Analytic Philosophy*. An edited collection of writings about forgotten women analytic philosophers, writing in the period between 1885-1930.
- *E. E. Constance Jones*. A monograph on the philosophical logic and ethics of E. E. Constance Jones (1848-1921).
- “Thriving on a Riff: The Ontology of Jazz Performance.” An essay on the relation between work and performance in the jazz tradition.

REFERENCES

- Michael Devitt, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, The Graduate Center, CUNY
- Saul Kripke, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Computer Science, The Graduate Center, CUNY
- Christia Mercer, Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University
- Stephen Neale, Kornblith Chair in the Philosophy of Science and Value, The Graduate Center, CUNY
- Stephen Schiffer, Silver Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, New York University