

Bryan C. Reece

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, 170 St. George St.
Toronto, ON M5R 2M8, Canada

bryan.reece@mail.utoronto.ca, individual.utoronto.ca/bryanreece

EDUCATION

- 2011–2016 PhD in Philosophy, University of Toronto, Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Thesis: *The Ontology, Etiology, and Moral Psychology of Action: Aristotle and Today*, Advisors: Lloyd Gerson, Brad Inwood, Philip Clark, Examiners: Christopher Shields (external), James Allen
- 2014 Visiting Graduate Student, University of Oxford, Corpus Christi College
Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity, Trinity Term
- 2010–2011 MSt in Ancient Philosophy (with distinction), University of Oxford, Merton College, Thesis: *The Voluntary in Nicomachean Ethics III.1*, Tutors: David Charles, Ursula Coope, C.C.W. Taylor, Examiners: David Charles, Gail Fine, Christopher Shields, David Sedley (external)
- 2008–2010 MA in Philosophy (highest honors), University of Oklahoma
- 2004–2008 BA in Philosophy, Greek & Hebrew, Spanish (high honors), Honors College, Oklahoma Baptist University, Thesis: *Distributive Justice and Rap*

EMPLOYMENT

- 2018–2019 Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies, Fellow
- 2017–2018 University of Toronto, Postdoctoral Researcher
- 2016–2017 University of Toronto, Faculty Lecturer

CITIZENSHIP

Citizen of the USA, Permanent Resident of Canada

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ancient Greek Philosophy, Action Theory

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Early Modern, Ethics (incl. Bioethics), Human Nature (incl. Philosophy of Race), Medieval (incl. Islamic), Metaphysics

PUBLICATIONS

‘Aristotle’s Four Causes of Action.’ *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (forthcoming).

‘Are There Really Two Kinds of Happiness in Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*?’ *Classical Philology* (forthcoming).

‘Out of Thin Air? Diogenes of Apollonia on Causal Explanation.’ In *Heat, Pneuma and Soul in Ancient Philosophy and Science: From the Presocratics to Aristotle*, edited by H. Bartos and C. King, Cambridge University Press (forthcoming).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2013–2016 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (national research award issued by the Government of Canada, 50,000 CAD stipend per annum)
- 2011–2016 Robinson Award in Classical Philosophy, University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy (27,000 CAD stipend per annum; relinquished in 2013 for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship)
- 2017 University of Toronto HealthyU Community Champion (awarded on the basis of student nomination for promoting a positive and inclusive classroom environment)
- 2016 Robinson Essay Prize (awarded for best essay, submissions open to Philosophy, Classics, and Medieval Studies)
- 2015 George Paxton Young Memorial Prize in Philosophy (150 CAD)
- 2014 University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies Research Travel Grant (1,811 CAD for research at the University of Oxford in association with David Charles and the Corpus Christi College Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity)
- 2013 Hadden Prize, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (100 CAD plus free membership in the Society, awarded for the best paper presented at their Annual General Meeting)
- 2008–2010 Graduate Foundation Fellowship, University of Oklahoma, Department of Philosophy (22,000 USD stipend per annum plus full tuition and fees, awarded to one student in the department each year)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Articles

Causal Deviance, Anarchic Hands, and Structuring-Causal Theories of Action (under revision for *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*)

Aristotle on Causation and Ontological Priority

Ontological Priority and Relatives: A Problem of Metaphysical Grounding for Aristotle

Books

Aristotle on Happiness, Virtue, and Wisdom

Aristotle thinks that human happiness is rational activity in accordance with some sort of virtue(s), but fierce debate has centered on whether all virtuous activities are included or only the intellectually virtuous activity of contemplation. Each seems to have textual support. This monograph shows that the problem of determining Aristotle's view is even more difficult than has yet been recognized, but also that his position can be successfully determined once we have dispelled some prominent misunderstandings. I first present a new version of the problem of determining Aristotle's view about happiness and argue that no existing interpretation solves it. Next, I identify and argue against three inadequately defended standard theses that not only stand in the way of solving the problem, but also generate independently recognized difficulties for Aristotle's account of happiness. With those three obstacles removed by original interpretations that also circumvent the independently recognized difficulties, I offer a new positive account of the relationship between happiness,

virtue, and wisdom that solves the problem by leveraging Aristotle’s philosophical anthropology and associated metaphysics of essence. Then, I highlight a further advantage of this account, namely the result that the *Eudemian* and *Nicomachean Ethics* are not fundamentally in contradiction about the nature of happiness, as some have thought.

Aristotle on the Causation of Action

This monograph systematically examines how Aristotle’s theory of the four causes illuminates his theory of action. The fact that this connection has not been adequately explored is surprising, since Aristotle thinks that actions are natural changes and that natural changes should be explained in light of the four causes. Commentators have not appreciated how truly distinctive Aristotle’s philosophy of action is because they have not sufficiently attended to the deployment of his theory of the four causes in explaining natural changes, and what the advantages are of doing so. The central chapters propose a way of systematizing Aristotle’s scattered remarks about action in accordance with his causal theory of natural changes in general, yielding a four-causal account of action. The remainder shows how this account clarifies Aristotle’s discussions of voluntariness, responsibility, the practical syllogism, and strong-willed and weak-willed action.

ACADEMIC TALKS

Invited Talks

- 05/2018 Plato on Knowledge, Belief, and Ignorance in *Republic* 5, University of Notre Dame, Center for the Aristotelian Tradition Workshop: *Republic* v and vi
- 01/2018 Aristotle on Theoretical and Practical Wisdom, University of Victoria
- 11/2017 The Standard Problem and Hard Problem of Happiness, San Diego State University
- 04/2017 Aristotle on the Unity of Action, UC Riverside
UC Riverside Ancient Philosophy Conference
- 10/2015 Aristotle and Powers Theories of Action, University of Oxford
Power Structuralism in Ancient Ontologies Visiting Speaker Series
- 11/2014 Aristotle’s Four Causes of Action, UC Berkeley
Working Group in Ancient Philosophy
- 04/2013 Voluntary Action, Western University, London, ON
- 08/2012 Aristotle on Courage in *Eudemian Ethics* III.1, Cornell University
Eudemian Ethics Workshop
- 05/2012 Aristotle on Choice and Action, Tahoe Ancient Philosophy Workshop
(organized by Harvard University and Western University), Tahoe City, CA

Refereed Talks

- 01/2019 Ontological Priority and Relatives: A Problem of Metaphysical Grounding for Aristotle, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, respondent: TBD
- 03/2018 Aristotle on Theoretical and Practical Wisdom,
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, respondent: Marta Heckel

- 02/2018 Are There Really Two Kinds of Happiness in *Nicomachean Ethics* 10. 8? American Philosophical Association Central Division, respondent: Jean Clifford
- 05/2017 Hylomorphic Actions, Canadian Philosophical Association, Ryerson University, respondent: John Thorp
- 05/2017 A Hylomorphic Account of Action, Hylomorphism Conference, Banff, Alberta
- 05/2016 Aristotle on Causation, Production, and Ontological Priority, Aristotle University World Congress: Aristotle 2400 Years
- 03/2016 Aristotle on the Starting-Point of Motion, University of Cambridge
Archai and *Geneseis*: Theorising Origins in Ancient Philosophy, respondent: George Medvedev
- 03/2016 A Note on Aristotle's *Aitiai*, American Philosophical Association Central Division, Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy session
- 07/2014 On the Precursors and Influence of Diogenes of Apollonia, Aristotle University International Association for Presocratic Studies
- 04/2014 A Problem for Teleological Explanation in Aristotle's Biology, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, respondent: Michael Ferejohn
- 06/2013 On the State's Duty to the Poor, University of Victoria,
International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy
- 06/2013 Aristotle on How Character Is Up to Us, Canadian Philosophical Association, University of Victoria, respondent: Michael Da Silva
- 06/2013 The Problem of Unbeneficial Features in Aristotle's *Parts of Animals*, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Victoria
- 04/2013 Diogenes of Apollonia on First Principles, Cause, & Explanation, U of Cambridge Conference on First Principles, Cause, and Explanation in Ancient Philosophy, respondent: Rhodes Pinto
- 03/2013 Out of Thin Air? Diogenes of Apollonia on Generation and Causal Interaction, Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of Texas, Austin, respondent: Dhananjay Jagannathan
- 10/2012 On Science Pure and Simple, Plato's Moral Psychology Workshop, U of Michigan
- 04/2012 Matters of Taste, North Texas Philosophical Association, U of North Texas
- 02/2012 The Voluntary in *Nicomachean Ethics* III.1, American Philosophical Association Central Division, respondent: Susan Sauvé Meyer
- 06/2011 Epistemic Communities, Doxastic Alternatives, and Soteriological Exclusivism, International Conference in Philosophy of Religion: Philosophy of Religion in the 21st Century Krakow, Poland
- 04/2011 Aristotle on the Voluntary, North Texas Philosophical Association, University of North Texas

- 08/2010 Causalism and the Normativity of Practical Reason, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder
- 11/2009 On the Psychological Nature and Intersubjective Force of Epistemic Reasons, Cave Hill Philosophy Symposium, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill
- 10/2009 Socratic Self-Knowledge in the *Charmides* and the *Apology*, Fordham University joint meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy and the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy

Commentaries

- 02/2017 Vanessa de Harven's Composition, Constitution, and the Continuum, Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of Texas, Austin
- 02/2015 Comments on Emily Katz's Ontological Separation in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of Texas, Austin
- 06/2013 Comments on Marc Ramsay's Consenting Combatants: Gladiators, Boxers & Cage-Fighters, International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy, University of Victoria
- 08/2010 Comments on Frans Svensson's Eudaimonist Virtue Ethics and Right Action: A Reassessment, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado

Interdisciplinary/Public Talks

- 02/2014 Plato on the Dangers of Intellectual Openness, Massey Junior Fellow Lecture Series, Massey College, Toronto, ON
- 11/2012 The Nature of Innovation, Massey Junior Fellow Lecture Series, Massey College, Toronto, ON

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (at University of Toronto unless otherwise stated)

As Instructor

- 2017 Aristotle
- 2017 Human Nature
- 2016 Freedom, Responsibility and Human Action
- 2016 The Rationalists
- 2014 Ancient Philosophy

As Tutorial Leader

- 2016 Bioethics
- 2013–2014 Ancient Philosophy
- 2013 Later Medieval Philosophy
- 2012 Early Medieval Philosophy

As Teaching Assistant

- 2012 Critical Reasoning
- 2012 Puzzles and Paradoxes
- 2011 Ancient Philosophy
- 2010 Asian and Comparative Philosophy, University of Oklahoma
- 2009 History of Ethics, University of Oklahoma

OTHER ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT IN PHILOSOPHY

2008–2009 Research Assistant, University of Oklahoma, Linda Zagzebski (most duties were associated with Zagzebski’s book, *Epistemic Authority: A Theory of Trust, Authority, and Autonomy in Belief*)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Ancient Philosophy

2016 Hellenistic Philosophy of Language (audit), University of Toronto, James Allen
2015 Aristotle on Friendship (audit), University of Toronto, Dorothea Frede and Rachel Barney
2015 Aristotle’s Logic (audit), University of Toronto, James Allen
2014 Plato’s *Phaedrus* and *Symposium* (audit), University of Toronto, Jennifer Whiting
2014 Aristotle’s *De anima* (audit), University of Oxford, Christopher Shields
2013 Pleasure and *Phantasia* in Aristotle, University of Toronto, Jennifer Whiting
2012 Platonism in the Roman Empire, University of Toronto, George Boys-Stones
2012 Hylomorphism (audit), University of Toronto, Jennifer Whiting
2012 Presocratic Philosophy, University of Toronto, Brad Inwood
2011 Plato’s Ethics, University of Toronto, Rachel Barney
2011 Aristotle’s Ethics, University of Oxford, David Charles and Terence Irwin
2011 Forms in Plato and Aristotle, University of Oxford, Christopher Shields
2011 Self-Motion in Ancient Philosophy, University of Oxford, Ursula Coope
2010 Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, University of Oxford, David Charles
2010 Survey of Plato, University of Oklahoma, Hugh Benson
2008 Plato’s Epistemology, University of Oklahoma, Hugh Benson

Epistemology

2011 Peer Disagreement, University of Toronto, Gurpreet Rattan and David Dyzenhaus
2010 Epistemology Survey (audit), University of Oxford, John Hawthorne
2009 Social and Feminist Epistemology, University of Oklahoma, Wayne Riggs
2009 Survey of Epistemology, University of Oklahoma, Wayne Riggs
2009 Wittgenstein, Goodman, and Sellars, University of Oklahoma, Chris Swoyer
2008 Epistemic Trust, Autonomy, and Authority, University of Oklahoma, Linda Zagzebski

Ethics, Action Theory, and Social-Political Philosophy

2012 Agency and Realism in Ethics, University of Toronto, Phil Clark
2012 Kant’s Legal and Political Philosophy, University of Toronto, Arthur Ripstein
2011 Ethics Survey (audit), University of Oxford, John Broome
2010 Moral Judgment, University of Oklahoma, Zev Trachtenberg
2009 Free Will and Human Action, University of Oklahoma, Neal Judisch
2008 Happiness, University of Oklahoma, Neera Badhwar

Medieval Philosophy

2013 Augustine, University of Toronto, Peter King
2012 Medieval Islamic Philosophy, University of Toronto, Deborah Black
2012 Free Will and Human Action in Medieval Philosophy, Martin Pickavé

Metaphysics, Logic, and Philosophy of Language

2011 Formal Philosophy, University of Toronto, Jonathan Weisberg
2010 Advanced Logic, University of Oklahoma, Chris Swoyer
2009 The Metaphysics of Structured Propositions, University of Oklahoma, Ray Elugardo

Miscellaneous

- 2012 Philosophy of Biology, University of Toronto, Denis Walsh
2010 Proseminar in Ethics, Epistemology, and Metaphysics, University of Oxford, Paul Lodge, Ralph Wedgwood, John Hawthorne, and Oliver Pooley
2009 Philosophy of Religion, University of Oklahoma, Linda Zagzebski

INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT

- 2015–2016 Graduate Associate, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto
2014 Visiting Graduate Student, Corpus Christi College Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity, University of Oxford
2011– Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, University of Toronto
2011–2016 Junior Fellow, Massey College, University of Toronto

LANGUAGES

Fluency: English, Spanish (undergraduate major, eleven years of formal study)
Reading proficiency: Classical Greek, French, German (passed exams administered by the University of Toronto Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy)
Basic reading competency: Italian, Latin

REFERENCES

Lloyd Gerson, FRSC

Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
170 St. George St.
Toronto, ON M5R 2M8
lloyd.gerson@utoronto.ca

Brad Inwood, FRSC

Professor of Philosophy and
Classics
Department of Classics
Yale University
344 College St., Box 208266
New Haven, CT 06520-8266
brad.inwood@yale.edu

David Charles

Howard H. Newman
Professor of Philosophy and
Classics
Department of Philosophy
Yale University
344 College St.
New Haven, CT 06511-6629
david.charles@yale.edu

Malcolm Schofield, FBA

Emeritus Professor of
Ancient Philosophy
Faculty of Classics
University of Cambridge
St John's College
Cambridge, CB2 1TP
ms10001@cam.ac.uk

Christopher Shields

George N. Shuster Professor
of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Notre Dame
100 Malloy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
cshield3@nd.edu

James Allen

Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
170 St. George St.
Toronto, ON M5R 2M8
jv.allen@utoronto.ca

Philip Clark

Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
170 St. George St.
Toronto, ON M5R 2M8
philip.clark@utoronto.ca

Arthur Ripstein, FRSC

Professor of Law and
Philosophy
Faculty of Law
University of Toronto
78 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON M5S 2C5
arthur.ripstein@utoronto.ca