

# Bryan C. Reece

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## 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*, Advisors: 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

- 2017– 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

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

## PUBLICATIONS

- ‘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.’ Prepared for publication in *Heat, Pneuma and Soul in Ancient Philosophy and Medicine*, edited by H. Bartos and C. King, under review at Cambridge University Press.

## 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)
- 2008–2017 Conference Travel Grants, 45 totaling approximately 21,447 CAD from sources including the American Philosophical Association, the University of Oxford, the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto, and ten other funding bodies
- 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**

### **Book**

*Aristotle on the Causation of Action*

### **Articles**

Aristotle's Four Causes of Action (under revision for the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*)

Aristotle on Causation and Ontological Priority (under review)

Aristotle on Theoretical and Practical Wisdom (under review)

Causal Deviance, Anarchic Hands, and Structuring-Causal Theories of Action (under review)

Ontological Priority and Relatives: A Problem of Metaphysical Grounding for Aristotle (under review)

## **ACADEMIC TALKS**

### **Invited Talks**

- 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

- 03/2018 Aristotle on Theoretical and Practical Wisdom,  
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division, respondent: TBD
- 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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*)

### **BOOK DESCRIPTION**

#### *Aristotle on the Causation of Action*

This is the first monograph that systematically examines how Aristotle’s theory of the four causes illuminates his theory of action. The fact that this connection has not been systematically explored is surprising, since Aristotle thinks that actions are natural motions and that natural motions should be explained in light of the four causes. Commentators have not sufficiently appreciated how truly distinctive Aristotle’s philosophy of action is because they have not taken adequate account of the motivations for and ramifications of Aristotle’s causal pluralism. This book begins by giving a novel account of Aristotle’s causal pluralist approach to scientific explanations. Next, it spells out how Aristotle deploys his four-causal theory in explaining natural motions, and what the advantages are of doing so. The central chapter proposes a way of systematizing Aristotle’s scattered remarks about action in accordance with his causal theory of natural motions in general, yielding a four-causal account of action. The rest of the book shows how this account clarifies Aristotle’s discussions of voluntariness, responsibility, weak-willed action, and happiness.

### **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**

Reading proficiency: Classical Greek, French, German (passed exams administered by the University of Toronto Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy)

Reading competency (with lexicon): Italian, Latin  
Fluency: Spanish (undergraduate major, eleven years of formal study)

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Philosophical Association  
Canadian Philosophical Association  
Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science  
International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy  
International Association for Presocratic Studies  
International Plato Society  
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy

### **REFERENCES**

#### **Lloyd Gerson, FRSC**

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#### **Brad Inwood, FRSC**

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#### **David Charles**

Howard H. Newman  
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#### **Malcolm Schofield, FBA**

Emeritus Professor of  
Ancient Philosophy  
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#### **Christopher Shields**

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#### **James Allen**

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#### **Arthur Ripstein, FRSC**

(teaching)  
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