

ALEXANDER KLEIN

Cal State, Long Beach aklein@csulb.edu
MS-2408, MHB-912 csulb.edu/~aklein
1250 Bellflower Blvd f. 562/985-7135
Long Beach, CA 90840 o. 562/985-5448

APPOINTMENTS

- California State University, Long Beach 2009 (August) –
Assistant Professor
Philosophy Department
- Cornell University 2008 (July) – 2009 (June)
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
Philosophy Department
- University of Toronto [Canada] 2006 (September) – 2008 (June)
Postdoctoral Fellow: Joint Appointment
Philosophy Department
Faculty of Information Studies

EDUCATION

- Indiana University, Bloomington Bloomington, Indiana
PhD, Philosophy 2007 (May)
MA, History and Philosophy of Science 2003 (December)
MA, Philosophy 2003 (November)
- Dissertation: *The Rise of Empiricism: William James, T. H. Green, and the Struggle over Psychology*. Committee: Elisabeth Lloyd (director), Karen Hanson, Cheryl Misak, Frederick Schmitt, Joan Weiner
- Wesleyan University Middletown, Connecticut
BA *with High Honors*, Philosophy 1998 (May)
Senior thesis directed by Sanford Shieh

◆ *Areas of Specialization*

History of Philosophy of Science (esp Psychology)
American Pragmatism
History of Analytic Philosophy

◆ *Areas of Competence*

British Empiricism (17th–19th C.)
Early Modern Philosophy
General Philosophy of Science
Philosophy of Biology
British and American Idealism

RESEARCH

◆ *Scholarly Essays*

- (2008 [actual publication date: 2010]). “*Divide et Impera!* William James and Naturalistic Philosophy of Science.” *Philosophical Topics*, 36 (1): 129–166.
- (2009). “On Hume on Space: Green’s Attack, James’s Empirical Response.” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 47 (3): 415–449.

◆ *Book Reviews*

- (2007). Review of *Peirce’s Pragmatic Theory of Inquiry: Fallibilism and Indeterminacy*, by Elizabeth Cooke, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, October 11.
- (2005). Review of *The Philosophy of William James: An Introduction*, by Richard M. Gale, in *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Newsletter*, 101, June.
- (2002). “The Human Meaning of Science,” Review of *Labyrinth: A Search for the Hidden Meaning of Science*, by Peter Pesic, in *Essays in Philosophy*, 3 (1).

◆ *Lectures, Conference Papers*

- | | |
|--|--|
| SAAP (Society for the Advancement of American Phil)
“Consciousness as a Challenge to the Unity of Science”
(invited) | Spokane, Washington
2011 (March) |
| SPA (Student Philosophy Association)
“On Two Experimental Philosophers: Galton’s Criticism
of Berkeley” (invited) | Cal State Long Beach
2010 (October) |
| École Normale Supérieure, Philosophy
“William James, Metaphysical Commitments, and the
Object of Psychology” (invited) | École Normale Supérieure, Paris
2010 (July) |
| HOPOS (History of Philosophy of Science Society)
“In Defense of Berkeley’s Empiricism? Galton’s
Experiments Concerning Abstract Ideas” (refereed)
<i>Organizer of symposium featuring Peter Anstey,
Alberto Vanzo, and co-authors Zvi Biener & Jonathan
Livengood. Symposium title: “On the Role of
Experiment in Philosophy”</i> | Cent. European Univ., Budapest
2010 (June) |
| Upstate NY Early Modern Workshop: Berkeley Bonanza
“In Defense of Berkeley’s Empiricism? The View from the
Old School” (invited) | Cornell University
2009 (May) |
| Science Studies Research Group
“On the Rationality of Metaphysical Commitments in | Cornell University
2009 (March) |

- Immature Science” (invited)
- Integrated History and Philosophy of Science Conference
“On the Rationality of Metaphysical Commitments in
Immature Science” (refereed) Notre Dame
2009 (March)
- Cornell Philosophy Department
“On Hume on Space” (invited) Cornell University
2009 (February)
- Upstate NY Early Modern Workshop
Response to Stefanie Rocknak: “Naturalistic, ‘Pre-
Theoretical’ Belief in Book I of Hume’s *Treatise*”
(invited) Cornell University
2008 (October)
- HOPOS
“What Was Russell’s Problem with Pragmatism? The
Significance of Psychology” (refereed) University of British Columbia
2008 (June)
*Organizer of symposium featuring Dale Jacquette,
Fred Wilson, and Scott Edgar. Symposium title:
“Strange Bedfellows: Early Empirical Psychology, Early
Analytic Philosophy*
- Western Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting
“Why William James Is Not a Phenomenologist”
(refereed) University of Saskatoon
2007 (October)
- Western Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting
Response to Shannon Dea, “The Battle of the Absolute:
Pragmatism, Pragmaticism and Spinozism” (invited) University of Saskatoon
2007 (October)
- Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting
Response to Rob Sinclair, “Quine and Conceptual
Pragmatism” (invited) University of Saskatoon
2007 (May)
- HOPOS
“Empiricism’s American Rebound” École Normale Supérieure, Paris
2006 (June)
*Part of symposium featuring Alan Richardson, Gary
Hatfield, and Rob Sinclair (refereed)*
- The Society for Classical Pragmatism Studies
“James and Green” (refereed) Univ. of South Florida, Tampa
2005 (November)
- Life among the Living: Perspectives on our Human Stance
towards Nature; conference Cal. State Fresno
2005 (April)
“Normativizing Naturalism” (invited)
- Symposium Paper, Eastern APA Meeting Boston

- “Empiricism’s American Rebound: James’s Response to Green” (refereed) 2004 (December)
Winner of the William James Prize, best Eastern APA paper in classic American philosophy by young scholar
- Nelson Fellow Lecture, Philosophy Department Indiana University, Bloomington
“Empiricism’s American Rebound: James’ Response to Green” (invited) 2004 (November)
- NYU/Columbia Grad. Student Conference in Philosophy New York
Response to Rory Kraft, “In Defense of Nothing” 2004 (March)
(invited)
- Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Loyola University, Chicago
Midwest Reading Group 2001 (September)
“Popular Philosophy or Philosophical Populism?: William James, Evolution, and the ‘Seriously Inquiring Amateur”” (refereed)
- Philosophy Department Graduate Colloquium Indiana University, Bloomington
“Popular Philosophy or Philosophical Populism?: William James, Evolution, and the ‘Seriously Inquiring Amateur””; and “How William James’s Rhetoric Exemplifies His Anti-Rationalism” (invited) 2001 (April; September)

◆ *Public Philosophy, Popular Essays*

- (2007). “On Cheating,” *New York Sun*, June 8.
- (1998). “Pop-Mart Religion,” *The Other Side Magazine*, 34(4): 34–35.
- (1997). “Mega-Churches, Meet Letterman,” *Morning Edition*, dir. Bob Paquette, WFCR–FM, Amherst, MA.
- (1997). [Various original features, interviews, editorials, and ‘vox populi’], *The Live Wire*, dir. Phyllis Jaffe, WESU–FM, Middletown, CT.
- (1994–1995). [Several short pop-music reviews], *Interview Magazine*.

TEACHING

- California State University, Long Beach** 2010 (fall)
PHIL 610. Perception, from Descartes to Helmholtz
• *Proseminar for Graduate Students*
PHIL 100. Intro to Philosophy
PHIL 620. William James 2010 (spring)
• *Graduate Seminar*

- PHIL 100. Intro to Philosophy
PHIL 414/415. British Empiricism 2009 (fall)
• *Graduate/undergraduate class*
PHIL 419/519. History of Logical Positivism
• *Graduate/undergraduate class*
- Cornell University**
PHIL 4220. Perception in the 18th and 19th Centuries:
The Emergence of the Empiricist Tradition 2009 (Spring)
• *Graduate/undergraduate class*
PHIL 326I. History of Logical Positivism 2008 (Fall)
• *Graduate/undergraduate class*
- University of Toronto**
PHL 332HIS. Perception in the 18th and 19th Centuries:
The Emergence of the Empiricist Tradition 2008 (Spring)
• *Advanced undergraduate class*
C&T I002H. Objectivity
• *Graduate class in interdisciplinary program* 2008 (Spring)
- Indiana University, Bloomington**
PI00. Introduction to Philosophy 2006 (Spring)
PI00. Introduction to Philosophy 2005 (Fall)
PI00. Introduction to Philosophy 2003 (Spring)
- American University of Armenia, Yerevan**
Guest Lecturer—Intensive English Program 2003 (July)
English for Pre-Graduate Students
• *Gave a lecture on classic American philosophy*
- Junior Achievement of Armenia, Dzaghkadzor**
Guest Lecturer—Summer Camp for Talented Youth 2003 (July)
• *Gave a lecture on philosophy as a career*
- Indiana University, Bloomington**
Teaching Assistant—Philosophy Department
PI35. Introduction to Existentialism (w/ Paul Spade) * 2002 (Fall)
EI03. The Dark Side of Rationality (w/ Leah Savion) 2000 (Spring)
EI03. Who Am I? (w/ Dennis Senchuk) 1999 (Fall)
* Kierkegaard and Sartre
- Fuzhou University, Fuzhou, China**
Visiting Lecturer—Department of Foreign Languages
• *Taught American literature, British literature, composition, conversation, and American and British culture, to classes of* 1998 (Fall) – 1999 (Summer)

80 students. Designed, graded, and taught courses with limited textbook and material availability. Supervised 20 senior theses.

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Teaching Assistant—Philosophy Department

Introduction to Philosophy (with Jeff Kasser) 1997 (Fall)

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AWARDS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Andrew Mellon Foundation | Ithaca, NY |
| Cornell Society for the Humanities
Postdoctoral Fellowship | 2008 (July) – 2009 (June) |
| NEH
Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers.
<i>Pragmatism: A Living Tradition</i> . Russell Goodman
(dir.) | Albuquerque
2007 (July) |
| Houghton Library, Harvard University
Rodney G. Dennis Fellowship in the Study of
Manuscripts | Cambridge, MA
2005 (July) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial support to spend one month in residence conducting research in Harvard's William James archives | |
| APA, Eastern Division
William James Prize | Boston
2004 (December) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Best Eastern APA paper in classic American philosophy by a young scholar | |
| College of Arts and Sciences; Indiana University
Conference Travel Award | Bloomington
2004 (December) |
| Philosophy Department; Indiana University
James B. Nelson Dissertation Fellowship | Bloomington
2004 (September) – 2005 (May) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">One year of full financial support to work on dissertation | |
| Kira Institute Summer School
Kira Institute Fellowship | Amherst, MA
2000 (July – August) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Full funding to attend summer school, hosted by Professors Bas van Fraassen, Roger Shepard, and others | |

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- HOPOS Nominee for Steering Committee 2010 (fall—for 2011-2013)
- Colloquium Organizer Philosophy Department,
Cal State Long Beach
2010-2011
- Faculty liaison for SPA (Student Philosophy Association) Cal State Long Beach
2009 (spring)-present
- Conference Co-Organizer University of Toronto
Conference Title: *The Future of Objectivity*
2008 (May 23 – 25)
<http://research.fis.utoronto.ca/objectivity>
- Grant Writer: \$25,000 University of Toronto
2007
- Wrote successful grant application for *Future of Objectivity* conference. Funding Organization: SSHRC (Social Science and Humanities Research Council, Canada)
- Member, Committee for Public Philosophy; APA 2005 (July) – 2007 (June)
- Served on new committee, chaired by Martha Nussbaum. The committee is dedicated to expanding the presence of philosophy in public life. Helped organize two eastern-division-meeting sessions on the history of public philosophy, featuring Arthur Danto, Cornel West, Alan Richardson, Alan Ryan, and Naomi Scheman.
- Conference Assistant New York University
Conference Title: *Self Consciousness and Personal Identity in Modern Philosophy*
2004 (December)
- Assisted Professors Don Garrett, Béatrice Longuenesse, and John Richardson in organizing the first NYU conference on issues in modern philosophy
- Research Associate Harvard University
Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology
2002 (Spring)
- Assisted Professor Lloyd with research and editing while she was visiting in Professor Richard Lewontin's population genetics laboratory
- Research Assistant to Professor Elisabeth Lloyd Indiana University
2000 (Fall) – 2002 (Spring)

History and Philosophy of Science Department	
President, Graduate Association of Philosophy Students Philosophy Department	Indiana University 2002 (Fall) – 2003 (Fall)
Student Representative, Graduate-Curriculum Committee Philosophy Department	Indiana University 2002 (Fall) – 2003 (Fall)
Founder, Director <i>The Thought Exchange</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founded and directed weekly forum for public, philosophical discussion	Bloomington 2000 – 2001
Founder, Director Undergraduate Philosophy Club	Wesleyan University 1997

REFEREE

Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review
Journal of the History of Ideas
Philosophy of Science
Southwest Philosophy Review

LANGUAGES

French (basic reading, listening, speaking)
German (basic reading)

MEMBER

American Philosophical Association
Canadian Philosophical Association
International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS)
Philosophy of Science Association
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy

Dissertation Abstract

THE RISE OF EMPIRICISM: WILLIAM JAMES, THOMAS HILL GREEN, AND THE STRUGGLE OVER PSYCHOLOGY

The concept of empiricism evokes both a historical tradition and a set of substantive philosophical theses. The theses are usually understood to have been developed by Locke, Berkeley, and Hume. But these figures did not use the term “empiricism,” and they did not see themselves as united by a shared epistemology into one school of thought. My dissertation analyzes the controversy that elevated the concept of empiricism (and of an empiricist tradition) to prominence in English-language philosophy.

In the 1870s and '80s, a lively debate emerged over the idea that the mind is the sort of thing that can be studied scientifically. On one side were neo-Kantian and -Hegelian idealists like Edward Caird, F. H. Bradley, and especially T. H. Green. These figures often criticized the very idea of a science of mind. On the other side were philosopher-psychologists like Alexander Bain, G. Croom Robertson, and especially William James.

In Part One, I show that together these groups helped construct the notion of a British empiricist tradition. The groups developed this historical-philosophical concept as a way to encapsulate the myriad of issues at stake in their debate over psychology. For instance, one crucial question was whether psychology could provide a scientific basis for philosophical progress. In this vein, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume were portrayed as having developed a philosophical framework in which the empirical study of experience played a starring role. Reality itself was to be associated with what is passively received by the mind, or in other words with sensation. In turn, sensation was to be studied via scientific methods, with a special reliance on introspective observation. Late 19th-century idealists were severely critical of this entire picture. Others defended the notion that the fledgling science of mind would provide a route to more rigorous, more scientific philosophy. Members of this latter group were among the first to call themselves “empiricists.”

In Part Two, I critically investigate the case against psychology. Idealists argued that Lockean metaphysics—the metaphysics with which psychology was enmeshed—had long been discredited. The discrediting of that metaphysics was allegedly due to Hume, who showed that key Lockean principles entailed skepticism. But late-19th century psychologists were blithely ignoring the lessons of history, idealists argued. Since mental science was inextricable from a broadly Lockean metaphysics, empirical psychology should be discarded as an absurd enterprise as well.

In Part Three I explore William James’s response. Those like James who wanted to advance psychology towards becoming a legitimate science were forced to pursue two projects simultaneously. They had to engage these metaphysical attacks on psychology. And in addition, since no enterprise could pretend to have scientific legitimacy unless it produced empirical successes, they had to generate empirical theories that could actually explain some characteristics of experience, particularly of perception. In other words, they had to practice science and philosophy simultaneously.

James's way of striking this balance was particularly interesting. To evade idealist criticisms of mental science, he abandoned key pieces of Lockean metaphysics that had been prominent in the school of associationist psychology. For instance, he abandoned the notion that reality is associated with passively-registered sensations. He also abandoned the notion that all ideas are either simple, or are complex compounds built from simple ideas. Instead, James held that experience was ultimately a continuous stream, not a collection of discrete ideas. He produced experimental results that supported his contention.

This latter move would have profound implications for both psychologists and philosophers. His notion of a stream of thought helped delimit a legitimate object of scientific study for the new psychology. The stream also provided a scientific basis for a new philosophical empiricism that, I argue, had an important though hidden impact on early analytic philosophy.