

ELLIOT ROSSITER
Curriculum Vitae

(updated March 2018)

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Philosophy Douglas College P.O. Box 2503 New Westminster, British Columbia, CANADA V3L 5B2 <i>E-mail:</i> rossitere@douglascollege.ca <i>Web:</i> elliotrossiter.ca
CITIZENSHIP	Canadian
AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION	Early Modern Philosophy History of Ethics
AREAS OF COMPETENCE	Moral and Political Philosophy History and Philosophy of Science Philosophy of Religion
EMPLOYMENT	Probationary Regular Faculty 2017- Department of Philosophy Douglas College College Professor (term appt.) Fall 2016 Department of Philosophy Okanagan College Visiting Research Fellow 2015-2016 Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Concordia University of Edmonton Sessional Instructor 2014-2015 Department of Philosophy University of Western Ontario Writing Counsellor 2014-2015 Writing Support Centre University of Western Ontario

EDUCATION

PhD Philosophy 2010-2014
University of Western Ontario

Title: *Hypothetical Necessity and the Laws of Nature:
John Locke on God's Legislative Power*

Advisors: Dr Benjamin Hill (supervisor), Dr Henrik
Lagerlund, Dr Dennis Klimchuk, Dr Andrew
Botterell

Examiners: Dr Patricia Sheridan, Dr Lorne Falkenstein,
Dr Dennis Klimchuk, Dr Allyson May

Western Certificate in University 2012-2014
Teaching and Learning

MA Philosophy 2009-2010
University of Western Ontario
Project Title: *Pascal and Fideism*,
Pass with Distinction

BA Philosophy (*cum laude*) 2004-2009
University of Ottawa

Diploma in Liberal Arts 2003-2004
Augustine College

RESEARCH
ACTIVITIES

Publications:

- (1) 'Hedonism and Natural Law in Locke's Moral Philosophy',
Journal of the History of Philosophy 54.2 (2016): 203-225.
- (2) 'Locke, Providence, and the Limits of Natural Philosophy',
British Journal for the History of Philosophy 22.2 (2014): 217-235.
- (3) 'Cicero, Epicurus, and Systemic Injustice', *Southwest Philosophy
Review* 28.1 (Jan 2012): 55-62.

Invited Contributions:

- (1) 'Locke on Knowledge of Morality', *The Lockean Mind*, eds.
Jessica Gordon-Roth and Shelley Weinberg, Routledge
(forthcoming)
- (2) 'Locke and the Jesuits on Law and Politics', *Brill Companion to
the Jesuit Tradition on the Eve of Modernity*, ed. Cristiano Casalini,
Brill (forthcoming)

- (3) 'From Natural Philosophy to Natural Religion: Experiment and the *Vita Activa*', *Early Modern Experimental Philosophy, Metaphysics, and Religion*, eds. Peter Anstey and Alberto Vanzo, Routledge (forthcoming)

Translations (from French):

- (1) Lagrée, Jacqueline. 'Justus Lipsius and Neostoicism', tr. Elliot Rossiter, in *The Routledge Handbook of the Stoic Tradition*, ed. John Sellars, Abingdon: Routledge (2016)

Book Reviews:

- (1) Review of Victor Nuovo, *John Locke: The Philosopher as Christian Virtuoso* (Oxford, 2017). *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, March 2018

Recent Presentations:

- (1) 'Mixed Modes and Moral Epistemology in John Locke's *Essay concerning Human Understanding*'
(i) *Canadian Philosophical Association General Meeting*,
Université de Québec à Montréal, Montréal, PQ, June 4th-7th,
2018
(ii) *Western Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting*,
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, October 28th-30th, 2016
- (2) 'Reciprocity and Basic Income'
North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress, McMaster
University, Hamilton, ON, May 24th-27th, 2018
- (3) 'Locke and the Virtue of Industry'
*Pacific Northwest / Western Canada Seminar in Early Modern
Philosophy*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, March 2nd-
4th, 2018
- (4) 'Natural Religion and the Ambiguity of Locke's Theological
Commitments'
John Locke Workshop, University of Western Ontario, London,
ON, June 22nd-25th, 2017
- (5) 'Precarious Academic Labour and the Nature of Meaningful
Work'
Precarious Academic Labour in the Age of Neoliberalism,
Okanagan College, Kelowna, BC, May 5th-6th, 2017

- (6) 'Work, Virtue, and Guaranteed Income'
(i) *Labor, Capital, and Technology in the 21st Century: Insights from Catholic Social Teaching*, Providence College, RI, December 2nd-4th, 2016
(ii) *Character and Virtue in the Professions*, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, University of Birmingham, UK, June 2nd-4th, 2016
- (7) 'From Natural Philosophy to Natural Religion: Teleology and the *Theologia Rationalis*'
(i) *Theology and the Philosophy of Science: Analytic, Scholastic, and Historical Perspectives*, Concordia University of Edmonton, AB, October 14th-15th, 2016
(ii) *Three Societies Meeting* (British Society for the History of Science, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, History of Science Society), University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, June 22nd-25th, 2016
(iii) *Workshop in Experimental Philosophy and Empirical Ethics*, University of Warwick, UK, May 10th-11th, 2016 (invited)
- (8) 'The Nature of Work, Part I: Virtue and Practical Wisdom'
'The Nature of Work, Part II: Reciprocity and a Guaranteed Income'
Concordia University of Edmonton Institute of Christian Studies and Society, Edmonton, AB, March, 2016
- (9) 'Locke and Natural Religion'
Concordia University of Edmonton Philosophy and Religion Colloquium Series, Edmonton, AB, November 26th, 2015
- (10) 'The Moral Dimensions of Robert Boyle's Physico-Theology'
(i) *Scientiae: Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World*, University of Toronto, ON, May 27th-29th, 2015
(ii) *Western Seminar in the History of Modern Philosophy*, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, April 8th, 2015
(iii) *Intellectual Hinterlands*, University of Toronto, ON, June 25th-27th, 2014
- (11) 'Locke, Hedonism, and Natural Law'
(i) *Canadian Philosophical Association General Meeting*, Brock University, St Catharine's, ON, May 25th-28th, 2014
(ii) *John Locke Workshop*, Lehman College, New York, NY, March 17th-18th, 2014
(iii) *Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, February 22nd, 2014

(12) 'Locke on Induction',
*Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science
Annual Meeting*, Brock University, St Catharine's, ON, May
24th-27th, 2014

GRANTS/AWARDS

**University Students' Council Teaching Award of Excellence,
Honour Roll**, University of Western Ontario (2015)

Alumni Graduate Award, University of Western Ontario (2014)

**Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada Doctoral
Fellowship** (2013/2014)

Graduate Research Scholarship, University of Western Ontario
(2013/2014)

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2013/2014) (declined)

Alumni Graduate Award, University of Western Ontario (2013)

Mary Routledge Fellowship, University of Western Ontario (2013)

Graduate Thesis Research Award, University of Western Ontario
(2013)

Book of Common Prayer 350th Anniversary Essay Contest, Prayer
Book Society of Canada, First Prize (2013) – Essay Title: 'Trusting
God's Providence: The Importance of the Collects in the Book of
Common Prayer'

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2012/2013)

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2011/2012)

Entrance Scholarship, Department of Philosophy, University of
Western Ontario (2010)

Dean's Honour List, University of Ottawa (2009)

David Makow Essay Prize on Tolerance and Intolerance,
University of Ottawa (2007) – Essay Title: 'A Prescription for
Human Rights'

TEACHING

Probationary Regular Faculty, Department of Philosophy, Douglas College

Courses Regularly Taught:

Critical Thinking
Knowledge, Reason & Experience
Values & Contemporary Issues
Business Ethics

College Professor, Department of Philosophy, Okanagan College

Fall 2016: *Introduction to Philosophy I*
Criminal Justice Ethics
Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking (two sections)

Visiting Fellow, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Concordia University of Edmonton

Fall 2015: *Introduction to Ethics* (two sections)
Winter 2016: *Introduction to Ethics*
Early Modern Philosophy
Introduction to Logic
July 2016: *Introduction to Ethics*

Course Instructor, *Philosophy of Witchcraft*, University of Western Ontario, Fall 2014 / Winter 2015

Tutor, Writing Support Centre, University of Western Ontario, Fall 2013 – Winter 2015

Course Instructor, *Evil*, University of Western Ontario, Fall 2012

Tutorial Leader, *Introduction to Philosophy*, University of Western Ontario, Fall 2011 / Winter 2012 (Instructor: Dr John Thorp)

Tutorial Leader, *Critical Thinking*, University of Western Ontario, Fall 2010 / Winter 2011 (Instructor: Dr Eric Desjardins)

Grader, *Media Ethics*, University of Western Ontario, Winter 2010 (Instructor: Dr Ryan Robb)

Grader, *Philosophy of Death*, University of Western Ontario, Fall 2009 (Instructor: Dr Nicholas Ray)

GRADUATE
COURSEWORK

History of Philosophy

Pascal as Philosopher (G. Hunter)
Metaphysics from Leibniz to Kant (R. DiSalle)
Politics in Seventeenth-Century England (D. Klimchuk)
Intentionality in Early Modern Philosophy (B. Hill)
Kant's First Critique (C. Dyck)
Skepticism and Aristotelianism (H. Lagerlund)

Medieval Natural Law (reading course with B. Hill)
Ancient Ethics (K. Nielsen)

Philosophy of Science

Darwin's Origin of Species (D. Henry)
Historicity in Biology and Economics (E. Desjardins)

Value Theory

Dealing with Difference (R. Vernon)
Philosophy of Law (B. Hoffmaster)
Promises: Sidgwick, Ross, Scanlon (A. Skelton)
Rawls Old and New (M. Milde)

Metaphysics and Epistemology

Philosophy and Linguistics (R. Stainton and I. Paul)
Phenomenology and Art (H. Fielding)

DEPARTMENTAL
ACTIVITY

Latin Reading Group, Concordia University of Edmonton
2015 – 2016

Member, Rotman Institute of Philosophy, University of
Western Ontario, 2012 – 2014

Latin Reading Group, University of Western Ontario,
2010 – 2014

Evidence and Method Reading Group, University of
Western Ontario, Fall 2013

Conference Organization (with Professors Ben Hill, Ken Waters,
Ed Slowik, and Geoffrey Gorham), 'The Language of Nature',
University of Western Ontario, October 11th-14th, 2012

Upper Canada Society for Ancient and Medieval Philosophy,
University of Western Ontario, 2010 – 2014

Research Assistant (for Professor Benjamin Hill), 'Francisco Suarez:
Last Medieval or First Early Modern?', University of Western
Ontario, Summer 2010

Descartes Reading Group, University of Western Ontario, 2009 –
2014

EXTERNAL ACTIVITY	<p>Non-award Research Term, Department of Philosophy, King's College London, Spring Semester 2013 Advisor: Professor John Milton</p> <p>Participant at Schreyer Summer Seminar, 'First Principles: Natural Law in History', Witherspoon Institute, Princeton University, July 29th-August 11th, 2012</p>
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	<p>Reviewer for <i>Journal of the History of Philosophy</i>, <i>Southern Journal of Philosophy</i>, <i>Ergo</i></p> <p>Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Philosophy, University of Western Ontario, 2013 - 2014</p> <p>Secretary, Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers, 2012 – present</p>
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	<p>Canadian Philosophical Association Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers</p>
LANGUAGES	<p>Advanced: French, Latin Basic Reading: German, Spanish</p>
DISSERTATION ABSTRACT	<p><i>Hypothetical Necessity and the Laws of Nature: John Locke on God's Legislative Power</i></p>

The focus of my dissertation is a general and comprehensive examination of Locke's view of divine power. My basic argument is that John Locke is a theological voluntarist in his understanding of God's creative and providential relationship with the world, including both the natural and moral order. As a voluntarist, Locke holds that God freely imposes both the physical and moral laws of nature onto creation by means of his will: this contrasts with the intellectualist perspective in which the laws of nature emerge from the essences of things. For Locke, there are no intrinsically necessary laws in the created order: both physical and moral laws are arbitrary determinations of the divine will. While these laws are not intrinsically (or absolutely) necessary, they are hypothetically necessary. Hypothetical necessity involves things that could have been otherwise, but which are necessary based on the supposition of a free action and other relevant conditions pertaining to the actor. Supposing that God decides to create beings like us, God must of necessity craft the moral laws of nature in a way that harmonizes with our nature. What grounds this necessity is that God must act consistently with the perfection of the divine nature: to give us a different law would be less than perfect. Furthermore, I argue that certain physical laws of nature – those that help to realize our nature – are also hypothetically necessary.