

TORIN ALTER

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EDUCATION

PhD Philosophy, UCLA August 1995. Dissertation director: David Kaplan
MA Philosophy, UCLA, September 1987
BA School of Communication and Cognitive Science, Hampshire College,
 May 1985

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Since 1995 Professor (2008-present), Associate Professor (2001-2008), Assistant
 Professor (1995-2001), Department of Philosophy, The University of
 Alabama,
1997-98 Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, The College
 of New Jersey
1987-94 Teaching Fellow (1992-94), Teaching Associate (1988-92), Teaching
 Assistant (1987-88), Department of Philosophy, UCLA

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

AOS Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language
AOC Metaphysics, Logic, History of Modern Philosophy

RESEARCH

Articles

1. Does the Ignorance Hypothesis Undermine the Conceivability and Knowledge Arguments? Forthcoming in a *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* symposium on Daniel Stoljar's *Ignorance and Imagination*, New York: Oxford University Press 2006. [invited, editor reviewed]
2. Phenomenal Knowledge without Experience. In *The Case for Qualia*, edited by E. Wright, Cambridge: MIT Press: 247-67. [invited, editor reviewed]

3. On the Conditional Analysis of Phenomenal Concepts. *Philosophical Studies* 134 (2), May 2007: 235-53. [refereed]
4. Imagining Subjective Absence: Marcus on Zombies. *Disputatio* 2 (22), May 2007: 91-101. [refereed]
5. Does Representationalism Undermine the Knowledge Argument? In *Phenomenal Concepts and Phenomenal Knowledge: New Essays on Consciousness and Physicalism*, edited by T. Alter and S. Walter, New York: Oxford University Press, 2007: 65-76. [invited, refereed]
6. Does Synesthesia Undermine Representationalism? *Psyche* 12 (5), December 2006: 1-11, <http://psyche.cs.monash.edu.au/>. [invited, refereed]
7. Nothing Matters in Survival, with S. Rachels. *The Journal of Ethics* 9, 2005: 311-330. [invited]
8. Epistemicism and the Combined Spectrum (with Stuart Rachels). *Ratio* 17 (3), September 2004: 241-55. [refereed]
9. On Two Alleged Conflicts Between Divine Attributes. *Faith and Philosophy* 19 (1), January 2002: 47-57. [refereed]
10. Nagel on Imagination and Physicalism. *Journal of Philosophical Research* 27, 2002: 143-58. [refereed]
11. Know-How, Ability, and the Ability Hypothesis. *Theoria* 67 (3), 2001: 229-39
12. Strong *De Re* Belief, *Philosophia* 28. June 2001: 223-32. [refereed]
13. Free Acts and Robot Cats (with Russell Daw). *Philosophical Studies* 102, February 2001: 345-57. [refereed]
14. Vague Names and Vague Objects. *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review* 90, 2001: 435-41. [refereed]
15. Symbolic Meaning and the Confederate Battle Flag. *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* 7, (2-3), Summer-Fall 2000: 1-4. [refereed]
16. A Limited Defense of the Knowledge Argument. *Philosophical Studies* 90, February 1998: 35-56. [refereed]
17. Mary's New Perspective. *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 73 (4), December 1995: 582-84. [refereed]

Books

1. *A Dialogue on Consciousness* (with Robert Howell). Forthcoming on Oxford University Press.
2. *Phenomenal Concepts and Phenomenal Knowledge: New Essays on Consciousness and Physicalism*. Co-edited (with Sven Walter), New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. [proposal and chapters refereed]

Overview Articles

1. Phenomenal Concepts. Forthcoming in *The Oxford Companion to Consciousness*, edited by T. Bayne, A. Cleeremans and P. Wilken. [editor reviewed]

2. The Hard Problem of Consciousness. Forthcoming in *The Oxford Companion to Consciousness*, edited by T. Bayne, A. Cleeremans and P. Wilken. [editor reviewed]
3. On the knowledge argument:
 - a. Mary the Color Scientist. Forthcoming in the SAGE Encyclopedia of Perception, edited by B. Goldstein.
 - b. Learning from Mary. Spanish translation forthcoming in *Frank Jackson. El Argumento del Conocimiento*, edited by C. M. Muñoz S. and Rodolfo López G., Mentis Research Group, Universidad del Valle, Columbia. [invited]
 - c. The Knowledge Argument. *The Blackwell Companion to Consciousness*, edited by M. Velmans and S. Schneider, Oxford: Blackwell, 2007: 396-405. [invited, editor reviewed]. Slightly different version published as The Knowledge Argument Against Physicalism. In *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>
 - d. The Knowledge Argument. In *A Field Guide to the Philosophy of Mind*, edited by M. Nani and M. Marraffa: <http://www.uniroma3.it/kant/field/index.html>, June 1999. [invited, editor reviewed]
 - e. The Knowledge Argument: Annotated Bibliography. In *A Field Guide to the Philosophy of Mind*, edited by M. Nani and M. Marraffa: <http://www.uniroma3.it/kant/field/index.html>, June 1999. [invited, editor reviewed]
4. Introduction (with Sven Walter). In *Phenomenal Concepts and Phenomenal Knowledge: New Essays on Consciousness and Physicalism*, edited by T. Alter and S. Walter. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007: 3-11. [invited]
5. Qualia. *Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science*, edited by L. Nadel, London: Macmillan Publishers Ltd., 2003: 807-13. [invited, editor reviewed]

Book Reviews, etc.

1. Review of Mark Rowlands' *The Nature of Consciousness* (CUP 2001). *International Philosophical Quarterly* 47, September 2007. [invited, editor reviewed]
2. Pereboom on Consciousness and Introspective Inaccuracy. *Brainpains*, January 2007: <http://brainpains.com/wordpress/> [invited]
3. Book symposium on Gregg Rosenberg's *A Place for Consciousness* (OUP 2004). Guest edited. *Psyche* 12 (5), December 2006: <http://psyche.cs.monash.edu.au/>. [proposal editor reviewed, contributions refereed]
4. Review of Ludlow, et al., *There's Something About Mary* (MIT 2004). *Psyche* 11 (2), March 2005: <http://psyche.cs.monash.edu.au/> [invited, editor reviewed]
5. E. O. Wilson on the Foundations of Ethics. *Philosophy Now* 27, June/July 2000: 30-31. [editor reviewed]
6. On Racist Symbols and Reparations. Review essay, *Social Theory and Practice* 26 (1), Spring 2000: 153-71. [invited, editor reviewed]

Selected Projects Under Consideration or in Preparation

1. *The God Dialogues: A Philosophical Journey* (with Robert Howell). Book, under consideration at Oxford University Press.
2. What Do Split-Brain Cases Show about the Unity of Consciousness? Article, under consideration at *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*.
3. The Hard Problem of Consciousness (with Robert Howell), *Scholarpedia*, nearly complete.
4. *Arguing Against Physicalism*. Book, at planning stage, basic outline complete.
5. Haukioja on the Conditional Analysis. Article, partial draft written.
6. A Defense of Modal Rationalism, at planning stage.
7. Definitions of Consciousness, for *The Dictionary* (Polimetrica), a dictionary of scientific terms, edited by G. Sica. Invited entry, at planning stage.

Refereed Conference Presentations

1. Does the Ignorance Hypothesis Undermine the Conceivability and Knowledge Arguments? American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Pasadena, March 2008. [national conference]
2. Does Synesthesia Undermine Representationalism? Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, Tuscaloosa, October 2006. [state conference]
3. What do Split-Brain Cases Show about the Unity of Consciousness? American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Chicago, April 2006. [national conference]
4. Does Synesthesia Undermine Representationalism? Toward a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, April 2006. [international conference]
5. On the Conditional Analysis of Phenomenal Concepts, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Chicago, April 2005. [national conference]
6. On the Conditional Analysis of Phenomenal Concepts, Southwestern Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 2004. [regional conference]
7. “What do Split-Brain Cases Show about the Unity of Consciousness?” Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, Mobile, October 2004. [state conference]
8. On the Conditional Analysis of Phenomenal Concepts, Toward a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, April 2004. [international conference]
9. On the Conditional Analysis of Phenomenal Concepts, Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, Gulf Shores, October 2003. [state conference]
10. Jackson’s Retraction, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, March 2003. [national conference]
11. Aphasia and the Ability Hypothesis, Toward a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, April 2002. [international conference]
12. Epistemicism and the Combined Spectrum Argument (with S. Rachels), Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, February 2002. [regional conference]

13. Epistemicism and the Combined Spectrum Argument (with S. Rachels), Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, Gulf Shores, October 2001. [state conference]
14. Free Acts and Robot Cats (with Russell Daw), American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, New York, December 2000. [national conference]
15. Know-how, Ability, and the Ability Hypothesis, Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, Gulf Shores, October 2000. [state conference]
16. A Chomskian Challenge to the Lewis-Nemirow Ability Hypothesis, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Chicago, April 2000. [national conference]
17. Schedler on Racism and the Confederate Battle Flag, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Albuquerque, April 2000. [national conference]
18. Sensations, Brain Processes, and Essence, Toward a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, April 2000. [international conference]
19. Linguistic and Ontological Vagueness, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Oakland, April 1999. [national conference]
20. Genuine *De Re* Belief, Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, Gulf Shores, October 1998. [state conference]
21. Emotions, Belief, and the Knowledge Argument, Emotions, Consciousness, and Qualia, Ischia, Italy, October 1998. [international conference]

Invited Presentations

1. Does the Ignorance Hypothesis Undermine the Conceivability and Knowledge Arguments? Presidential Address, Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, Orange Beach, September 2007.
2. Zombies are Possible, Philosophy Club Debate with Dr. Wrenn, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, November 2006. [local event]
3. Consciousness in a Physical World, guest lecture for Dr. Wrenn's Mind-Brain Learning Community, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, October 2006. [class]
4. Howell's Reductio: A Modal Rationalist Reply, NEH 2006 Summer Seminar on Mind and Metaphysics, Washington University, St. Louis, July 2006. [national event]
5. Imagining Zombies, Physicalism and Beyond, GAP.6, Berlin, Germany, September 2006. [national conference]
6. How I Got Here, New College, The University of Alabama, October 2004. [local event]
7. Nothing Matters in Survival (with Stuart Rachels), James Rachels Memorial Conference, Birmingham, September 2004. [national conference]
8. Garrett on Causal Essentialism and Zombies, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Pasadena, April 2003. [national conference]

9. Comments on John Kulvicki's 'What is What its Like?', American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Washington D.C., December 2003. [national conference]
10. Zombies, Oracles, and Physicalism, Philosophy Club Meeting, The University of Alabama, November 2003. [local event]
11. Jackson's Retraction, NEH 2002 Summer Institute on Consciousness and Intentionality, Santa Cruz, July 2002 [national event]
12. Consciousness in a Physical World, University Lecture, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, April 2002. [UAB event]
13. Implicit Phenomenal Knowledge, Department of Philosophy, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, April 2002. [UAB event]
14. Schedler on Racist Symbols, Author Meets Critics Session at American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, April 2001. [national event]
15. Free Acts and Robot Cats, Department of Philosophy, Florida State University, Tallahassee, December 1999. [FSU event]
16. Sensations, Brain Processes, and Essence, Phi Sigma Tau Honorary, The University of Alabama, April 1999. [local event]
17. E. O. Wilson on Ethics and Religion, Dean's Colloquium, The University of Alabama, December 1998. [local seminar]
18. Commentary on Mark Brown's 'Immunity to Error in First Person Memory Reports', American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Los Angeles, April 1998. [national conference]
19. Genuine *De Re* Belief, Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University, College Station, April 1998. [Texas A&M event]
20. Moral Paradox? Philosophy Club, The College of New Jersey, Hillwood Lakes, October 1997. [TCNJ event]
21. Teleportation: A Fast Way to Travel or a Fast Way to Die? Philosophy Club, The University of Alabama, October 1995. [local event]

AWARDS AND GRANTS

1. Sports Club Adviser Award, The University of Alabama, Fall 2007.
2. Summer Stipend, NEH Institute on Mind and Metaphysics, Summer 2006.
3. Summer Stipend, NEH Institute on Consciousness and Intentionality, Summer 2002.
4. Sabbatical Fellowship, *The American Philosophical Society*, 2002-03.
5. Research Advisory Committee Grants, The University of Alabama, 1997, 1999, 2001.
6. Arts and Sciences Teaching Grants, The University of Alabama, 1996, 1998.
7. Carnap Prize, for Best Essay by a Graduate Student, Department of Philosophy, UCLA, 1994.
8. Graduate Student Fellowships, Department of Philosophy, UCLA, 1986-87.

TEACHING

Courses Taught at The University of Alabama

1. PHL 100: Introduction to Philosophy
2. PHL 105: Honors Introduction to Philosophy
3. PHL 101: Introduction to Deductive Logic
4. PHL 103: Honors Introduction to Deductive Logic
5. PHL 300: Symbolic Logic
6. PHL 354: Philosophy of Mind
7. PHL 355/380: Philosophy of Language: Mind, Language and Reality
8. PHL 380: Philosophy of Mathematics
9. PHL 380: Special Studies in Philosophy: Self-Knowledge
10. PHL 380: Special Studies in Philosophy: Teaching Practicum
11. PHL 485: Research (Reference and Consciousness; Persons and Consciousness)
12. BUI 301/PHL 380: The Enduring Self: Fact or Fiction?
13. BUI 301: Philosophy and the Silver Screen

Courses Taught at The College of New Jersey

1. PHIL 200: Basic Philosophical Issues
2. PHIL 120: Introduction to Logic
3. PHIL 340: Language and Reality
4. IDSC 151: Athens to New York
5. PHIL 205: Modern Philosophy

SERVICE

Professional Service

1. Referee, *Mind*, since Spring 2008.
2. Referee, *Philosophical Papers*, since Fall 2007.
3. External Reviewer, Tenure and Promotion Case, Rhodes College Philosophy Department, Fall 2007.
4. Reviewer (textbook proposal), Oxford University Press, Spring 2007.
5. Referee for The American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship applications, Fall 2006, 2007.
6. President, Alabama Philosophical Society, 2006-07.
7. External Reviewer, Mid-Career Review, UC Santa Cruz Philosophy Department, Fall 2006.
8. Referee, Southwestern Philosophical Society, 2006.
9. Referee, The Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2006.
10. Vice-President, Alabama Philosophical Society, 2005-2006.
11. Secretary-Treasurer, Alabama Philosophical Society, 2004-05.
12. Reviewer (textbook proposal), Wadsworth/Thomson Higher Education.

13. Referee, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, since 2004.
14. External Examiner, Ph. D. Thesis, Australian National University Philosophy Department, Summer 2004.
15. Referee, *Philosophical Studies*, since 2003.
16. Referee, *Synthese*, since 2003.
17. External Reviewer, Tenure and Promotion Case, Claremont McKenna College Philosophy Department, Fall 2002.
18. Referee (book manuscript, book proposal), Oxford University Press, 2002-04.
19. Referee, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, since 2002.
20. Referee, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, since 1999.
21. Chair, Concurrent Session on Phenomenal Knowledge, Toward a Science of Consciousness, April 2000.

University, College, and Department Service, The University of Alabama

1. Member, Academy for Improving Student Success, College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2008.
2. Chair, Departmental Committee on Student Prizes, Spring 2008.
3. Awards Coordinator for the Philosophy Department, since Spring 2006.
4. Member, Departmental Committee on Retention, Tenure, and Promotion, Fall 2006.
5. Department Representative, University Day, Fall 2006.
6. Member, Department Committee on Tenure Guidelines, Spring 2006.
7. Member, Departmental Committee on Student Prizes, Spring 2006.
8. Advisor, *UA Table Tennis Club*, since Spring 2005.
9. Chair, Departmental Chair Search Committee, 2004-05.
10. Chair, Departmental Committee on Retention, Tenure, and Promotion, Fall 2004.
11. Member, Barnwell-Sellers Award Committee, Summer 2004.
12. Member, University Awards Committee, 2003-05.
13. Member, Faculty Senate, 2003-05.
14. Member, Program Review Committee, Review of Department of Religious Studies, 2003-04.
15. Alternate, Faculty Senate, 2001-02
16. Chair, Chair Review Committee, Department of Philosophy, 2001-02.
17. Member, Tenure and Promotions Committee, College of Arts & Sciences, 2001-02.
18. Member, Departmental Committees on Retention, Tenure, and Promotion 2001-02, 2005-06.
19. Member, Undergraduate Services and Programs Committee, Fall 1999-Spring 2002.
20. Faculty Associate, Blount Undergraduate Initiative, 1999-2000.
21. Coordinator, Colloquium Committee, Department of Philosophy, 1996-97, Fall 1998-Spring 2002, since Fall 2003.
22. Member, Search Committee, Department of Philosophy, 1996-97, 1998-99, 2001-02.
23. Faculty Advisor, UA Philosophy Club, 1995-97, 1998-2002.

College and Department Service, The College of New Jersey

1. Faculty Representative, Philosophy Club, 1997-98.
2. Member, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Philosophy and Religion, 1997-98.