

Stuart Rachels

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Contact Information:

Department of Philosophy
University of Alabama
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Personal:

Born: September 26, 1969

Website:

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Education:

Ph.D. (Philosophy), Syracuse University, August, 1998

Dissertation: "Hedonic Value" Director: Jonathan Bennett

B.A. (Philosophy and Politics), Oxford University, 1993

Thesis: "A Theory of Beneficence" Director: Derek Parfit

B.A. (Philosophy, Highest Honors), Emory University, 1991

Thesis: "The Mind-Body Problem" Director: Donald Rutherford

Appointments:

Associate Professor, University of Alabama, 2004-present

Assistant Professor, University of Alabama, 1999-2004

Instructor, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1998-1999

Teaching Assistant/Teaching Associate, Syracuse University, 1993-1998

Area of Specialization: Ethical Theory

Areas of Competence: Applied ethics, metaethics, metaphysics, political philosophy, philosophy of mind, epistemology, logic

Chess:

Youngest Master in U. S. History: 11 years, 10 months (record set in 1981; broken in 1994)

1988-1989 United States Junior Champion

1989-1990 United States Co-Champion

Numerous awards, titles, and publications. Retired in 1993 at age 23.

Books:

The Elements of Moral Philosophy, 5th edition (previous editions by James Rachels), New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007; 6th edition, 2009. 5th edition published in Norwegian in 2008.

Problems from Philosophy, 2nd edition (1st edition by James Rachels), New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009.

Books Edited:

The Truth about the World: Basic Readings in Philosophy, 2nd edition (1st edition by James Rachels), New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008.

The Legacy of Socrates: Essays in Moral Philosophy, by James Rachels (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007).

The Right Thing to Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy, 4th edition (previous editions by James Rachels), New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007; 5th edition, 2009.

The Ethics section of *Introducing Philosophy* (managing editor, Steven M. Cahn), Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 559-702.

Articles:

“On Three Alleged Theories of Rational Behavior,” forthcoming in *Utilitas*.

“The Reviled Art,” *Philosophy Looks at Chess*, Benjamin Hale, ed. (Open Court Press, 2008), pp. 209-225.

- “Nothing Matters in Survival” (with Torin Alter), *The Journal of Ethics*, Vol. 9, No. 3-4 (October 2005), pp. 311-330.
- “Six Theses About Pleasure,” *Philosophical Perspectives 18: Ethics* (December 2004), pp. 247-267.
- “Repugnance or Intransitivity: A Repugnant But Forced Choice,” *The Repugnant Conclusion: Essays on Population Ethics*, Jesper Ryberg and Torbjorn Tannsjo, eds. (Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2004), pp. 163-186.
- “Epistemicism and the Combined Spectrum” (with Torin Alter), *Ratio*, Vol. XVII, No. 3 (September 2004), pp. 241-255.
- “A Defense of Two Optimistic Claims in Ethical Theory,” *Philosophical Studies*, Vol. 112, No. 1, January (I) 2003, pp. 1-30.
- “Nagelian Arguments Against Egoism,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 80, No. 2 (June 2002), pp. 191-208.
- “A Set of Solutions to Parfit’s Problems,” *Nous*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (June 2001), pp. 214-238.
- “Is Unpleasantness Intrinsic to Unpleasant Experiences?” *Philosophical Studies*, Vol. 99, No. 2, May (II) 2000, pp. 187-210.
- “Is It Good to Make Happy People?” *Bioethics*, Vol. 12, No. 2 (April 1998), pp. 93-110.
Reprinted in Ruth Chadwick, Helga Kuhse, Willem A. Landman, Udo Schuklenk and Peter Singer, eds., *The Bioethics Reader: Editors’ Choice* (Blackwell: 2007).
- “Counterexamples to the Transitivity of *Better Than*,” *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 76, No. 1 (March 1998), pp. 71-83.
Reprinted in Toni Ronnow-Rasmussen and Michael J. Zimmerman, eds., *Recent Work on Intrinsic Value* (Springer: Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2005), pp. 249-263.

Reviews:

- Review of Mulgan, Tim, *Future People: A Moderate Consequentialist Account of our Obligations to Future Generations* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2006), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 85, Issue 3 (September 2007), pp. 506-509.
- Review of Mary Warnock, *Making Babies: Is there a Right to Have Children?* *The Philosophical Review*, Vol. 114, No. 2 (April 2005), pp. 130-132.

Review of Christine M. Koggel, *Perspectives on Equality: Constructing a Relational Theory, Mind*, Vol. III, No. 442 (April 2002), pp. 443-446.

Review Essay of *Contingent Future Persons*, Jan C. Heller and Nick Fotion, eds., *Bioethics* 13 (1999), pp. 160-167.

Miscellaneous:

“Introduction,” *The Journal of Ethics*, Vol. 9, No. 3-4 (October 2005), pp. 308-309.

“Introduction,” the Ethics section of *Introducing Philosophy* (managing editor, Steven M. Cahn), Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 559-560.

“Intransitivity,” in Volume II of the *Encyclopedia of Ethics* (second edition), edited by Lawrence C. Becker, Mary Becker and Charlotte Becker (Routledge: 2001), pp. 877-879.

Future Commitments:

I am under contract with McGraw-Hill to do all future editions of these four books: *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*; *The Right Thing to Do: Basic Readings in Moral Philosophy*; *Problems from Philosophy*; *The Truth about the World: Basic Readings in Philosophy*.

Professional Presentations:

“One Person Doesn’t Make a Difference,” the 2007-2008 Edwards Lecture in Philosophy, Emory University, October, 2007.

“How to Make Group Progress,” Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network conference on value (SPAWN), 2006.

“Reflections on James Rachels,” James Rachels Memorial Conference, Birmingham, Alabama, 2004.

“Nothing Matters in Survival” (with Torin Alter), also at the James Rachels Memorial Conference.

“Repugnance or Intransitivity,” University of Delaware, 2004; Bowling Green State University, 2004; University of California, San Diego, 2003.

“The Trouble With ‘Rational Behavior,’” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, 2002.

“Epistemicism and the Combined-Spectrum Argument” (with Torin Alter) Alabama Philosophical Society Meeting, Orange Beach, 2001.

“Is Normative Ethics Short on Good Arguments?” Alabama Philosophical Society Meeting (Orange Beach, 2000) and Florida State University (Tallahassee, 2000).

“Agent-Relativism and Pain,” Utilitarianism 2000 (Conference of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies), Winston-Salem, March, 2000.

“A Set of Solutions to Parfit’s Problems,” also at the Utilitarianism 2000 conference. The Selection Committee considered it one of the conference’s five best papers.

“Counterexamples to the Transitivity of Better Than,” University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, 1999), Ohio University (Athens, 1999), Syracuse University (1998), University of Colorado (Boulder, 1998), University of Cincinnati (1998).

“Is Pain Intrinsically Unpleasant?” Western Washington University, Bellingham, 1998.

“Reconceiving *Better Than*,” APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, 1995.

“An Argument Against Physicalism,” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, 1991.

Academic Honors and Awards:

RAC Grants (University of Alabama, Summer 2000 and Summer 2003)

Syracuse University Dissertation Fellowship, 1996-1997; Summer Fellowship, 1996

Marshall Scholarship, Oxford University, 1991-1993

Finalist, Rhodes Scholarship, 1991

Paul Kuntz Award for Top Student in Philosophy, Emory University, 1991

Phi Beta Kappa, 1991

Dean’s Scholarship, Emory University, 1989-1991

Courses Taught:

Introduction to Ethics

Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion

Introduction to Deductive Logic

Medical Ethics
 Environmental Ethics
 Theories of Knowledge and Reality
 Ethical Theory
 Utilitarianism
 Contemporary Political Philosophy
 The Moral Philosophy of James Rachels
 Philosophy Through Documentary

Service:

- 2008-2009. Faculty Sponsor of *Phi Sigma Tau*, the national honorary society in philosophy
- 2008-2009. Member, Search Committee, Department of Philosophy.
- 2000-2008. Served as a judge for the ten Hoor and Jenkins prizes for undergraduate excellence in philosophy, University of Alabama
2006. Member, Departmental Tenure and Promotion Committee
2006. Department Coordinator of the Minor in Civic Engagement and Leadership
2006. Chair, Tenure and Promotion Requirements Committee, Department of Philosophy
- 1999-2006. Faculty Sponsor of Stop Exploiting Animals / Alabama Animal Rights Fellowship / Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, University of Alabama
2005. Guest editor of the October issue of *The Journal of Ethics*: “A Special Issue in Honor of James Rachels”
- 2004-2005. Member, Chair Search Committee, Department of Philosophy
- 2001-2004. Member, University of Alabama’s Institutional Review Board for Protection of Human Subjects
- 2002-2003. External Speakers Coordinator, Department of Philosophy
- 2002-2003. Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of Philosophy
- 2001-2002. Faculty Sponsor of *Phi Sigma Tau*, the national honorary society in philosophy
- 2000-2001. Member, Search Committee, Department of Philosophy

1999. Organizer, Morris Colloquium, University of Colorado at Boulder

1992-1993. Middle Common Room President, Hertford College, Oxford

Occasional referee for the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Bioethics*, the *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Ethics*, the *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *The Journal of Ethics*, *Mind*, *Nous*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, and the *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*.

References:

Professor Torin Alter, Department of Philosophy, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35487-0218. talter@bama.ua.edu Phone: (205) 348-1908

Professor John Hawthorne, Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy, Magdalen College, University of Oxford, OX1 4AU, United Kingdom.

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Associate Professor Michael Huemer, Department of Philosophy, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, Colorado 80309-0232. owl232@earthlink.net Phone: (303) 492-7276