

ANDREW LAW

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy • University of California, Riverside

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate at University of California, Riverside, Philosophy. Expected date of graduation: May 2020

Title of Dissertation: *Explanation and Freedom: A Defense of the Fixity of the Independent*

Committee: Michael Nelson (chair), Luca Ferrero, Adam Harmer, Erich Reck, Carolina Sartorio, John Fischer

Abstract: I develop and defend a novel principle of agency called the principle of the “Fixity of the Independent” (or “FI”). FI holds, roughly, that if a fact is in no way explained by an agent’s current behavior, then the fact is currently beyond the agent’s control or “fixed.” I argue that FI is the best explanation of more familiar principles of agency, such as the principle that every past fact is beyond our control, or that the laws of nature are beyond our control. According to FI, the past and the laws are beyond our control precisely because they are in no way explained by our current behavior. Importantly, by seeing FI as the more fundamental principle, we get interesting results in various debates about freedom: while FI implies that causal determinism would threaten our freedom, it suggests that neither a fully determinate future nor the existence of an essentially all-knowing being would.

M.A. Philosophy, University of California, Riverside, March 2017

Thesis: *Relativity and Relativism*.

Committee: Michael Nelson (chair), Erich Reck, Adam Harmer, Mark Hinchliff

B.A. Philosophy, Western Washington University, *cum laude*, June 2013

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

AOS: Philosophy of Action, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion

AOC: Symbolic Logic, Philosophy of Science, Ethics, Early Modern Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

1. "Explanatory Dependence, Time Travel, and Prepunishment," forthcoming in *Faith and Philosophy*
2. "Freedom, Foreknowledge, and Dependence: A Dialectical Intervention"(with Taylor W. Cyr), forthcoming in *American Philosophical Quarterly*
3. "Free Will and Two Local Determinisms" (with Neal A. Tognazzini), *Erkenntnis*, volume 84, issue 5, 2019: 1011-1023.
4. "The Puzzle of Hyper-Change," *Ratio*, volume 32, issue 1, 2019: 1-11

REVIEWS

1. "Review of Carolina Sartorio's *Causation and Free Will*," (with Peter J. Graham and Jonah Nagashima) *Analysis*, volume 78, issue 2, 2018: 371-373

PRESENTATIONS

- "Comments on Roselli's 'Dispositional Essentialism in the Eternalist Block,'" American Philosophical Association – Central Division, Chicago, February 2020
- "No Counterfactual is Sufficient for Freedom," American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2019
- "Specific Abilities as Possible Success from General Abilities," American Philosophical Association – Eastern Division, New York City, January 2019
- "From the Fixity of the Past to the Fixity of the Independent," American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division, San Diego, March 2018
- "From the Fixity of the Past to the Fixity of the Independent," USC-UCLA Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, University of Southern California, March 2018
- "Explanations in Frankfurt Cases," Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 2018

“Explanations in Frankfurt Cases,” 6th Annual Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference, Florida State University, October 2017

“Freedom, Foreknowledge, and Dependence: A Dialectical Intervention”, Society of Christian Philosophers, Biola University, 2017

AWARDS

Dissertation Year Program Award, University of California, Riverside, Spring 2020

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of California, Riverside, 2018-2019

Pillars Graduate Teaching Award, FSIC, University of California, Riverside, 2018-2019

Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellowship, University of California, Riverside, 2014-2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor, University of California, Riverside:

Phil133: Metaphysics (Upper division), Fall 2019

Phil112: Mortal Questions (Upper division), Summer 2019

Phil113: God (Upper division), Spring 2019

Phil008: Introduction to Symbolic Logic, Summer 2018

Phil007: Introduction to Critical Thinking, Summer 2017

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Riverside:

Phil008: Introduction to Symbolic Logic, 2016, 2017, 2018

Phil007: Introduction to Critical Thinking, 2015, 2018

Phil002: Contemporary Moral Issues, 2016, 2018

Phil030F: Early Modern Philosophy, 2018

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSEWORK (* indicates audit)

Agency and Ethics Courses:

Kant’s *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals**, Andrews Reath, 2018

On Intention and Practical Rationality*, Michael Nelson, 2017

On Practical Rationality*, Luca Ferrero, 2017

Margins of Agency, Agnieszka Jaworska, 2015

Normative Ethics, Agnieszka Jaworska, 2015

Agency and Time, Michael Nelson, 2015

Freedom and Moral Responsibility, John Fischer, 2015

Philosophy of Death, John Fischer, 2014

Logic/Philosophy of Language Courses:

Advanced Logic: Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems*, Erich Reck, 2019

Frege and Logicism*, Erich Reck, 2018

Strawson's *Individuals**, Michael Nelson 2016

Paraconsistent Logic and Dialetheism*, Michael Nelson, 2016

Kripke's *Reference and Existence*, Howard Wettstein, 2016

Intermediate Logic: Completeness and Soundness of First-Order Logic, Erich Reck, 2016

Modal Logic, Michael Nelson, 2015

History Courses:

Frege and Logicism*, Erich Reck, 2018

Kant's *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals**, Andrews Reath, 2018

On Leibniz*, Adam Harmer, 2017

On Leibniz, Adam Harmer, 2015

Plato's *Republic*, Jozef Müller, 2015

Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Andreja Novakovic, 2015

REFERENCES

John Fischer, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, UC Riverside, fischer@ucr.edu

Adam Harmer, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, UC Riverside, adamhar@ucr.edu

Michael Nelson, Professor of Philosophy, UC Riverside, mnelson@ucr.edu

Erich Reck, Professor of Philosophy, UC Riverside, reck@ucr.edu

Carolina Sartorio, Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona, sartorio@email.arizona.edu