

Curriculum Vitae  
Walter R. Ott, Jr.

Department of Philosophy – University of Virginia  
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**Experience**

2014- Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Virginia  
2012-13 Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Virginia  
2009-2014 Associate Professor of Philosophy, Virginia Tech (on leave, 12-13)  
2006-9 Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech  
2005-6 Visiting Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech  
2001-6 Assistant Professor, East Tennessee State University (on leave, 05-06)  
2000-2001 Faculty Fellow, Colby College, Waterville, Maine  
1996-2000 Graduate Instructor/Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia

**Education**

Ph.D. 2000. University of Virginia. Dissertation: 'Empiricism and Meaning in Locke.'  
M.A. 1997. University of Virginia. Thesis: 'Aristotle on Responsibility for Character.'  
B.A. 1994. Alfred University, Philosophy. Thesis: 'A New Reading of Kant's Schematism.'

**AOS** Modern philosophy, through Kant **AOC** Ancient; Epistemology; Philosophy of Mind

**Refereed publications**  
**Monographs**

*Descartes, Malebranche, and the Crisis of Perception*. Oxford University Press, UK. April 2017.

*Causation and Laws of Nature in Early Modern Philosophy*. Oxford University Press, UK, November 2, 2009. Paperback edition, 2013.

*Locke's Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge University Press, UK, 2004. Paperback edition, 2007.

**Co-edited volume**

*Laws of Nature*. With Lydia Patton. Under contract, Oxford University Press, UK. Estimated publication: Fall 2017.

**Articles**

'Archetypes without Patterns: Locke on Relations and Mixed Modes.' Forthcoming, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*.

'Phenomenal Intentionality and the Problem of Representation.' *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 2, 1 (2016): 131-145.

'Leibniz on Sensation and the Limits of Reason.' *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 33, 2 (2016): 135-153.

'Locke and the Real Problem of Causation.' *Locke Studies* 15 (2015): 53-77.

- 'Malebranche and the Riddle of Sensation.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 88, 3 (2014): 689-712.
- 'What is Locke's Theory of Representation?' *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 20, 6 (2012): 1077-1095.
- 'Are there Duties to the Dead?' *Philosophy Now* March/April 2012.
- 'Locke's Exclusion Argument.' *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 27, 2 (2010): 181-196.
- 'Causation, Intentionality, and the Case for Occasionalism.' *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 90, 2 (2008): 165-187. Reprinted, with a reply by Sukjae Lee, in S. Duncan and A. LoLordo, *Debates in Modern Philosophy*. London: Routledge, 2012.
- 'Régis's Scholastic Mechanism.' *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 39, 1 (2008): 2-14.
- 'Hume on Meaning.' *Hume Studies* 32, 2 (2006): 233-252.
- 'Descartes and Berkeley on Mind.' *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 14, 3 (2006): 437-450.
- 'Aristotle and Plato on Responsibility for Character.' *Ancient Philosophy* 26, 1 (2006): 65-79.
- 'The Cartesian Context of Berkeley's Attack on Abstraction.' *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 85, 4 (2004): 407-24.
- 'The New Berkeley.' With Marc Hight. *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 34, 1 (2004): 1-24.
- 'Locke's Argument from Signification.' *Locke Studies* 2 (2002): 145-76.
- 'Propositional Attitudes in Modern Philosophy.' *Dialogue* 41, 3 (2002): 551-568.
- 'Locke and Signification.' *Journal of Philosophical Research* 27 (2002): 449-73.
- 'A Troublesome Passage in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* iii 5.' *Ancient Philosophy* 20 (2000): 99-107.
- 'Locke and the Idea of God: A Reply to Vivienne Brown.' *The Locke Newsletter* (now *Locke Studies*) 30 (1999): 67-71.
- 'Locke and the Scholastics on Theological Discourse.' *The Locke Newsletter* 28 (1997): 51-66.

#### **Invited publications**

- 'The Case Against Powers.' In *Causal Powers in Science: Blending Historical and Conceptual Perspectives*. Ed. Benjamin Hill, Henrik Lagerlund, and Stathis Psillos. Oxford University

Press. Forthcoming.

'Occasionalism and the Powers of Minds.' In *Occasionalism East and West: New Essays on the Occasionalist Vision of Causality from the Islamic and Western Traditions*. Ed. Nazif Muhtaroglu. Istanbul: Kalam. Forthcoming.

'*Leges sive natura*.' Forthcoming, *Laws of Nature*, ed. Ott and Patton.

'Causation.' In *The Cartesian Mind*, ed. Cecilia Wee and Jorge Secada. London: Routledge. Forthcoming.

Entry on John Locke. *The Cambridge Descartes Lexicon*. Ed. Lawrence Nolan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016.

'Occasionalism.' *Oxford Bibliographies in Philosophy*. Ed. Duncan Pritchard. 2014.

Entry on John McDowell. *The Blackwell Companion to Metaphysics*, ed. J. Kim, E. Sosa, and G. Rosenkrantz. London: Blackwell, 2009.

'What Can Causal Claims Mean?' *Philosophia* 37, 3 (2009): 459-70 .

'Locke on Language.' *Philosophy Compass* 3 (2008).

Introduction to the Barnes and Noble Classics Edition of Aristotle's *de anima*. September, 2006.

'Intentionality, Skepticism, and Object-Dependent Thought.' *Analysis and Metaphysics* 1, 4, 2005.

'It's My Heeeeeaaaad! Sex and Death in *Being John Malkovich*.' In P. Tudico and K. Blessing, eds., *Movies and the Meaning of Life* (Chicago: Open Court, 2005).

Introduction to the Barnes and Noble Classics Edition of Locke's *Essay*. October, 2004.

### **Book reviews**

Margaret Cameron and Robert Stainton, eds., *Linguistic Content: New Essays on the History of Philosophy of Language*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, July 2015.

Samuel Rickless, *Berkeley's Argument for Idealism*. *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 53, 1 (2015).

Daniel Flage, *Berkeley*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, August, 2014.

Keith Allen and Tom Stoneham, eds., *Causation and Modern Philosophy*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, July, 2011.

Hannah Dawson, *Locke, Language, and Early Modern Philosophy*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. December, 2007.

Colin McGinn, *Consciousness and its Objects*. *Review of Metaphysics* 59, 3 (2005).

John McDowell, *Knowledge, Meaning, and Reality*. *Essays in Philosophy* (2004).

C.H. Conn, *Locke on Essence and Identity*. *Review of Metaphysics* 58, 3 (2004).

John Locke, *The Reasonableness of Christianity*, ed. John C. Higgins-Biddle (in *The Clarendon Edition of the Works of John Locke*). *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 39, 2 (2001).

### **Refereed presentations**

'An Open Source Textbook in Modern Philosophy.' Presented at the Annual AAPT Meeting, Austin TX, July 26, 2012.

'Causation, Intentionality, and the Case for Occasionalism.' Presented at the Causation 1500-2000 Conference, University of York (UK). March, 2008.

'Relations and Powers.' Presented at the 2007 Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, San Francisco, CA.

'What Kind of Mechanist Was Locke?' Presented at the Fall 2006 meeting of the South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

'The Cartesian Context of Berkeley's Attack on Abstraction.' Presented at the 2001 meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

'Berkeley's Anti-Cartesian Concept of Mind.' Presented at the Fall 2001 meeting of the Southeastern Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.

'Aristotle and 'Modern' Accounts of Responsibility.' Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Virginia Philosophical Association. Fall, 1997.

### **Invited presentations (selected)**

Comments on Julie Walsh, 'Malebranche and Social Responsibility.' Pacific APA, April 1, 2015.

'Laws *sive* Nature: the Case of Spinoza.' Keynote address, Rotman Summer Institute, Canada, 5 July 2014.

'Archetypes without Patterns: Locke on Relations and Mixed Modes.' At the Central APA Symposium, 'Powers and Qualities in the Seventeenth Century,' Chicago, March 2014.

'Occasionalism and the Powers of Minds.' International Society for the Study of Occasionalism, Harvard University, May 2013.

'The Nominalist's Problem with Relations.' Presented at the Université de Montreal Workshop on Nominalism, May, 2011.

'Are There Good Arguments for Occasionalism?' Presented at the Rochester Institute of Technology, October, 2010.

'Do We Have Duties to the Dead?' Presented at the Rochester Institute of Technology, October, 2010.

'Berkeley and the Invisible Externalisms.' Presented at the UWO-Trinity Conference on Berkeley's Philosophy of Mind. London, Ontario, September, 2010.

'Comments on John Russell Roberts's *A Metaphysics for the Mob.*' Eastern APA, December 2008.

'What Can Causal Claims Mean?' Meaning and Modern Empiricism Conference, Blacksburg, VA. April, 2008.

### **Awards, grants, and fellowships**

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|-----------|---|
| 2011      | Virginia Tech Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER) Grant: 'Modern Philosophy through Argument: A Workbook'   |
| 2009      | Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Award for Excellence in Research   |
| 2008      | Virginia Tech Humanities Summer Stipend   |
| 2004      | NEH Summer Institute, 'The Intersection of Philosophy, Science, and Theology in the Seventeenth Century,' directed by Steven Nadler and Donald Rutherford. University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 5-30 |
| 2000      | University of Virginia Graduate Teaching Award  |
| 1999-2000 | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Fellowship   |

### **Service**

To the profession:

Referee for *Ancient Philosophy*, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialogue*, *Eighteenth Century Studies*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Locke Studies*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy Compass*

Reviewed book proposals and manuscripts for Oxford, Blackwell, Brill, Broadview, Longman, Palgrave Macmillan, and Routledge

Member, Advisory Board, International Society for the Study of Occasionalism, Fall 2012-present

Editor, Locke category, philpapers.org, ed. David Bourget and David Chalmers, Fall 2013-present

Participant, NEH High-Phi Project (Mitch Green, Director); Spring 2010-Summer 2011

Referee, *The Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy* (2011, 2012)

Advisory Panel, *Analysis and Metaphysics* (Bucharest, Romania) (2005-present)

Reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (Fall, 2007)

At the University of Virginia:

*Department:*

Search Committee Member (Philosophy and Neuroscience), (2016-2017)

Chair, Search Committee (Ancient Philosophy) (2015-16)

Director of Diversity and Inclusiveness (Fall 2015-present)

Honors thesis: Will Harris, Modal Epistemology, Spring 2016  
Dissertation Committee Member, John Mahlan (defended Fall 2016)  
Dissertation Committee Member, Douglass Reed (defended Fall 2015)  
Dissertation Committee Member, Galen Barry (defended Fall 2014)

At Virginia Tech:

*College:*

Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2010-12, 2013-14  
Graduate Committee, 2011-12  
Awards and Honorifics Committee, 2009-10  
Humanities Summer Stipend Committee, 2008-9  
Faculty Senate member, 2008-9

*Department:*

Director of Graduate Studies, 2011-12; 2013-14  
Chair, Department Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2011-12  
Chair, Graduate Committee, 2011-12, 2013-14  
Chair, Ethics search committee, 2010-2011  
Search Committee Member, 2006-7; 2011-12; 2012-13  
Ombudsman, 2010-12; 2013-14  
Chair, Department Curriculum Committee, 2010-2011  
Teaching and Honorifics Committee, 2006-9; Chair, 2008-9  
Organized the 2008 conference, Meaning and Modern Empiricism. April 11-13, 2008  
Director, Department Colloquium Series, 2006-2008; co-director, 2009-10  
M.A. Thesis Advisor for Steven Mischler (2014); Committee Member for: Michael Trapp (2015), Richard Creek (2014), Michael Zarella (2013), Claudio D'Amato (2011), Will Fleisher (2010), Heather Oldham (2009), Richard Wilson (2008)

At ETSU:

Creator and Director of the Philosophy Department Honors in Discipline Program, Spring 2004-5  
Faculty Advisor to the Philosophy Club, Fall 2003-Spring 2005  
Search Committee Member, 2004-5  
Oral Communications Committee, 2002-2004

### **Teaching experience**

At the University of Virginia:

Graduate seminars:

*Laws of Nature*. Spring, 2016  
*First Year Seminar (Descartes and Critics)*. Fall, 2015, 2016  
*Representation in Early Modern Philosophy*. Fall, 2012

Upper level undergraduate:

*Epistemology*. Spring, 2017  
*Kant*. Spring, 2013, 2016, 2017  
*Animal Minds*. Fall, 2014  
*Mental Representation*. Seminar for majors, Spring 2013  
*Modern Philosophy*. Spring, 2013  
*The Rationalists*. Fall, 2012

Lower division:

*The Meaning of Life*. Fall, 2014, 2015, and 2016

At Virginia Tech:

Graduate seminars:

*Sensory Representation in Modern Philosophy*. Spring 2014

*Leibniz Against the Moderns*. Spring 2012

*Meaning and Intentionality in Modern Philosophy*. Spring, 2008, 2011

*Locke and Berkeley*. Spring 2007, Fall 2009

*Causation and Laws of Nature in Modern Philosophy*. Fall 2005; Spring 2009

Combined graduate/upper level undergraduate:

*Epistemology*. Spring 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010; Fall 2013

*Philosophy of Mind*. Fall, 2008; Spring 2010; Fall 2010

Lower division:

*History of Modern Philosophy*. Fall, 2009-2013

*History of Philosophy: 17<sup>th</sup> Century*. Fall, 2005-8

*History of Philosophy: 18<sup>th</sup> Century*. Spring, 2006

At East Tennessee State University:

*Self and World*. Fall 2001-Fall 2004

*Modern Philosophy*. Spring semester, 2001-2004

*Metaphysics and Epistemology*. Fall 2004

*Ancient Philosophy*. Fall 2003

*Empiricism from Aquinas to Quine*. Fall 2002

*Philosophy as Conversation*. Fall 2001; Spring 2005

At Colby College:

*Moral Philosophy*. Fall, 2000

*Philosophy and Literature*. Fall, 2000

*Modern Philosophy*. Spring 2001

*Relativism*. Spring 2001

### **Language Abilities**

French; some Ancient Greek

### **References**

(a) Kenneth Winkler, Professor of Philosophy, Yale University

e.mail: kenneth.winkler@yale.edu

(b) Steven Nadler, Professor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison

e.mail: smnadler@wisc.edu

(c) Edwin McCann, Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern California

e.mail: mccann@usc.edu