

Curriculum Vitae
Walter R. Ott, Jr.

wo5n@virginia.edu

Department of Philosophy
120 Coker Hall
P.O. Box 400780
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22904

Experience

2017- Professor of Philosophy, University of Virginia
2014-7 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; Philosophy of Mind; Metaphysics

Refereed publications

Monographs

The Metaphysics of Laws of Nature. Oxford University Press, UK. Forthcoming

Descartes, Malebranche, and the Crisis of Perception. Oxford University Press, UK. July, 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. Oxford University Press, UK. July 31, 2018.

Articles

'Locke on the Role of Judgment in Perception.' *European Journal of Philosophy* 28, 3 (2020): 670-684.

'Berkeley's Best System: An Alternative Approach to Laws of Nature.' *Journal of Modern
Philosophy* 1, 4 (2019): 1-13.

- 'Archetypes without Patterns: Locke on Relations and Mixed Modes.' *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 99, 3 (2017): 300-325.
- '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

'Perception.' In *The Lockean Mind*. Ed. Jessica Gordon-Roth and Shelley Weinberg. Routledge. Forthcoming.

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

'The Case Against Powers.' In *Causal Powers in Science: Blending Historical and Conceptual Perspectives*. Ed. Benjamin Hill, Henrik Lagerlund, and Stathis Psillos. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.

'Locke and Mechanism.' In the *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences*, ed. Marius Stan. Springer, 2020.

'*Leges sive natura*.' In *Laws of Nature*, ed. Ott and Patton, 2018.

'Intuitions and Assumptions in the Debate over Laws of Nature.' Co-authored with Lydia Patton. In *Laws of Nature*, ed. Ott and Patton, 2018.

'Philosophy of Language.' In *The Routledge Companion to Seventeenth Century Philosophy*. London: Routledge, 2017.

'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. 2017.

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; updated 2019.

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

Philippe Hamou, *Dans la Chambre Obscure de l'Esprit*. *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 57, 2 (2019).

Han Thomas Adriaenssen, *Representation and Scepticism from Aquinas to Descartes*. *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 56, 4 (2018).

Tyron Goldschmidt and Scott Stapleford, *Berkeley's Principles*. *The Philosophical Review* 127, 1 (2018).

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

'Émilie du Châtelet and the Illusions of Space and Body.' American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, January, 2020.

'Locke and the Persistent Unreality of Space.' Early Modern-St. Louis Conference, MO. May, 2019.

'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)

Author Meets Critics: *Descartes, Malebranche, and the Crisis of Perception*. Eastern APA, Savannah, GA, January 4, 2018. Critics: Alison Simmons, Sean Greenberg.

'The problem of provisos among the moderns.' Presented at the *Causa Sive Ratio* conference, Milan, Italy, November 2017.

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

2019 UVA Diversity and Inclusion Grant
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*, *Inquiry*, *Intellectual History Review*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, *Locke Studies*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophy Compass*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*

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:

Director of Graduate Studies (2021-)

Director of Graduate Admissions (2017-2020)

Dissertation Advisor, Travis Tanner (Spring 2021-)

Faculty Director, UVA Workshop for Undergraduates (funded by 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Grant)

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

Chair, Search Committee (Ancient Philosophy) (2015-16)
Director of Diversity and Inclusiveness (Fall 2015-Spring 2017)
Honors thesis director: Will Harris, Modal Epistemology, Spring 2016
Dissertation Committee Member, Torrance Fung (defended Spring 2020)
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:

Metaphysics and Philosophy of Science in Modern Philosophy. Spring, 2019.

Laws of Nature. Spring, 2016

First Year Seminar. Fall, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019

Representation in Early Modern Philosophy. Fall, 2012

Combined graduate/undergraduate:

Kant and the Empiricists. Spring, 2021

Upper level undergraduate:

18th Century Philosophy. Fall, 2018
Epistemology. Spring, 2017
Kant. Spring, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018
Mental Representation. Seminar for majors, Spring 2013
Modern Philosophy. Spring, 2013
The Rationalists. Fall, 2012
Philosophy of Mind. Spring, 2020
Lower division:
The Meaning of Life. Fall, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; Spring 2021
Animal Minds. Fall 2014; Spring, 2018, 2019, 2020

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: 17th Century. Fall, 2005-8
History of Philosophy: 18th 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 Latin and Ancient Greek