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# Shyam Nair

School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies  
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## Academic Employment

- 2022- *Associate Professor*, School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies, Arizona State University  
2016-2022 *Assistant Professor*, School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies, Arizona State University  
2019-20 *Faculty Fellow*, Center for Ethics & Public Affairs at the Murphy Institute, Tulane University  
2014-16 *Assistant Professor*, Philosophy Department, Lingnan University

## Areas of specialization

Ethics (especially Normative Ethics, Practical Reason, and Metaethics), Epistemology

## Areas of competence

Philosophical Logic, Philosophy of Language

## Education

- 2014 PHD in Philosophy, University of Southern California  
2007-09 PHD STUDENT in Philosophy, Arizona State University (transferred)  
2007 BA in History, Arizona State University

## Publications

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- forthcoming “Three Forms of Actualist Direct Consequentialism” in *Utilitas*  
2021 “Adding Up’ Reasons: Lessons for Reductive and Non-Reductive Approaches” in *Ethics* 132 (1): 38-88.  
2019 “Bootstrapping, Dogmatism, and the Structure of Epistemic Justification” in *Ergo* 6 (7), 169-216.

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URL: <https://doi.org/10.3998/ergo.12405314.0006.007>.

- 2019 “Must Good Reasoning Satisfy Cumulative Transitivity?” in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 98 (1), 123–146.
- 2016 “Conflicting Reasons, Unconflicting ‘Ought’s” in *Philosophical Studies* 173 (3), 629–663.
- 2014 “A Fault Line in Ethical Theory” in *Philosophical Perspectives* 28 (1), 173–200.
- 2014 “Consequences of Reasoning with Conflicting Obligations” in *Mind* 123 (491), 753–790.
- 2011 “Philosophy’s New Challenge: Experiments and Intentional Action” (third author with Ángel Pinillos, Nick Smith, Peter Marchetto, and Cecilia Mun) in *Mind and Language* 26 (1), 753–790.

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- 2021 “Ethical Theory and Deontic Logic” in *Handbook of Deontic Logic and Normative Systems*. Ed. by Dov Gabbay et al. Vol. 2. Milton Keynes: College Publications, 549–655.
- 2020 “Fault Lines in Ethical Theory” in *The Oxford Handbook of Consequentialism*. Ed. by Douglas Portmore. New York: Oxford University Press, 67–92.
- 2018 “Logic of Reasons” (equal co-author with John Horty) in *Oxford Handbook of Reasons and Normativity*. Ed. by Daniel Star. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 67–84
- 2016 “How Do Reasons Accrue?” in *Weighing Reasons*. Ed. by Errol Lord and Barry Maguire. New York: Oxford University Press, 56–73.

#### OTHER

- 2022 “*Semantics for Reasons*, by Bryan R. Weaver and Kevin Scharp” in *Mind*
- 2021 “*Instrumental Rationality*, by John Brunero” in *Ethics*
- 2018 *Deontic Logic and Normative Systems. 14th International Conference, DEON 2018, The Netherlands, 3-6 July, 2018* (equal editorship with Jan Broersen, Cleo Condoravdi, and Gabriella Pigozzi). College Publications.
- 2015 “Moral Dilemmas” in *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. London: Routledge.

### Unpublished and In Progress

- promised A paper about Stewart Cohen’s work (related to bootstrapping and pragmatic encroachment) and failures of cumulative transitivity
- in preparation A project about reasons or confirmation first approach to probabilities
- in preparation A project about moral worth/credit and the relationship between the derivative/non-derivative reasons distinction and the subjective/objective reasons distinction
- in preparation A project comparing different reasons-based theories of obligation and optimality
- in preparation A project comparing value-based theories of obligation.
- 2021 “Supplement 1 to “Adding Up” Reasons’: Proof of Theorem 2”  
URL: <https://philpapers.org/rec/NAIST>.
- 2017 “A Supplement to ‘Must Good Reasoning Satisfy Cumulative Transitivity?’”  
URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBzauaJqAmBm3NUFpTm91dkZjbzg/view>.

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## Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

- 2019-20 Faculty Fellowship at the Center for Ethics & Public Affairs at the Murphy Institute, a year long research fellowship in residence at Tulane University.
- 2016-17 Early Career Scheme Grant, a Hong Kong government competitive grant for early career faculty. Two semesters teaching buy out. Resigned August 2016 to joining ASU.
- 2009-14 Provost's PhD Fellowship, a USC university-wide competitive graduate student fellowship. Five years funding package with five semesters of teaching relief.
- 2012-13 Russell Fellowship, a USC university-wide competitive graduate student fellowship. One year of funding and two semesters of teaching relief.
- 2012 Flewelling Award, a USC university-wide competitive graduate student award. Summer funding.

## Talks

- 7/2021 'Reasons-based Theories of Obligation and Optimality' (keynote) at DEON 2020/21
- 4/2020 'The Moral Mathematics of "Adding Up" Reasons: Lessons for Reductive and Non-Reductive Approaches' at Tulane University
- 4/2020 'The Moral Mathematics of "Adding Up" Reasons: Lessons for Reductive and Non-Reductive Approaches' at the University of Texas at Austin
- 11/2019 'The Explanatory Power of Probabilistic Analyses of Reasons' at the New Work on Choice and Belief: Philosophy Conference
- 4/2019 Comments on David Boylan's "Putting 'Ought's Together" at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting
- 4/2019 Comments on Grace Helton's "The Import and Resilience of Solipsism" at the Philosophy Desert Workshop
- 4/2019 'Two Distinctions in Reasons' at the University of Southern California
- 3/2019 'Moral Particularism and the Limits of Formal Accounts of the Shapelessness of Morality' at Hong Kong University
- 3/2019 'How the Prole Can Act Like the Archangel' at Lingnan University
- 4/2018 'The Explanatory Power of Probabilistic Analyses of Reasons' at Nottingham University.
- 7/2018 Comments on Brian Weatherson's "Interests, Evidence, and Games" at the 13th *Episteme* Conference
- 3/2017 'Ampliative Moral Reasoning' at Hong Kong University
- 3/2017 'The Accrual of Reasons: A Probabilistic Approach' at Lingnan University
- 11/2016 'The Accrual of Reasons: Two Approaches' at the University of Southern California
- 2/2016 'The Accrual of Reasons: Problems and Prospects' at Arizona State University
- 1/2016 'The Accrual of Reasons: Problems and Prospects' at the University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 3/2015 'The Accrual of Reasons: Some First Thoughts' at the National University of Singapore
- 1/2015 'The Accrual of Reasons: Some First Thoughts' at the University of Arizona
- 11/2014 'How Do Reasons Accrue?' at Hong Kong University
- 3/2014 'Must Good Reasoning Be Cumulative Transitive?' at Lingnan University
- 2/2014 'Must Good Reasoning Be Cumulative Transitive?' at the SoCal PhilMath + PhilLogic + FoM Workshop
- 2/2014 'A Fault Line in Ethical Theory' at Texas Tech University

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- 2/2014 'Must Good Reasoning Be Cumulative Transitive?' at the University of California Santa Barbara
- 3/2013 Poster presentation of 'Consequences of Reasoning with Conflicting Obligation' at the USC Deontic Modality Workshop
- 3/2013 Comments on Fabrizio Cariani's "One Theory to Rule them All" at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting
- 2/2013 Comments on Kraig Martin's "Closure of Inquiry and the Sufficiency of Knowledge" at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting
- 10/2012 'Consequences of Reasoning with Conflicting Obligations' at Formal Ethics 2012
- 5/2012 Comments on Michael Titlebaum's "In Defense of Right Reasons" at the St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality
- 4/2012 Comments on Robert Mabrito's "A Friendly Amendment to Schroeder's Expressivist Semantics" at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting
- 5/2011 Comments on Fabrizio Cariani's "Collective Reasons via Judgment Aggregation" at the Formal Epistemology Workshop.
- 3/2011 'Van Fraassen's Puzzle and Logical Consequence in Deontic Logic' (presented with Mark Schroeder) at American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting

## Teaching and Advising

### TEACHING

- Fall 2022 *Topics in Metaphysics*, an upper-level undergraduate seminar and graduate seminar on modal logic and metaphysics, ASU.  
*Ethical Theory*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.
- Spring 2022 *Theory of Knowledge*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Philosophical Argument and Exposition*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.
- Fall 2021 *Ethical Theory*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Metaphysics*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.
- Spring 2021 *Theory of Knowledge*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Metaphysics*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.
- Fall 2020 *Theory of Knowledge*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Topics in Normative Ethics*, an upper-level undergraduate seminar and graduate seminar on major work in early 20th century normative ethics as well as related contemporary work, ASU.
- Spring 2019 *Theory of Knowledge*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Contemporary Analytic Philosophy*, an upper-level undergraduate seminar on rationality and reasoning, ASU.
- Fall 2018 *Theory of Knowledge*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Ethical Theory*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.
- Spring 2018 *History of Ethics*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Topics in Epistemology*, an upper-level undergraduate and graduate seminar on highlights of epistemology since 2000, ASU.
- Fall 2017 *Theory of Knowledge*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Ethical Theory*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.

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- Spring 2017 *Ethical Theory*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Topics in Epistemology*, an upper-level undergraduate seminar and graduate seminar on ampliative reasoning, ASU.
- Fall 2016 *Ethical Theory*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, ASU.  
*Contemporary Analytic Philosophy*, an upper-level undergraduate seminar on rationality and reasoning, ASU.
- Spring 2016 *Philosophy of Language*, an upper-level undergraduate course, Lingnan University.
- Fall 2015 *Understanding Morality*, an introductory undergraduate course, Lingnan University.  
*Metaethics*, an upper-level undergraduate course, Lingnan University.
- Spring 2015 *Understanding Morality*, an introductory undergraduate course, Lingnan University.  
*Philosophy of Language*, an upper-level undergraduate course, Lingnan University.
- Fall 2014 *Understanding Morality*, an introductory undergraduate course, Lingnan University.  
*Deductive Logic*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course, Lingnan University.

#### ADVISING

- Fall 2020- *PhD Dissertation* committee member for Alex Braud, ASU.
- Fall 2020- *PhD Dissertation* committee member for Bryan Lietz, ASU.
- Spring 2017- *Master's Thesis* committee member for Hagge Cadenas, thesis entitled "Issues in the Normativity of Logic", ASU.
- Fall 2017
- Fall 2016- *Honors Thesis* second member for Nick Karler, an undergraduate capstone project on Joseph Fishkin's theory of equality, ASU.
- Fall 2018
- Spring 2016 *MPHIL Thesis* committee member for Tsz-chun Choy, thesis entitled "Defending Relational Egalitarianism and the Two Principles of Equality", Lingnan University.
- Fall 2014- *Directed Research Project* supervisor for Anders Lam, an undergraduate capstone on the epistemology of non-reductive metaethical naturalism, Lingnan University.
- Spring 2015

#### Service

##### DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Fall 2022- Member of Philosophy Unit Diversity Committee, ASU.
- Spring 2021- Member of The College Standards Committee, ASU.
- Fall 2020- Secretary to Philosophy Unit, ASU.
- Fall 2021- Member of Philosophy Unit Graduate Committee, ASU.
- Spring 2022
- Fall 2020- Member of Philosophy Unit Award/Scholarship Committee, ASU.
- Spring 2022
- Spring 2019 Chair of Ad-Hoc Philosophy Unit Committee for Developing the Science, Nature, and Mind Concentration, ASU.
- Fall 2018- Member of Philosophy Unit Diversity Committee, ASU.
- Spring 2019

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Fall 2016- Secretary to Philosophy Unit, ASU.  
Fall 2019  
Spring 2017- Coordinator of Philosophy Colloquium Series, ASU.  
Fall 2018  
Fall 2017- Member of Search Committee in Applied Moral, Political, Social, or Legal Philosophy, ASU.  
Spring 2018  
Spring 2017 Member of Ad-Hoc SHPRS Hiring Committee, ASU.  
Fall 2015- Member of Admissions Committee for Postgraduate Programme, Lingnan University.  
Summer 2016  
Fall 2014- Seminar Co-Coordinator, Lingnan University.  
Summer 2016  
Fall 2014- English and Additional Languages Centre Liaison, Lingnan University.  
Summer 2016  
Fall 2014- Secretary to Philosophy Department, Lingnan University.  
Summer 2015

#### REFEREEING

At least one (and typically several) manuscripts refereed at each of the following venues:

*Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Cambridge University Press, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, College Publications, Ethics, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Episteme, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Journal of Philosophical Logic, Mind, Nous, Oxford University Press, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Studies Series, Philosophy, Philosophy Compass, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Politics, Philosophy & Economics, Res Philosophica, Review of Symbolic Logic, Routledge, Synthese, Theoria, and Thought*