
Shyam Nair

School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

Arizona State University

975 S. Myrtle Ave

P.O. Box 874302

Tempe, Arizona 85287 U.S.A.

Phone: +1 (480) 695-0460

Email: gsnair@asu.edu

Personal Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/gshyamnair>

ASU Website: <https://isearch.asu.edu/profile/587744>

Academic Employment

2022–	<i>Associate Professor</i> , School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies, Arizona State University
2016–2022	<i>Assistant Professor</i> , School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies, Arizona State University
2019–20	<i>Faculty Fellow</i> , Center for Ethics & Public Affairs at the Murphy Institute, Tulane University
2014–16	<i>Assistant Professor</i> , 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 (Advisor: Mark Schroeder)
2007–09	PHD STUDENT in Philosophy, Arizona State University (transferred)
2007	BA in History, Arizona State University

Publications

PAPERS

2025	“Pragmatic Encroachment and the Structure of Reasons” in <i>Knowledge and Rationality: Essays in Honor of Stewart Cohen</i> . Ed. by Juan Comesaña and Matthew McGrath. New York: Routledge, 163–178.
2023	“Three Forms of Actualist Direct Consequentialism” in <i>Utilitas</i> 35 (1): 1–24.

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- 2023 “Bayesian Confirmation and Commonsense Notions of Evidential Strength” (second author with Derek Powell) in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society* 45.
URL: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9hh5o41q>.
- 2021 “‘Adding Up’ Reasons: Lessons for Reductive and Non-Reductive Approaches” in *Ethics* 132 (1): 38–88.[†]
- 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.
- 2019 “Must Good Reasoning Satisfy Cumulative Transitivity?” in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 98 (1), 123–146.
- 2019 “Bootstrapping, Dogmatism, and the Structure of Epistemic Justification” in *Ergo* 6 (7), 169–216.
URL: <https://doi.org/10.3998/ergo.12405314.0006.007>.
- 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 “Conflicting Reasons, Unconflicting ‘Ought’s” in *Philosophical Studies* 173 (3), 629–663.
- 2016 “How Do Reasons Accrue?” in *Weighing Reasons*. Ed. by Errol Lord and Barry Maguire. New York: Oxford University Press, 56–73.
- 2014 “Consequences of Reasoning with Conflicting Obligations” in *Mind* 123 (491), 753–790.
- 2014 “A Fault Line in Ethical Theory” in *Philosophical Perspectives* 28 (1), 173–200.
- 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.

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 An entry on the bootstrapping problem for *The Blackwell Companion to Epistemology* Ed. by Kurt Sylvan.
- promised A paper about the use of weight representations and vector representations to understand the strengths of reasons for *Dimensions of Normative Strength* Ed. by Joshua Gert and Chris Tucker
- in preparation A project about reasons or confirmation first approach to probabilities
- in preparation A project about theories of obligation and optimality with a focus on “directed” normative notions
- in preparation A project comparing value-based theories of obligation.
- in preparation A project about the relationship between the derivative/non-derivative reasons distinction and the

[†]Selected for inclusion in *Philosopher’s Annual*.

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- subjective/objective reasons distinction
- 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/oBzaaJqAmBm3NUFpTm91dkZjbzg/view>.

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

- 2022 “‘Adding Up’ Reasons: Lessons for Reductive and Non-Reductive Approaches” selected for inclusion in *Philosopher’s Annual*, vol. 41, as one of the ten best articles of 2021.
- 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 join 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

- 1/26 TBD at University of Pennsylvania
- 5/25 ‘Evidential Support First, Probability Second’ at University of California, Los Angeles
- 4/25 ‘Evidential Support First, Probability Second’ at University of Arizona
- 3/23 ‘Directed Optimality’ at Durham University
- 7/21 ‘Reasons-based Theories of Obligation and Optimality’ (keynote) at DEON 2020/21
- 4/20 ‘The Moral Mathematics of “Adding Up” Reasons: Lessons for Reductive and Non-Reductive Approaches’ at Tulane University
- 4/20 ‘The Moral Mathematics of “Adding Up” Reasons: Lessons for Reductive and Non-Reductive Approaches’ at the University of Texas at Austin
- 11/19 ‘The Explanatory Power of Probabilistic Analyses of Reasons’ at the New Work on Choice and Belief: Philosophy Conference
- 4/19 Comments on David Boylan’s “Putting ‘Ought’s Together” at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting
- 4/19 Comments on Grace Helton’s “The Import and Resilience of Solipsism” at the Philosophy Desert Workshop
- 4/19 ‘Two Distinctions in Reasons’ at the University of Southern California
- 3/19 ‘Moral Particularism and the Limits of Formal Accounts of the Shapelessness of Morality’ at Hong Kong University
- 3/19 ‘How the Prole Can Act Like the Archangel’ at Lingnan University
- 4/18 ‘The Explanatory Power of Probabilistic Analyses of Reasons’ at Nottingham University.
- 7/18 Comments on Brian Weatherson’s “Interests, Evidence, and Games” at the 13th *Episteme* Conference

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- 3/17 ‘Ampliative Moral Reasoning’ at Hong Kong University
 - 3/17 ‘The Accrual of Reasons: A Probabilistic Approach’ at Lingnan University
 - 11/16 ‘The Accrual of Reasons: Two Approaches’ at the University of Southern California
 - 2/16 ‘The Accrual of Reasons: Problems and Prospects’ at Arizona State University
 - 1/16 ‘The Accrual of Reasons: Problems and Prospects’ at the University of Massachusetts Amherst
 - 3/15 ‘The Accrual of Reasons: Some First Thoughts’ at the National University of Singapore
 - 1/15 ‘The Accrual of Reasons: Some First Thoughts’ at the University of Arizona
 - 11/14 ‘How Do Reasons Accrue?’ at Hong Kong University
 - 3/14 ‘Must Good Reasoning Be Cumulative Transitive?’ at Lingnan University
 - 2/14 ‘Must Good Reasoning Be Cumulative Transitive?’ at the SoCal PhilMath + PhilLogic + FoM Workshop
 - 2/14 ‘A Fault Line in Ethical Theory’ at Texas Tech University
 - 2/14 ‘Must Good Reasoning Be Cumulative Transitive?’ at the University of California Santa Barbara
 - 3/13 Poster presentation of ‘Consequences of Reasoning with Conflicting Obligation’ at the USC Deontic Modality Workshop
 - 3/13 Comments on Fabrizio Cariani’s “One Theory to Rule them All” at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting
 - 2/13 Comments on Kraig Martin’s “Closure of Inquiry and the Sufficiency of Knowledge” at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting
 - 10/12 ‘Consequences of Reasoning with Conflicting Obligations’ at Formal Ethics 2012
 - 5/12 Comments on Michael Titlebaum’s “In Defense of Right Reasons” at the St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality
 - 4/12 Comments on Robert Mabruto’s “A Friendly Amendment to Schroeder’s Expressivist Semantics” at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting
 - 5/11 Comments on Fabrizio Cariani’s “Collective Reasons via Judgment Aggregation” at the Formal Epistemology Workshop.
 - 3/11 ‘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 AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

- S/24 *Philosophical Argument and Exposition*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
- F/23 *Philosophical Argument and Exposition*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
- F/23 *Topics in Normative Ethics*, an upper-level undergraduate/graduate seminar on recent work on reasons and rationality.
- F/22 *Philosophical Argument and Exposition*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
- F/22 *Topics in Metaphysics*, an upper-level undergraduate/graduate seminar on modal logic and metaphysics.
- S/22 *Ethical Theory*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
- S/22 *Theory of Knowledge*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
- F/21 *Philosophical Argument and Exposition*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
- F/21 *Ethical Theory*, an intermediate-level undergraduate course.

S/21	<i>Metaphysics</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Theory of Knowledge</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
F/20	<i>Metaphysics</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Theory of Knowledge</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Topics in Normative Ethics</i> , an upper-level undergraduate/graduate seminar on major work in early 20th century normative ethics as well as related contemporary work.
S/19	<i>Theory of Knowledge</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Contemporary Analytic Philosophy</i> , an upper-level undergraduate course on rationality.
F/18	<i>Theory of Knowledge</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Ethical Theory</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
S/18	<i>History of Ethics</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Topics in Epistemology</i> , an upper-level undergraduate/graduate seminar on highlights of epistemology since 2000.
F/17	<i>Theory of Knowledge</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Ethical Theory</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course.
S/17	<i>Ethical Theory</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Topics in Epistemology</i> , an upper-level undergraduate/graduate seminar on ampliative reasoning.
F/16	<i>Ethical Theory</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course. <i>Contemporary Analytic Philosophy</i> , an upper-level undergraduate course on rationality.

TEACHING AT LINGNAN UNIVERSITY

S/16	<i>Philosophy of Language</i> , an upper-level undergraduate course.
F/15	<i>Understanding Morality</i> , an introductory undergraduate course. <i>Metaethics</i> , an upper-level undergraduate course.
S/15	<i>Understanding Morality</i> , an introductory undergraduate course. <i>Philosophy of Language</i> , an upper-level undergraduate course.
F/14	<i>Understanding Morality</i> , an introductory undergraduate course. <i>Deductive Logic</i> , an intermediate-level undergraduate course, Lingnan University.

ADVISING AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

S/25–	<i>PhD Dissertation</i> chair for Scout Etterson.
F/24–	<i>PhD Dissertation</i> chair for Yashin Voss
S/23–S/24	<i>Honors Thesis</i> chair for Elizabeth Brooks, an undergraduate capstone project on deontic modals.
F/20–S/23	<i>PhD Dissertation</i> committee member for Bryan Lietz. Discontinued for private sector employment.
F/20–S/22	<i>PhD Dissertation</i> committee member for Alex Braud. Discontinued for private sector employment.
S/17–F/17	<i>Master's Thesis</i> committee member for Haggeo Cadenas, thesis entitled “Issues in the Normativity of Logic”.
F/16–F/18	<i>Honors Thesis</i> second member for Nick Karler, an undergraduate capstone project on Joseph Fishkin’s theory of equality.

ADVISING AT LINGNAN UNIVERSITY

S/16

F/14–S/15 *MPHIL Thesis* committee member for Tsz-chun Choy, thesis entitled “Defending Relational Egalitarianism and the Two Principles of Equality”.
Directed Research Project supervisor for Anders Lam, an undergraduate capstone on the epistemology of non-reductive metaethical naturalism.

Service

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

12/23– Associate Editor, *Ethics*

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 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*

SERVICE AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

F/25 Interim Philosophy Associate Head of Graduate Studies for SHPRS
 F/23– Member of SHPRS Personnel Committee and Philosophy Unit Personnel Subcommittee.
 S/22– Member of The College Quality of Instruction Committee.
 F/23–S/24 Member of Philosophy Unit Diversity Committee.
 F/23–S/24 Member of Philosophy Unit Search Committee in Technology, AI, AI Ethics, Health, or Human Futures
 S/21–S/23 Member of The College Standards Committee
 F/20–F/22 Secretary for Philosophy Unit
 F/22 Member of Philosophy Unit Diversity Committee
 F/21–F/22 Member of Philosophy Unit Graduate Committee
 F/20–S/22 Member of Philosophy Unit Award/Scholarship Committee
 S/19 Chair of Ad-Hoc Philosophy Unit Committee for Developing the Science, Nature, and Mind Concentration
 F/18–S/19 Member of Philosophy Unit Diversity Committee
 F/16–F/19 Secretary to Philosophy Unit
 S/17–F/18 Coordinator of Philosophy Colloquium Series
 F/17–S/18 Member of Search Committee in Applied Moral, Political, Social, or Legal Philosophy
 S/17 Member of Ad-Hoc SHPRS Hiring Committee

SERVICE AT LINGNAN UNIVERSITY

F/15–S/16	Member of Admissions Committee for Postgraduate Programme.
F/14–S/16	Seminar Co-Coordinator.
F/14–S/16	English and Additional Languages Centre Liaison.
F/14–S/15	Secretary to Philosophy Department.