

Jeffrey Watson

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Curriculum Vitae

Jeffrey J. Watson

ASSOCIATE TEACHING PROFESSOR, PHILOSOPHY
SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Area of Specialization: Metaphysics / Philosophy of Mind

Areas of Competence: Logic, Ethics, Epistemology, History of Philosophy

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy

Arizona State University, 2008 - 2013

Dissertation: *Emergence and Cosmic Hermeneutics*

Committee: Bernard W. Kobes (chair), Ángel Pinillos, Steven Reynolds, Terry Horgan

Dissertation Summary: Emergentism is the view that sometimes “the whole is more than the sum of its parts”. Originating in J. S. Mill’s *System of Logic*, emergentist accounts have been offered for a whole host of phenomena in the natural and social sciences, most notably phenomenal consciousness. However, it is rarely clear what claims of “emergence” are committed to. I offer a coherent and unified account of emergence, and defend it as an intermediate position between materialism and dualism from common objections.

B.A., Political Science & Linguistics

University of Arizona, 1999 – 2002

M.A., Philosophy

Arizona State University, 2008 - 2012

Professional Memberships

American Philosophical Association

2010 – present

American Association of Philosophy Teachers

2017 – present

Research Interests: Emergence, Mental Causation and the Exclusion Problem, Consciousness, Vagueness, Epistemic and Semantic Paradoxes, Counterfactual accounts of Causation, Varieties of Possibility, Representation, Moral Responsibility.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:	<i>Associate Teaching Professor, Arizona State University</i>	<i>2023 – present</i>
	Assistant Teaching Professor / Lecturer	2014 - 2023
	Instructor	2013 - 2014
	Faculty Associate	2012

PAST EMPLOYMENT: *Northern Arizona University, Adjunct (2011-2012). Yavapai College, Adjunct (2011-2012).*

Courses Taught

PHI 101: Introduction to Philosophy

PHI 103: Principles of Sound Reasoning

PHI 105: Introduction to Ethics

PHIY 111: Social and Moral Philosophy

PHIY 110: Introduction to Critical Thinking

HUM 205: Technology and Human Values

PHI 325: Philosophy of Social Science

PHI 335: History of Ethics

PHI 329: History of Modern Philosophy

PHI 330: Theory of Knowledge

PHI 332: Metaphysics

PHI 333: Symbolic Logic

PHI 334: Philosophy of Mind

PHI 591: Consciousness Graduate Seminar (Co-Taught)

PHI 403: Contemporary Analytic Philosophy

PHI 420: Metaphysics / Philosophy of Mind Undergraduate Seminar

PHI 420: Consciousness Undergraduate Seminar

MENTORING

BARRETT HONORS FACULTY, HONORS THESIS CHAIR

Gabriel Li, <i>The Neuroscience and Philosophy of Free Will</i>	2024-2025
James Dauterman, <i>Modeling Prudential Cognition</i>	2024-2025
Lorien Ochsmann, <i>Disordered Diagnostics</i>	2023-2024
Liam King: <i>A Desert of Mind Dust</i>	2023-2024
Rachael Kha: <i>Causation as Causal Influence</i>	2019-2020
Ismael Guerrero: <i>Chief Executives</i>	2018-2019
Tyler Woods: <i>Virtue Ethics: Maximizing Enjoyment in Life</i>	2016-2017
Dalton Woodard: <i>Artificial Intelligence and Consciousness</i>	2016-2017
Radu Moga: <i>Narrative Conceptions of Identity</i>	2015-2017
Dillyn Foy: <i>Philosophy of Crime and Punishment</i>	2015-2016

BARRETT HONORS FACULTY, HONORS THESIS SECOND READER

Kali Killingsworth, <i>In the Wake of the Moving Spotlight</i>	2025
Alexander Enriquez, <i>The Dialectic</i>	2025
Kayla Cunha, <i>How Miracles Alter our Perception of a God</i>	2024-2025
Josephine Deignan, <i>Existing Existentially: A Podcast of Philosophies</i>	2024
Carly Fonda, <i>Enforcing Compulsory Prenuptial Agreements in Legal Marriages</i>	2022-2023
Troy Anderson, <i>The Moral Responsibility of Complex Robots</i>	2019-2020
Allison George, <i>Islamic Approaches to the Free Will Defense</i>	2019-2020
Elana Quint, <i>Consciousness in the Grey Zone</i>	2019
Chelsea Gulinson, <i>The Ethics of Food Localization</i>	2014-2015
Nathan Broderick, <i>Ethics and Documentary Filmmaking</i>	2013-2014

BARRETT HONORS FACULTY RESEARCH ADVISEMENT

Matthew Baka (2021), Parker Shea (2019)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES (PHI 494)

K. Killingsworth, A. Singer <i>Consciousness and Artificial Intelligence</i>	2026
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HONORS ENRICHMENT CONTRACTS

2025: 3, 2024: 3, 2023: 3, 2022: 3, 2021: 3, 2020: 9, 2019: 2, 2018: 4, 2017: 6, 2016: 2, 2015: 8, 2014: 3, 2013: 1

OTHER MENTORING AND INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

- *SUMMER TEACHING MENTOR for Ph.D. Students in Philosophy*, Summers 2023 - 2026
- *Teaching Mentor for Ph.D. Students*: T. Hanna (2025), A. Harrington (2021), A. Spivey (2020)
- *Independent Study Courses Directed*: PHI 499: T. Storey, J. Gittins (2023), A. Targe (2022), B. Hoogstra (2016), J. Berger (2016); IDS 401: J. Aleman (2023), B. Hansen (2019); HPS 495: B. Hoogstra (2015, 2016).
- *Independent Non-Credit Research by Undergraduate Students*: M. Stahlinski, A. Targe (2021), Z. Puetz, S. Russell (2017). C. Postlewaite (2016). T. Campbell, F. Schreick, T. Woods (2015). B. Johnson, J. Watkins-Quesada (2014).
- *Post-Graduate Researcher Mentoring*: K. Donald, Independent Scholar (2022), B. Hoogstra, M.Sc. Thesis, University of Amsterdam (2019-2020), F. Schreick, M.A. Thesis, Arizona State University (2017-2018); C. Postlewaite, Visiting Scholar, CUNY (2017-2018); P. Brooks, Texas Tech (2018); J. Watkins-Quesada (2014-2018).
- *Student Interviews*: Student Interview, Ethan Kleiner, "Stoicism" (2019), Student Video Interview, Alyssa Clark, "Philosophy and Gender" (2014); Video Blog Interview, Morgan Tyler, "Personal Identity & Creating a Character" (2017); Student Podcast, Roddy Nikpour, "The Soul" (2016).
- *Other Mentoring*: Advising students seeking admission to Barrett Honors College (2015 - 2017); Advising graduating students pursuing postgraduate study (2014-2022); 1st Year SHPRS Majors Philosophy Chats (Fall 2014).

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Watson, J. (2019) *Cogbooks: Introduction to Logic*, Cambridge University Press.

I composed a creative-commons licensed OER text that introduces formal and informal logic to students, which was then published within an online adaptive learning system with text readings, videos, interactive exercises, quizzes, and supplemental resources, while tracking their progress. The OER text version is freely available at introductiontologic.com

Watson, J. (2016) *Introduction to Philosophy: Deducing Answers*, Kendall Hunt, Dubuque, IA.

An introduction to philosophy textbook with focused descriptions of philosophical problems, such as skepticism, the mind/body problem, and free will, and includes an anthology of historical and contemporary texts.

RESEARCH – PUBLICATIONS

“Grounding Actual Responsibility in Counterfactual Actions” (2025)

International Philosophical Quarterly, 64(4), <https://doi.org/10.5840/ipq2025124261>

“Somebody Else’s Argument for Idealism” (2025)

The Southern Journal of Philosophy, Sept. 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1111/sjp.70023>

“Free Will and Panpsychism” (2025)

Southwest Philosophy Review 41 (1): 95–105. <https://doi.org/10.5840/swphilreview202541110>

RESEARCH – PRESENTATIONS

“Existential Futility”

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Baltimore, Jan 7-10, 2026

"Vivid Memories and Phenomenal Concepts"

New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Association, Houston, TX, March 29, 2025. & *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division*, San Francisco, Apr. 16, 2025

“Free Will and Panpsychism”

Southwestern Philosophy Conference, Nashville, TN, Nov. 15, 2024 & *American Philosophical Association, Central Division*, Online, Feb. 22, 2025

“Overdetermination isn’t the Problem”

American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Denver, Feb. 23, 2019

“Symposium: Marvin Mooney’s Paradox”

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, New York, Jan. 7, 2019

“Sustainability and the Categorical Imperative”

International Society for Environmental Ethics, Allenspark, CO, June 2, 2017

"Can I Know What I Would Have Freely Done?"

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Seattle, April 12, 2017

"Lifting Two Burdens on Epistemicism"

American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Kansas City, Mar. 1, 2017

"Borderline Cases without Borderlines"

Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Washington, PA, Sept. 10, 2016

"Just Reasons to Refuse Just Reparations"

American Philosophical Association, Central Division, St. Louis, Feb. 19, 2015

"The Ethics of Insults"

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, CO, Aug. 10, 2013

"Two Notions of Sufficiency"

Philosophy Society, Australian National University, Canberra, Mar. 5, 2013 & American Philosophical Association, Central Division, New Orleans, Feb. 23, 2013

"Harm and Reasonable Expectations"

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Seattle, April 5, 2012

"Logic and Perceptual Content"

American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, Feb. 16, 2012

"Responsibility to Repair Historical Wrongs"

American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Minneapolis, April 1, 2011

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, AS A COMMENTATOR

- Jacob Mills, "Inference to the Best Explanation and the Principle of Sufficient Reason", *New Mexico Texas Philosophy Conference*, Houston TX, March 27, 2025
- Joel Archer, "Grounded Physicalism: A New(er) Argument Against Libertarian Free Will", *American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Denver CO*, February 22 2023.
- Bernard Kobes, "A Building Relation for Phenomenal Consciousness", *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Remote*, January 15, 2021
- Peter Finocchiaro, "A Puzzle About Parsimony", *American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago*, February 26, 2020
- Marco Stango, "A Category Mistake in Philosophy of Consciousness and Naturalistic Dualism", *American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Savannah GA*, January 4, 2018
- Claire Hamlett, "A Framework for Thinking about Environmental Practices", *International Society for Environmental Ethics, Allenspark, CO*, June 2, 2017
- Jason Hanschmann, "A Problematic Approach to Resolving the Sorites Paradox", *Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Colorado Springs, CO*, October 6, 2016
- Analytic Working Group: Language, Mind & Metaphysics, *Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium*, September 10, 2016
- Matt Smith, "Luck and Responsibility in Politics", *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, CO*, August 10, 2013
- Nick Cesare, "Absurd Results from Posthumous Harm", *Southwest Grad. Conference, Tempe, AZ*, April 5, 2013

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- Ralf Bader, "Aggregating vs. Balancing Harms", *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division*, April 5, 2012
- Jonathan Spelman, "A Defense of Phenomenal Conservatism", *Southwest Grad. Conference, Tempe, AZ*, March 3, 2012
- Neil Mehta, "Is there a Phenomenological Argument for Representationalism?", *Southwest Grad. Conference, Tempe, AZ*, March 6, 2011
- Benjamin Jarvis, "The Instrumental Value of Truth", *Southwest Grad. Conference, Tempe, AZ*, March 21, 2009

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, AS A SESSION CHAIR

- *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division*, Spring 2026, Colloquium on "Phenomenal Powers & Epiphenomenalism"
- *American Philosophical Association, Central Division*, Spring 2022; Colloquium by Joseph Metz, "Higher-Order Omissions"
- *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division*, Spring 2021; Colloquium by Bridger Landle and William Kilborn, "Theon's Revenge and Commonsense Ontology"
- *American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, IL*; February 29, 2020; Symposium by Torin Alter, "Russellian Monism and Structuralism about Physics"
- *31st Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, Boulder, CO*, October 17, 2015; Sessions by Nora Berenstein, "Strengthening Weak Emergence"; Kevin Morris, "Truthmaking, Levels of Reality, and the Mysteries of Emergence."; Fatema Amijee, "Emergence and Metaphysical Explanation"
- *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Vancouver, BC*, April, 2015; Colloquium by Chris Melenovsky, "Rawlsian Objectivity"

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, AS A REVIEWER

<i>Acta Analytica</i>	2025
Taylor & Francis	2024
MIT Press	2024
Harvard University Press	2023
Routledge	2022, 2024
Oxford University Press	2020, 2014
Rowman & Littlefield	2017
Broadview Press	2015
Bloomsbury Academic	2015
McGraw Hill	2014

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Online Education Committee, Philosophy Representative	2022-2026
FOLC-fest Co-Presenter with Wanda Wright, "The UnFinal"	2026
SHPRS accessibility compliance reviewer for FRAME Initiative	2025
Participant, ASU Workshop on developing Online Course Design Standards	2025
Teaching with Artificial Intelligence Lectures, Workshops, and Presentations	2023 (x3), 2024 (x2)
Philosophy Instructional Faculty Hiring Committee	2016, 2022
Philosophy Awards Committee	2016-2021, 2022 (Chair)
Interview with Gen. Freakley for IAL 503 on "Leadership and Moral Failure "	2022
EdPlus <i>Course Stories</i> Podcast Interview on "History of Ethics"	2022
Humanities Week, "Amplification of Disinformation" Panel	2021
Mirabella Lifelong Learning Presentations, "Reality+ and The Meta-Verse", "AI and Teaching"	2021, 2023
SHPRS, "Virtuous Devil of the Month" Blog Post	2021
Faculty Advisor, Graduate Philosophical Society	2013-2021
Guest Presenter, Graduate Philosophical Society	2014, 2015, 2017, 2018
Guest Presenter, Undergraduate Philosophy Club	2020
EdPlus - Cogbooks User Testing	2020
ASU C.P.E. - Theory of Knowledge Preview Course	2020
SHPRS "Remote Prepping" Webinar	2020
The LEAD Project, Office of the University Provost	2015-2020
UTO - Student Response System RFP Committee	2019-2020

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The College Advising Hub - First-Year Advising "Major of the Week" Speaker	2020
EPIC Discussion Group	2016-2020
EdPlus - Theory of Knowledge Preview Video	2019
LEAD - Principles of Sound Reasoning Preview Video	2019
Canvas "Ally" Accessibility Pilot	2019
PHI 101 "Master Class" Development Team, SHPRS	2015-2019
Presentation to Undergraduate Philosophy Club, "Mental Causation"	2019
"Pitch" Pilot for Online Teaching	2018
Arizona State Press Interview, "Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence"	2018
Faculty Co-Advisor, Online Undergraduate Philosophy Club	2013-2018
Philosophers Talkin' Pedagogy discussion group participant	2017
SHPRS iConsume Panel	2017
EdPlus Academic Integrity Video Content	2017
Canvas Pilot Program, University Technology Office	2016-2017
Philosophy Summer Hiring Committee	2016
CLAS Demofest Presenter	2016
CLAS Humanities Early Start Planning Meetings	2015
"Mini-Seminar" for High School Philosophy Students	2015
SHPRS FAC Talks, "Teaching Philosophy Online"	2014
Mini-Conference Planning Committee, Philosophy Unit	2013
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
American Association of Philosophy Teachers - APA Workshops	2017, 2018, 2022, 2024,2025
Inclusive Communities Training, ASU	2021, 2022
Global Advocacy Certificate Program, ASU	2021
Promoting Equitable Learning with the Peralta Rubric, EdPlus	2020
iClicker Cloud Training	2020
ASU Copyright and Fair Use for Instructors, EdPlus	2019
Quality Matters: Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR) Certification	2018
ASU Teaching Controversial Topics Workshop	2017