

James Sias

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Current position

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Dickinson College

Areas of specialization

Ethics, Moral psychology

Areas of competence

Philosophy of psychiatry, Epistemology, History of ethics, Philosophy of religion

Appointments held

2020– Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Dickinson College
2020– Chair, Department of Philosophy, Dickinson College
2013–2020 Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Dickinson College

Education

2013 PH.D. in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Thesis: *Emotion, Virtue, and Moral Perception: A Defense of Moral Intuitions*
Committee: Robert M. Adams (supervisor), Dorit Bar-On, Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

2009 M.A. in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2007 M.A. in Philosophy, Georgia State University

2005 B.S. in Humanities & Biblical Studies, Point University

Publications

BOOK

2016 *The Meaning of Evil*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (2018, paperback)

JOURNAL ARTICLES, ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, ETC.

- 2019 “The Self as a Reason to Regulate: Dispositional Emotion Regulation & Shaftesbury on Integrity of Mind,” *Philosophical Topics* 47(2): 129–148.
- 2019 “Rethinking the Thin-Thick Distinction among Theories of Evil (and Then Rereading Arendt),” *Arendt Studies* 3: 173–194.
- 2016 “Emotions and Their Expressions” (with Dorit Bar-On), in J. Smith and C. Abell, eds., *The Expression of Emotion: Philosophical, Psychological, & Legal Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press), pp. 46–72.
- 2015 “Being Good and Feeling Well,” *Res Philosophica* 92(4): 785–804. (Special issue on Virtue and the Emotions)
- 2014 “Ethical Expressivism,” in J. Feiser and B. Dowden, eds., *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. (<https://iep.utm.edu/eth-expr/>)
- 2014 “Ethical Intuitionism and the Emotions: Toward an Empirically Adequate Moral Sense Theory,” *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 48(3): 533–549.
- 2014 “(How) Is Ethical Neo-Expressivism a Hybrid View?” (with Dorit Bar-On and Matthew Chrisman), in M. Ridge and G. Fletcher, eds., *Having It Both Ways: Hybrid Theories and Modern Metaethics* (Oxford University Press), pp. 223–247.
- 2013 “Varieties of Expressivism” (with Dorit Bar-On), *Philosophy Compass* 8(8): 699–713.

Research presentations

- April 2018 “Losing One’s Own & Others’ Minds: Failures of Emotion Perception in Psychosis”
Workshop on Emotion and Expression, University of Connecticut
Expression, Communication, and the Origins of Meaning Research Group
- March 2017 “Personality & Disorder”
Department of Philosophy, Georgia State University
- April 2016 “Evil People”
Department of Philosophy, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- July 2012 “(How) Is Ethical Neo-Expressivism a Hybrid View?”
Hybrid Theories in Metaethics conference, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Co-presenters: Dorit Bar-On and Matthew Chrisman
- April 2006 “An Externalist Solution to the Problem of Psychopathy”
Georgia State Student Philosophy Symposium, Georgia State University
- Nov 2005 “Supervenience, Moral Knowledge, and Causal Efficacy”
Georgia Philosophical Society, Emory University

Other talks

- Nov 2019 “Deepfake”
Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues, Dickinson College
- April 2017 “How I Got to Now”
Our Community, Their Ideas, Idea Fund, Dickinson College
- Oct 2015 “On What Matters Most”
Center for Service, Spirituality, and Social Justice, Dickinson College

Honors, awards, grants, and fellowships

- 2017 Collaborative Student-Faculty Research Grant, Dickinson College
Project title: “What is mental illness?”
- 2015 Travel Grant (Manchester, England), Dickinson College
- 2012 Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, UNC
- 2012 Philosophy Department Travel Grant (Edinburg, Scotland), UNC
- 2011 Bertha Colton Williams Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, UNC
- 2007–2008 Horace Williams Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, UNC
- 2007 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Department of Philosophy, GSU
- 2007 M.A. thesis passed with distinction, Department of Philosophy, GSU
- 2007 Award for Outstanding Teaching, Center for Teaching and Learning, GSU
- 2006 Ralf F. Munster Fellowship (merit-based), Department of Philosophy, GSU
- 2006 Robert F. Almeder Prize, Department of Philosophy, GSU

Teaching

COURSES TAUGHT AT AN INTRODUCTORY LEVEL

First-Year Seminar: Evil
First-Year Seminar: Just Kidding: The Nature of Humor & Its Place in the Good Life
Critical Thinking
Making Sense of Ourselves
Introduction to Philosophy
Introduction to Ethics
Practical Ethics
Bioethics

COURSES TAUGHT AT AN INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Social Ethics & Political Thought
Experience & Reality
Moral Psychology
The Philosophy of Mental Illness
The Philosophy of Humor

Evil
Modern Moral Philosophy

COURSES TAUGHT AT AN ADVANCED LEVEL

Virtue
Metaethics
Happiness & Well-Being
The Philosophy of Emotion
Senior Seminar: Alasdair MacIntyre's *After Virtue*
Independent Study: Mental Illness & Moral Responsibility
Independent Study: The Concept of Health
Independent Study: Greed
Independent Study: Emotion
Independent Study: Virtue Ethics & Situationism

HONORS THESIS SUPERVISION

2020–2021 Rita Hao, Title TBD
2014–2015 Kirsten Dedrickson, “Problematic Moral Disagreement”
2014–2015 Paul Gaver, “Constructivism and the Mind-Dependence of Value”
2013–2014 Adam Berman, “Blameless Resentment: A Critique of Strawson”

Service to the college

2020– Chair, Department of Philosophy
2015–2016 All-College Working Group on Civic Engagement
April 2016 Co-moderator (with Gloria Hwang '16), “CRISPR Salon”
Sponsored by Clarke Forum, Office of Academic Advising, & Phi Beta Kappa
April 2015 Organizer, Philosophy Department colloquium
Bennett Helm (Franklin & Marshall), “Communal Values and the Nature of Persons”
Fall 2014 Writing Subcommittee, Academic Program & Standards Committee
2016–2017 Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
2016 Search Committee, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
2013–2014 Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Service to the profession

Journal Referee: *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2015); *Erkenntnis* (2017, 2021); *Ethical Theory & Moral Practice* (2019); *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* (2015); *Philosophical Psychology* (2014, 2016, 2017); *Philosophical Quarterly* (2014); *Philosophy & Phenomenological Research* (2018)
Jan 2013 Co-organizer, “Mindreading, Understanding, & Emotion” conference
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
web: <http://mueconference.weebly.com>

Other work and experience

- 2011–2013 Coordinator and Senior Research Assistant
Expression, Communication, and the Origins of Meaning Research Group
web: <https://ecomresearchgroup.com>
Supervisor: Dorit Bar-On
- 2010–2011 Graduate TA Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, UNC

ILLUSTRATION WORK

Chauncey Maher, *Plant Minds: A Philosophical Defense*. New York: Routledge, 2017.
40 hand-drawn images; ink on bristol.