

# 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  
2020–2023 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, “Intrinsic Value, Virtue, and Evolutionary Relativism”  
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); *Philosophical Studies* (2022); *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.