

# 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.

- forthcoming “Knowing Oneself and Others Well: Philip Roth’s *American Pastoral* as a Case Study,” forthcoming in *Philosophy and Literature*.
- 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

2020–2023 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  
2023–2024 Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
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.