

# JAMES M. OKAPAL

Department of History, Philosophy and Geography  
Missouri Western State University  
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## EDUCATION

Ph. D **University of Tennessee**, Knoxville, TN; August 2004  
*Dissertation: "Pluralism and Practical Reason"*  
*Chair: Betsy Postow*

M. A. **Bowling Green State University**, Bowling Green, OH; May 1996  
*Advisor: Edward F. McClennen*

B. A. **The Ohio State University**, Columbus, OH; June 1993  
*Major: Philosophy*  
*Minors: Political Science, English*  
*Thesis: "Morals by Accident"*  
*Chair: Donald C. Hubin*

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Theoretical Ethics  
Practical Reason

Practical Ethics  
Decision and Game Theory

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Science  
Social and Political Theory

History of Philosophy  
Logic

## PUBLICATIONS

With Patricia Donaher: "Causation, Prophetic Visions, and the Free Will Question in Harry Potter" in *Reading Harry Potter Again: Critical Essays* Ed. Anatol, Gisele Liza (Praeger, May 2009)

Review of Alice Dreger's *One of Us: Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* (October 2004)

## CURRENT RESEARCH

Comparative Choice Without Comprehensive Factors  
Ethics in a Science Class  
Science Fiction Critiques of Subsumptive Reasoning

Acceptability of Sedation at the End-of-Life

**PRESENTATIONS**

*Peer Reviewed*

“Subsumptive Reasoning and Science Fiction Literature” (April 2009)  
Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA

“Voldemort’s Choice and the Determinism of Heroism” (Oct 2007)  
Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association,  
Kansas City, MO

“Comparative Choice without Comprehensive Values” (April 2007)  
American Philosophical Association, Chicago, IL

“Ethics in an Introductory Biology Class” (Feb 2007)  
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Cincinnati, OH

“A Sophisticated Orthodox Approach to Choice” (April 2006)  
University of Missouri at Kansas City, Kansas City, MO

“Comparativism and Covering Values” (April 2005)  
32<sup>nd</sup> Value Inquiry Conference, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

“The Problematic Nature of Covering Values” (March 2003)  
Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

‘Pluralism and Principles of Decision’ (November, 2001)  
Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference.

‘Cognitivism without Truth-Values’ (April, 2001; September 2001)  
Ohio Philosophical Association; Philosophy Department Klatsch, University of  
Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

‘Practical Reason and Multi-Consideration Pluralism’ (November 1998)  
Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference.

‘So You Want to Take a Vacation: The Problematic Defense of Continuity’  
(March 1997)  
Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

‘Morals by Accident’ (May 1993).  
William Edward Bingham Lecture at the Ohio State University.

*Invited*

‘Comprehensiveness Explained’ (March 1999)

Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

*Commentaries*

'Comments on "The Impossibility of a Code of Ethics"' (November 2002)  
Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference.

'Comment on "Trust as a Source of Reasons"' (April 2000)  
Ohio Philosophical Association Conference.

'Comment on "Instrumental Reason: Kant's Reply to Achilles"' (March 1998).  
Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

*Other*

"Respite Palliative Sedation for Refractory Symptoms at the End-of-Life" (July 2006) Center for Applied and Professional Ethics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

"Rich and Poor: A Panel Discussion" (March 2006)  
Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO

'The Moral Dilemmas Debate: A Misuse of Deontic Logic' (November 2003)  
Philosophy Department Klatsch, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

'Pluralistic Consequentialism: A Functional Success' (November 2002)  
Philosophy Department Klatsch, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

'Lexical Ordering as a Method of Adjudication' (March 1999)  
Philosophy Department Klatsch, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

'Decision Analysis and Medicine' (April 1998)  
Center for Applied and Professional Ethics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO. 2005-present*

**Assistant Professor**

Introduction to Philosophy

Bioethics

Business Ethics

Globalization

Environmental Ethics

Informal Logic

Contemporary Social and Political Theory

*Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 2004-5*

**Lecturer**

Business Ethics  
Contemporary Moral Problems  
Medical Ethics: End of Life Decision Making

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 1996-9; 2001-3*

**Graduate Instructor**

Ethical Theory and Application  
Value and Reality  
Ethical Theory  
Formal Logic

**Graduate Teaching Associate**

Knowledge and Reality

*Ashland University, Ashland, OH Spring 2000 to Spring 2001*

**Instructor**

Introduction to Philosophy  
Introduction to Ethics  
The Philosophy of Human Nature

*Denison University, Granville, OH Spring 2000*

**Instructor**

Introduction to Philosophy

*Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, OH 1999; 2001*

**Instructor**

Introduction to Philosophy  
The Individual and Society

*Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 1994-6*

**Graduate Instructor**

Introduction to Philosophy

**Graduate Co-Instructor**

Formal Logic

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Formal Logic  
Death and Dying

**COURSE DEVELOPMENT**

Assisted development of multimedia, distance learning environment for  
Introductory Logic  
Incorporated moral theory and reasoning for Introductory Biology

## **TEACHING ENRICHMENT**

Seminar on Critical Thinking, Center for Critical Thinking, 2006  
Teaching Effectiveness Seminars, Southern Methodist University, 2004  
Recognizing Students in Crisis, Southern Methodist University, 2004  
Grades, Grading, and Grade Inflation, Southern Methodist University, 2004  
Philosophy Teaching Seminar by Martin Benjamin, University of Tennessee, 2001  
Microsoft PowerPoint Training, University of Tennessee, 1999  
HTML Web Page Training, University of Tennessee, 1999  
GTA Mentoring Program, University of Tennessee, 1998-9

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

- ◇ Outstanding Faculty Implementation of Critical Thinking, Missouri Western State University, 2008
- ◇ Service-Learning Newcomer, Southern Methodist University, 2005
- ◇ Graduate Teaching Award, University of Tennessee, 2002
- ◇ Research Assistant to Edward F. McClennen, Bowling Green State University, 1995
- ◇ Member Phi Beta Kappa, Epsilon of Ohio at the Ohio State University, 1994
- ◇ Graduated Cum Laude, with Distinction in Philosophy, and with Honors in the Liberal Arts from the Ohio State University, 1993
- ◇ Recipient of the William Edward Bingham Award for the paper 'Morals by Accident': An Ohio State University Research Award for the Best Undergraduate Paper in Philosophy, 1993
- ◇ The Ohio State University Scarlet and Gray Scholarship, 1989-1991
- ◇ Outstanding College Student of America 1988-1989

## **SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, St. Joseph, MO 2006, to 2009  
Critical Thinking Committee, St. Joseph, MO, 2006 to 2008  
Heartland Health Ethics Committee, St. Joseph, MO, 2005 to present  
Co-Curricular Activities Committee, Missouri Western State Univ. , MO 2005 to present  
Health Professional Review Committee, Southern Methodist Univ., 2005

James M. Okapal

Departmental Meeting Graduate Student Representative, University of Tennessee, 2002-3  
Undergraduate Committee, University of Tennessee, 2001-2  
Speakers Committee, University of Tennessee, 1997-8, 1998-9  
Personnel Committee, Bowling Green State University, 1995-6

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The American Philosophical Association, 1994 to present

## REFERENCES

Prof. John Nolt  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville  
801 McClung Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0480  
(865) 974-3255  
jnolt@utk.edu

Prof. Eric Barnes  
Philosophy Department  
Southern Methodist University  
Hyer Hall  
Dallas, TX 75275-0142  
(214) 768-2118  
ebarnes@smu.edu

Prof. David Reidy  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville  
801 McClung Tower  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0480  
(865) 974-3255  
dreidy@utk.edu

Prof. Mark Hamilton  
Department of Philosophy  
Ashland University  
218 A & H  
Ashland, OH 44805  
(419) 289-5110  
bhamilto@ashland.edu

## Graduate Course Work

### **Fall 1994, Bowling Green State University**

*Logic*: Marvin Belzer

*Moral and Political Philosophy*: James Child

*Decision Theory*: Edward F. McClennen

### **Spring 1995, Bowling Green State University**

*History of Modern Philosophy*: James Stuart

*Philosophy of Language*: Sara Worley

*Game Theory*: Edward F. McClennen

### **Summer 1995, Bowling Green State University**

*Philosophy of Law*: James Child

*Philosophy of Social Science*: Michael Bradie

*Application in Game Theory*: Edward F. McClennen

### **Fall 1995, Bowling Green State University**

*Hume and Causation*: James Stuart

*British Moralists*: Ray G. Frey

### **Spring 1996, Bowling Green State University**

*History of Ancient Philosophy*: Fred Miller

*Philosophy of Business*: James Child

*Contractarianism*: Edward F. McClennen

### **Fall 1996, University of Tennessee**

*Consequentialism*: Betsy Postow

*Ethics and Animals*: Rem B. Edwards

### **Spring 1997, University of Tennessee**

*Plato*: Sheldon Cohen

*Language and Truth*: John Nolt

*Theory and Anti-Theory*: James Nelson

### **Fall 1997, University of Tennessee**

*Formal Logic*: John Nolt

*Orientation to Medical Ethics*: Glen Graber

*Empiricism*: Richard Aquila

### **Spring 1998, University of Tennessee**

*Environmental Ethics*: John Nolt

*20<sup>th</sup> Century Ethical Theory*: Betsy Postow

*Independent Study – Reasons Theory*: Betsy Postow