

HEATHER V. ADAIR

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Education:

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park (2020)

Dissertation: *What Emotion Does: Affect in Art, Empathy, and Beyond*.

Committee: Peter Carruthers (chair), Jerrold Levinson, Rachel Singpurwalla, & Dan Moller.

B.A. in Philosophy (*magna cum laude*), Smith College (2009)

Areas of Specialization:

Philosophy of Mind (w/emphasis on Philosophy of Emotion), Moral Psychology, Aesthetics

Areas of Competence:

Ethics, Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Relevant Work Experience:

Block Visiting Professor; Department of Philosophy, Colorado College (2024-present)

Visiting Assistant Professor; Department of Philosophy, Susquehanna University (2020-2022)

Graduate Instructor & Teaching Assistant; Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park (2013-2020)

College Preparatory Counselor; HYDE Leadership Charter School, Bronx, NY (2011-2013)

Fulbright & I.E.S. Teaching Assistant; Madrid, Spain (2009-2011)

Publications:

Adair, H. V., & Carruthers, P. (2023). Pretend play: More imitative than imaginative. *Mind & Language*. 38(2), 464-479.

Adair, H.V. (2022). Interest, Disfluency, and Underlying Values: a Better Theory of Aesthetic Pleasure. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. 13 (3):779-795.

Adair, H.V. (2019). Updating Thought Theory: Emotion and the Non-Paradox of Fiction. *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*. 100 (4):1055-1073.

Adair H.V. & Carruthers, P. (2017). Attitude-Scenario-Emotion (ASE) sentiments are superficial. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 40 (1,000 words; Commentary on "The deep structure of social affect: Attitudes, emotions, sentiments, and the case of 'contempt'" by Matthew Gervais and Daniel Fessler.)

Works in Progress:

Gomez, C. & Adair, H.V. (under review). Racism as Psychological Essentialism.

Adair, H.V. (WIP). Moral Responsibility and Romantic Preferences.

Adair, H.V. (WIP). Understanding without Caring: the Role of Affect in Empathy

Academic Presentations:

The Cognitive Science of Bias. (Workshop Presenter, 2 sessions). Susquehanna University, 2021.

Combating Addiction Stigma. (Invited Speaker) Beaumont Royal Oak Hospital, 2021.

Understanding without Caring: The Role of Affect in Empathy. *Ethics and the Brain*, University of Michigan, 2015.

Theory of Mind & Dependent Beauty. *American Society of Aesthetics, Pacific Division*, 2014.

Courses Designed & Instructed:

PHIL 101: Problems in Philosophy (SU; Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

Introduction to philosophy with an emphasis on ethical theories.

PHIL 305: Emotion (SU; Spring 2021)

Examines classic & contemporary theories of emotion in evolutionary biology, psychology, and philosophy. Explores how our understanding of emotion influences broader philosophical debates around e.g. morality, empathy, rationality, love, etc.

PHIL 245: Aesthetics (SU; Spring 2020)

Survey from Ancient to 20th-century philosophers on the definition and ethics of art. Explores concepts crucial to thinking about art, e.g. form, content, expression, representation, interpretation, style, medium, aesthetic experience, and artistic value.

PHIL 245: 19th & 20th Century Philosophy (SU; Fall 2020, Fall 2021)

Historical survey of 19th and 20th century western philosophers regarding “the self and others.” Units on phenomenology, existentialism, post-modernism, and analytic traditions.

PHIL 309A: Art, Imagination, and Emotion (UMD; Fall 2019; Spring 2017)

Online course on the metaphysics of art (including ancient, early modern, and contemporary theories), culminating in examinations of the paradox of fiction, the paradox of tragedy, and the paradox of imaginative resistance.

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy (UMD; Spring 2019)

Survey of philosophical topics including epistemology, philosophy of mind, free will, personal identity, and ethics.

PHIL 318E: Philosophy through Film (UMD; Summer 2019)

Online course exploring popular films and the philosophical debates that inspired the; includes *The Matrix*, *The Truman Show*, *The Prestige*, *Ex Machina*, and *Minority Report*.

PHIL204: Philosophy of Happiness (UMD; Summer 2019)

Collaboratively taught and designed course focusing on theories of well-being and flourishing, including hedonism, desire-fulfillment theory, objective list theories, etc., and related topics such as emotional resilience and meaningfulness in the face of death.

PHIL140: Contemporary Moral Issues (UMD; Fall 2017)

Survey of contemporary moral issues, including free speech, abortion, euthanasia, & the death penalty.

PHIL408G: Philosophy of Emotion, 2016 (UMD; Fall 2016)

Advanced undergraduate seminar on cognitivism, non-cognitivism, and appraisal theories of emotion.

PHIL408G: Emotion, Reason, and Motivation (UMD; Fall 2015)

Advanced undergraduate seminar on theories of emotion, reason, and their role in decision-making.

Courses Assisted:

PHIL209E: Philosophical Issues; Happiness (Fall 2018)

PHIL230: Philosophy of the Arts (Spring 2016)

PHIL209N: Know Thyself: Wisdom through Cognitive Science (Spring 2015)

PHIL100: Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2014)

PHIL282: Free Will and Determinism (Spring 2013)

Graduate Coursework:

Affect, Decision Making, and Metacognition—Peter Carruthers

Art and Cognitive Science—Jerrold Levinson

Distributive Justice—Dan Moller

Nichomachean Ethics—Rachel Singpurwalla

Social Cognition—Johnathan Beier (Psychology)

Cognitive Science: Color Perception—Bill Idsardi (Neuroscience)

Theory of Mind—Peter Carruthers

Defeasible Logic—John Horty

Aesthetics of the Ordinary—Jerrold Levinson

Intentionality—Georges Rey

Value Theory—Patricia Greenspan

Metaphysics, Mind, and Language—Erin Eaker

Awards and Honors:

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 2019

Awarded to the top 2% of 4,000 Graduate Assistants in a given year.

Deans Fellowship, 2015

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2015

Graduate Student Travel Stipend, 2014

Moreland Perkins Fellowship, 2014

Fulbright Fellowship, Madrid, Spain, 2009-2010

Rotary Scholarship, Morelia, Mexico 2008-2009

Phi Beta Kappa, Smith College, 2008

Offered to top 10% of arts and sciences undergraduates.

References:

Peter Carruthers

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Rachel Singpurwalla

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Coleen Zoller

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