

# Tamler Sommers

## *Curriculum Vitae*

513 Agnes Arnold Hall  
Houston, TX 77204-3004  
Office: (713) 743-3032  
Email: tssommers@uh.edu

## Employment

2008-Present. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Houston. Joint appointment with the Honors College.  
2005-2008. Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Minnesota, Morris.

## Education

2000-2005 Duke University. Ph.D. in Philosophy. (Dissertation: *Beyond Freedom and Resentment: An Error Theory of Free Will and Moral Responsibility.*)  
Awarded December 31, 2005  
1988-1992 University of Pennsylvania. B.A. English. *Cum Laude*. May 1992.

## Publications

### Books

*Relative Justice: Cultural Diversity, Free Will, and Moral Responsibility*. In Production, Princeton University Press. Fall, 2011.  
*A Very Bad Wizard: Morality Behind the Curtain*. November, 2009. McSweeney's Press.

### Peer Reviewed Articles:

"Experimental Philosophy" ((invited) with Joshua Knobe, Wesley Buchalter, Shaun Nichols, Hagop Sarkissian) *Annual Review of Psychology*, forthcoming.  
"Experimental Philosophy and Free Will." *Philosophy Compass*. 5:199-212 (2010)  
"More Work for Hard Incompatibilism." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 79, 3: 511-521. November, 2009.  
"The Two Faces of Revenge: Moral Responsibility and the Culture of Honor." *Biology and Philosophy*. 24,1 (2009):35-50.  
"The Objective Attitude." *The Philosophical Quarterly*. 57, 28 (2007): 321-342  
"The Illusion of Freedom Evolves." In *Distributed Cognition and the Will*, David Spurrett, Harold Kincaid, Don Ross, Lynn Stephens (eds). MIT Press. 2007.  
"Darwin's Nihilistic Idea: Evolution and the Meaninglessness of Life," (with Alex Rosenberg). *Biology and Philosophy*. 18: 653-668. November 2003.  
"Of Zombies, Color Scientists, and Floating Iron Bars," *Psyche: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Consciousness* 8(22). November 2002.

## Reviews and Other Publications:

Editor for “Metaethics” section and author of chapter introduction, in *Philosophy: Traditional and Experimental Readings* Fritz Allhoff, Ron Mallon, and Shaun Nichols (general eds.) Oxford University Press. Forthcoming 2011.

“In Memoriam: The X-Phi Debate” *The Philosophers Magazine*. First Quarter. 2011

“Reasonably Disposed: A Review of The Emotional Construction of Morals by Jesse Prinz.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. May 8, 2009.

“The Power of the Situation: An Interview with Philip Zimbardo. *The Believer*. Sept. 2009.

“Moral Animals: an Interview with Frans de Waal.” *The Believer*. Sept. 2007.

“A Review of The Self, edited by Galen Strawson.” *The Times Literary Supplement* January 6, 2006. P. 26.

“Morally Dumbfounded: An Interview With Jonathan Haidt.” August 2005. *The Believer*.

“A Review of Can God Be Free? by William T. Rowe.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. January 21, 2005. P. 26

“Diane Decides: A Review of Justice, Luck, and Knowledge, by S.L. Hurley.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. May 7, 2004. P. 6.

“Rightly Determined: A Review of Deontic Morality and Control, by Ishtiyaque Haji.” *The Times Literary Supplement*. October 17, 2003. P. 8.

“Darwin and Morality: An Interview with Michael Ruse.” *The Believer*. July 2003: 66-78.

“The Buck Stops—Where? An Interview with Galen Strawson.” *The Believer*. March 2003: 78-87.

## Presentations

(peer reviewed unless otherwise noted)

“Partial Desert” (Accepted for presentation) New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility. Intercontinental Hotel. November, 2011.

“Old School Retributivism: A Defense of Vigilante Justice” Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2011 Meeting. New Orleans, LA. March 10-13. (Invited)

“Moral Responsibility and Human Diversity.” Society of Philosophy and Psychology, 2010 Meeting. Lewis and Clark University. Portland, OR. June 9-12.

“Metaskepticism About Moral Responsibility.”

- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress. University of Colorado, Boulder. Aug 7-10, 2008.
- (Invited) Colloquium Series. University of Haifa. January 8, 2008.
- (Invited) Conference on Responsibility, Agency, and Persons. University of San Francisco. October 26-27, 2007.

“The Two Faces of Revenge: Moral Responsibility and the Culture of Honor.”

- (Invited) Philosophy Research Seminar. School of History, Philosophy, Religion, and Classics. University of Queensland. Brisbane, Australia. May 17, 2007.
- International Society for Research on the Emotions (ISRE) 2006 Conference. Atlanta, GA. August 6-10, 2006.
- The Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2006 Meeting. Washington University, St. Louis. June 1-4, 2006.

“The Illusion of Freedom Evolves: How Darwinism Supports an Error Theory of Free Will and Moral Responsibility.”

- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Invited Speaker, Fall Colloquium. September 30, 2005.
- The Society of Philosophy and Psychology.” 2005 Meeting. Wake Forest University. June 9-12, 2005.
- The Second Conference of the Mind AND World Working Group. Distributed Cognition and the Will: Individual Volition and Social Context. University of Alabama at Birmingham. March 18-21, 2005.

“Of Zombies, Color Scientists, and Floating Iron Bars.” Fifth Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness. Duke University. Durham, North Carolina. May 2001.

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Assistant Professor, University of Houston.**

Phil 3395, Moral Diversity (new course) Spring 2011.  
Phil 6336 Moral Relativism and Moral Nihilism. Graduate Seminar. Spring 2010.  
Phil 1305 Introduction to Ethics. Spring 2010, Spring 2011  
Phil 3350. Punishment Spring, 2009. Fall, 2009.  
Honors 2101. The Human Situation. Spring 2009. Fall, 2009. Fall, 2010.  
Phil 6336. Free Will and Moral Responsibility. Graduate seminar. Fall 2008.

### **Assistant Professor. University of Minnesota, Morris**

Phil 4101 Ethical Theory: Readings in Contemporary Metaethics. Fall 2007.  
Phil 4100 Moral Issues and Theories: Free Will and Moral Responsibility. Spring 2007.  
Phil 4993 Topics in Existentialist Literature and Philosophy. Directed Study Spring 2007  
Phil 3131 Political Philosophy. Fall 2006  
Phil 2112 Professional Ethics. Fall 2005, 2006, 2007  
Phil 4993 Moral Responsibility and the Emotions. Directed Study. Fall 2006.  
Phil. 2111 Introductory Ethics Spring 2006, 2007, 2008.  
Phil. 3200 Philosophy of Law. Spring 2006, 2008.  
Phil. 4100 Moral Issues and Theories: Science and Ethics Fall 2005

### **Instructor, Department of Philosophy, Duke University**

Phil. 44S: Introduction to Moral Philosophy (writing intensive). Spring 2005.  
Phil. 195: Darwin and Morality. Summer 2004.  
Phil. 197S: Free Will and Moral Responsibility Spring 2004.

## Honors and Awards

Faculty Fellow. Center of Ethics and Public Affairs. Murphy Institute. Tulane University. (For “Removing the Blindfold from Lady Justice: A Partially Retributive Theory of Punishment.” 2011-2012.

2010 Texas Book Festival. *A Very Bad Wizard* selected for inclusion and panel discussion.

Fellow. National Endowment of Humanities, Summer Institute on Experimental Philosophy. University of Utah. 2009.

QEP Grant. University of Houston. Redesigned course on Punishment to emphasize undergraduate research.

Small Grants Fund. University of Houston. Travel to Ann Arbor, MI and San Francisco, CA for interviews with William Ian Miller and Philip Zimbardo.

Research Enhancement Fund. University of Minnesota. “Neuroscience and Ethics.” Travel to Boston, MA.

Office of International Programs, Travel Grant (for travel to University of Queensland. Brisbane, Australia.) University of Minnesota. May 2007.

Research Enhancement Fund. “Metaskepticism about Moral Responsibility.” University of Minnesota, Morris. May 2007. Travel to Brisbane, Australia.

Research Enhancement Fund. “Folk Intuitions about Moral Responsibility: an Empirical Investigation.” University of Minnesota, Morris. January, 2007. Travel to Atlanta, GA.

Summer Research Fellowship. Graduate School. Duke University. 2005

Julian Price Fellowship. Duke University. 2004/2005

## UH Service

Search Committee, Philosophy Department, 2010/2011

Masters Committee member for Boomer Trujillo (2010-11), Clayton Beaman (2010-11), Matthew McConnell (2009-2010), and Jun-Woo Park (2008-09).

Technology Committee, CLASS, 2008-2010

Organized Panel on Banning the Burqa for *Phronesis*, March, 2011.

Organized Ron Mallon visit for public lecture, March, 2011.

Ross Lence Master Teach selection Committee, Honors College (2010-)

PURS Grant supervisor for Jose Perez. Spring 2010.

Great Conversation Table Discussion Leader, Honors College (2009 (topic: Free Will) and 2010 (topic: Moral Relativism))

Honors College Open House, Speaker for session on the Phronesis Minor, 2008, 2009, 2010.

Honors Thesis Committee member for: Esmeralda Morales (2009), Matthew Kolodoski (2010), and Jose Perez (2011)

Coordinator for Robert Kane visit (for 2010 Philosophy Colloquium and public lecture in the Honors College).

Coordinator for William Ian Miller visit in October 2009, public lecture in the Honors College and lunch with Phronesis students.

## Professional Service

Referee, *The Monist*, 2011  
Referee, *Social Theory and Practice* 2010.  
External Thesis Examiner for Philip Robichaux. Rice University. 2010/2011  
External Thesis Examiner for Jillian Britton. University of Tasmania. March, 2009  
Referee, *The Philosophical Quarterly*. May, 2009, May 2007 and August 2006  
Referee, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*. January, 2009.  
Referee, *Philosophical Studies*. May, 2003. June 2008.  
Referee *Mind*. May, 2008.  
Organizer. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwest Philosophical Colloquium, featuring John Doris, Shaun Nichols, and Stephen Stich. 2007-2008.  
Referee. *The Journal of Philosophical Research*. February, 2007.  
External Thesis Examiner for Daniel Cohen, The Australian National University.  
Session Chair. American Philosophical Association. Central Division Meeting  
Commentator. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference. March, 2006  
Advisory Board, Center for Naturalism, Somerville, MA, 2004-present (with Paul Bloom [Yale], Daniel Dennett [Tufts], Owen Flanagan [Duke], Brian Leiter [Texas]).  
Referee, The Society For Philosophy and Psychology. 2005 and 2006 Meeting.  
Co-organizer. Robertson Scholar Colloquium on Ethics, featuring Allan Gibbard, Justin D'Arms, Jonathan Haidt, Josh Greene, and Stephanie Preston. 2003/2004  
Referee, *Psyche: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Consciousness*. 2002.

## References

Shaun Nichols. Professor. University of Arizona. [sbn@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sbn@email.arizona.edu)  
Derk Pereboom. Professor. Cornell University. [dp346@cornell.edu](mailto:dp346@cornell.edu)  
Alex Rosenberg, The R. Taylor Cole Professor of Philosophy. Duke University.  
[alexrose@duke.edu](mailto:alexrose@duke.edu)  
Galen Strawson. Professor. University of Reading. [g.strawson@rdg.ac.uk](mailto:g.strawson@rdg.ac.uk)  
David Wong. Professor. Duke University. [dbwong@duke.edu](mailto:dbwong@duke.edu)