

# JOHN BRUNERO

## Contact Information

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## Academic Positions

University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Philosophy  
Robert R. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and the Moral Sciences  
Professor, 2017-  
Associate Professor, 2014-2017

Princeton University, University Center for Human Values  
Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Faculty Fellow, 2013-2014

University of Missouri – St. Louis, Department of Philosophy  
Associate Professor, 2012-2014  
Assistant Professor, 2006-2012

## Education

Ph.D., Columbia University, Philosophy, 2006  
Dissertation: *Essays on Practical Reason and Instrumental Rationality*  
Supervisor: Joseph Raz

B.A., Colby College, Government, Philosophy, 1998  
Distinction in Government, Distinction and Honors in Philosophy  
Phi Beta Kappa

## Areas of Specialization

Ethics & Metaethics, especially Practical Reason

## Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Law, Political Philosophy

## RESEARCH

## Edited Journal Volume

Special issue of *American Philosophical Quarterly* 52 (April 2015) on Reasons & Rationality, co-edited with Eric Wiland, with papers from Nomy Arpaly & Tim Schroeder, Patricio Fernandez, Anton Ford, Sarah Paul, Mark Schroeder, Paulina Sliwa, and Michael Smith.

## Publications

- “Reasons, Evidence, and Explanations” *Oxford Handbook of Reasons and Normativity* (ed. D. Star), Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming, 33 manuscript pages.
- “Recent Work on Internal and External Reasons” *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 54 (April 2107) 99-117.
- “Idealization and the Wrong Kind of Reasons” *Ethics*, 126 (Oct. 2015) 153-161.
- “Review of *Explaining the Reasons We Share: Explanation and Expression in Ethics, Volume I*, by Mark Schroeder” *Ethics* 126 (Oct. 2015) 238-244.
- “Cognitivism about Practical Rationality” in *Oxford Studies in Metaethics, Vol. 9* (ed. R. Shafer-Landau), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014, pp. 18-44.  
\* Awarded the 2016 American Philosophical Association Article Prize, for the best article published in the previous two years by a younger scholar (under 40 years old or within 10 years of the Ph.D. at the time of publication)  
\* Selected by the editors of the ethics blog *PEA Soup* for an online discussion, with a critical précis by Kieran Setiya.
- “Rational *Akrasia*” in *Organon F*, in a special issue on the Enkratic Requirement of Rationality (ed. J. Fink), 20 (2013) 546-566.
- “Instrumental Rationality” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (ed. E. Zalta), co-authored with Niko Kolodny, Spring 2013 Edition, pp. 1-63.
- “Reasons as Explanations” *Philosophical Studies* 165 (Sep. 2013) 805-824.
- “Metaethics and Ethics” *International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (ed. H. LaFollette), co-authored with Eric Wiland, Wiley-Blackwell, 2013, pp. 1-10.
- “Ideal Observer Theory” *Gale New Catholic Encyclopedia, Supplement on Ethics and Philosophy* (ed. R. Fastiggi), Detroit: Gale, 2013.
- “Instrumental Rationality, Symmetry, and Scope” *Philosophical Studies* 157 (Jan. 2012) 125-140.
- “Deontological Ethics,” “Categorical and Hypothetical Imperatives,” “Divine Command Theory,” “Natural Laws,” “Justice,” and “Rights” in *Continuum Companion to Ethics* (ed. C. Miller), 2012. [short entries for “technical terms”]
- “Consequentialism and the Wrong Kind of Reasons: A Reply to Lang” *Utilitas* 22 (Sep. 2010) 351-359.
- “Self-Governance, Means-Ends Coherence, and Unalterable Ends” *Ethics* 120 (Apr. 2010) 579-591.
- “The Scope of Rational Requirements” *Philosophical Quarterly* 60 (Jan. 2010) 28-49.
- “Against Cognitivism about Practical Rationality” *Philosophical Studies* 146 (Dec. 2009) 311-325.
- “Reasons and Evidence One Ought” *Ethics* 119 (Apr. 2009) 538-545.

- “McDowell on External Reasons” *European Journal of Philosophy* 16 (Apr. 2008) 22-42.
- “Are Intentions Reasons?” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 88 (Dec. 2007) 424-444.
- “Instrumental Rationality and Carroll’s Tortoise” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 8 (Nov. 2005) 557-569.
- “Two Approaches to Instrumental Rationality and Belief Consistency” *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 1 (Apr. 2005) 1-20.
- “Korsgaard on Motivational Skepticism” *Journal of Value Inquiry* 38 (2004) 253-264.
- “Practical Reason and Motivational Imperfection” *Philosophical Inquiry* 25 (Win./Spr. 2003) 219-228.
- “Evolution, Altruism, and Internal Reward Explanations” *Philosophical Forum* 33 (Dec. 2002) 413-424.

### **Work in Progress**

*Intentions, Reasons, and Instrumental Rationality* (under contract with Oxford University Press)

### **Presentations**

- “The Normativity of Rationality”  
Kansas State University, WIP Workshop (Mar. 2017)
- “Comments on ‘The Illusion of the Relevance of Difficulty in Evaluations of Moral Responsibility’ by Asia Ferrin”  
Central States Philosophical Association (Oct. 2016)
- “Comments on ‘Can Objectivists Account for Subjective Reasons?’ by Daniel Wodak”  
Central APA (Mar. 2016)
- “Practical Reason and Cognitivism”  
University of Tennessee – Knoxville (Sep. 2015); presentation in a seminar featuring invited guest speakers, led by Avery Archer.
- “The Normative Significance of Intentions”  
University of Tennessee – Knoxville (Sep. 2015)
- “Intentions and the Bootstrapping Objection”  
Kansas State University (Mar. 2017)  
Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia (Nov. 2016)  
McGill University, Montreal, Canada, GRIN (Mar. 2015)  
Princeton University, UCHV (Mar. 2014)
- “Comments on ‘A Defense of ‘Ought-Implies-Can’” by Justin Caouette”  
Central APA (Feb. 2015)
- “Comments on ‘What is Good Reasoning?’ by Jonathan Way”  
NYU-Abu Dhabi, Normativity and Reasoning Workshop, Abu Dhabi, UAE (Jan. 2015)

- “Comments on ‘Actualism and Possibilism’ by Peter A. Graham”  
Princeton University, UCHV (Oct. 2013)
- “Reasons, Evidence, and Explanations”  
Princeton University, Workshop in Normative Philosophy (Apr. 2014)  
St. Louis Ethics Workshop, Washington University (Apr. 2013)
- “Cognitivism about Practical Rationality”  
Florida State University (Jan. 2014)  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln (Oct. 2013)  
University of Reading, UK (Sep. 2013)  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Metathics Workshop (Sep. 2012)  
University of Missouri - Columbia (Sep. 2012)
- “Rational *Akasia*”  
University of Vienna, Austria, Workshop on the Enkratic Requirement (Apr. 2013)  
Pacific APA Symposium Paper (Apr. 2012)  
St. Louis Ethics Workshop, Washington University (Feb. 2012)
- “Reasons as Explanations”  
Central APA Colloquium Paper (Feb. 2012)  
Boston University Ethics Reading Group (Nov. 2011)
- “Comments on ‘Linking Principles and Narrow Scope’ by Alida Liberman”  
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (Aug. 2011)
- “Evidence, ‘Ought,’ and the Mine Shaft Paradox”  
Pacific APA Colloquium Paper (Apr. 2011)  
UM- St. Louis Philosophers’ Forum (Nov. 2010)
- “Instrumental Rationality, Symmetry, and Scope”  
Eastern APA Colloquium Paper (Dec. 2010)
- “A History of Moral Principles”  
Education & Psychology Lecture Series, UM-St. Louis (Mar. 2010)
- “Means-Ends Coherence and Unmodifiable Intentions”  
Central APA Colloquium Paper (Feb. 2010)  
Central States Philosophical Association (Oct. 2009)
- “Comments on ‘Self-Governance and Identification’ by Stefan Cojocaru”  
Eastern APA (Dec. 2009)
- “Rational Intentions: A Unified Account”  
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (Aug. 2009)
- “Reasons and Evidence One Ought”  
Pacific APA Colloquium Paper (Apr. 2009)
- “Consistency in Belief and Intention”

Central APA Colloquium Paper (Feb. 2009)  
Central States Philosophical Association (Sep. 2008)

“Crime and Rationality”  
Dept. of Criminology, UM-St. Louis (Mar. 2007)

“Are Intentions Reasons?”  
University of Pennsylvania (Jan. 2006)  
University of Edinburgh, UK (Dec. 2005)  
Temple University (Dec. 2005)  
Columbia Moral Philosophy Reading Group (Sep. 2005)

“Intentions, Beliefs, and Rationality”  
University of Leeds, UK (June 2005)

“Two Approaches to Instrumental Rationality and Belief Consistency”  
Pacific APA Group Program (Mar. 2005)  
Dartmouth College, Northern New England Philosophical Assoc. (Nov. 2004)

“Judgment Internalism and Normativity”  
Columbia Mind & Language Group (Nov. 2004)

“Comments on ‘Is Moral Particularism a Moral Theory?’ by Jennifer Flynn”  
NYU-Columbia Graduate Conference (Mar. 2003)

“Comments on ‘Philosophical Liberalism’ by Jon Garthoff”  
NYU-Columbia Graduate Conference (Mar. 2002)

## TEACHING

### At UNL (August 2014 – present)

#### **Courses**

*Upper-Level:* Ethical Theory (Internal Reasons); Ethical Theory (Instrumental Rationality);  
Advanced Ethics, Legal Philosophy  
*Lower-Level:* Philosophy & Current Issues; Philosophy of Law

#### **Ph.D. Thesis Committee Work**

##### *Supervisor:*

Gabe Bruguier, in progress.

##### *Committee Member:*

Christopher McCammon, “Re(Public)an Reasons: Toward a Republican Theory of  
Legitimacy & Justification,” April 2015

Andrew Spaid, in progress.

Chelsea Richardson, in progress.

Jason Lemmon, in progress.

Lauren Sweetland, in progress.

### At UMSL (August 2006- August 2014)

## Courses

*Upper-Level:* Social and Political Philosophy; Philosophy of Law; Recent Ethical Theory; Metaethics; Seminar in Ethical Theory (Various Topics)  
*Lower-Level:* Approaches to Ethics; Philosophical Foundations of Criminal Law

## M.A. Thesis Committee Work

### *Supervisor:*

“In Defense of the Control Principle”  
“Modesty as Global Perspective”  
“Irrelevance and Evaluation: Two Arguments Against Gauthier’s Contractualism”  
“A Virtue Theoretic Solution to the Problem of Moral Luck”  
“Autonomy and the Constitutive Aim of Action”  
“Against Normative Nationalism”  
“Evolution and Moral Realism: Saving the Tracking Account from Evolutionary Debunking Arguments”  
“Meeting Resistance to a Policy of Cadaveric Organ Conscriptation”  
“Man Alone: An Examination of Animal Rights”  
“Reconsidering the Battered Woman Defense for Woman Who Kill”

### *Committee Member:*

"A Theory of Aesthetic Justice"  
"Moral Concerns in Genomic Medicine Beyond GINA"  
"Evaluating Logical Pluralism"  
"A Defense of Two Intentionalism-Defeating Inverted Spectrum Thought Experiments"  
"Rational Action: Reasons, Causes and Choices"  
"The Universalizability Criterion of Reason and the Final Value of Knowledge: A Response to Pritchard’s Analysis of the Value of Knowledge"  
“An Insanity Defense Should be Available to Psychopaths”  
“On Thomson’s *Normativity*”  
“Happiness as an Affective State and its Centrality to Well-Being”  
“Does Foot have a Leg to Stand on? A Dilemma for an Attempt to Ground Evaluative Judgment in Biological Teleology”  
“Thomas Aquinas: Soul-Body Connection and the Afterlife”  
“Why we have an Intrinsic Reason to be Rational”  
“Temporal Operators and Metaphysical Presentism”  
“Knowing For: A New Path in Testimonial Justification”  
“Toward a General Account of Improvisation”  
“Concepts and the Abstract: Clarifying the Status of Universals”  
“Aristotle’s Conception of Equity in Context”  
“Philosophical Disagreement and Skepticism”  
“Is Theoretical Rationality Normative?”

## Other

External Member of Dissertation Committee, Washington University, Philosophy, 2012  
Independent Studies in Moral, Political, or Legal Philosophy (x5)  
Participant, New Faculty Teaching Scholars Program, 2008-2009

## At Columbia University (August 2002-August 2006)

## Courses

Contemporary Civilization I (Plato to Locke), Core Curriculum  
Contemporary Civilization II (Hume to Rawls), Core Curriculum

**SERVICE**

**Editorial Work**

Area Editor (Ethics), *Ergo* (August 2016- present)

**Referee Work**

*Acta Analytica*

*American Philosophical Quarterly* (x3)

*Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (x4)

*Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (x2)

Central States Philosophical Association (x3)

Chapel Hill Metaethics Workshop, Program Committee, 2016

*Classical Journal*

*Critica*

*Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review*

*Dialectica*

*Disputatio*

*Ergo*

*Erkenntnis* (x2)

*Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (x3)

*Ethics* (x7)

*European Journal of Philosophy*

*Inquiry*

*Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (x9)

*Journal of Moral Philosophy* (x4)

*Journal of Philosophical Research* (x2)

*Journal of the American Philosophical Association*

*Mind* (x5)

*Noûs* (x3)

*Organon F*

Oxford University Press (x3)

*Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (x2)

*Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*

*Philosophers' Imprint* (x4)

*Philosophia*

*Philosophical Explorations* (x2)

*Philosophical Quarterly* (x5)

*Philosophical Papers*

*Philosophical Studies* (x3)

*Philosophical Review*

*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (x3)

*Southern Journal of Philosophy*

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (x2)

Swiss National Science Foundation

*Synthese* (x4)

### **Conference Organization**

Co-founder and co-organizer, St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality (SLACRR), 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.

Co-organizer, Chambers Conference on Practical Reason and Metaethics (Spring 2016)

### **University and Departmental Service at UNL (August 2014-present)**

UNL CAS Distinction & Scholarship Committee (November 2016 – August 2019)

UNL Faculty Senate, Philosophy Department Representative (August 2014 – present)

Philosophy Pre-Law Advisor (August 2014- present)

Philosophy Graduate Student Placement Co-Director (August 2014 – present)

ACE Recertification, PHIL 106 (October 2014)

ACE Certification, PHIL 230 (January 2016)

Ethics Area Committee (August 2014 – present)

Faculty Rater, Institute for International Teaching Assistants (August 2015; August 2016)

Rater, Graduate Research Poster Session (April 2016)

Guest Judge, Mock Ethics Bowl Sessions (2014, 2015, 2016)

### **University and Departmental Service at UMSL (August 2006-2014)**

University Pre-Law Advisor (Feb. 2013 – August 2013)

Philosophy Pre-Law Advisor (Sep. 2011- August 2013)

University Senate (Dec. 2011 – August 2013)

Senate Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (Sep. 2012 – August 2013)

Graduate Teaching Assistant Coordinator (Aug. 2011 – August 2014)

Advisory Board, UMSL Center for the Humanities (2006 – August 2014)

Administrator, Munson Graduate and Undergraduate Essay Awards (2010 – August 2014)

Faculty Annual Evaluation Committee (2014)

Panelist, Preparing for Promotion & Tenure, December (2012)

External Judge, Stenner Prize, Washington University, Philosophy (2013)

Law and Philosophy Panel, March 2012

Committee on Course Evaluation, February 2012

Co-Drafter, Philosophy Department Bylaws, November 2011

First Year Experience, Philosophy Seminar, Nov. 2011

Appearance on Univ. Program Board Intellectual Lunch & Learn Series, Nov. 2011

Planning Committee, Symposium on "Women in the Academy: Leveling the Playing Field," UM-St. Louis, May 2011

Reviewer, UM-Research Board, March 2010, Nov. 2010

External Interviewer for GUST (Kuwait) Philosophy Search Committee

Department Search Committees: Summer 2012, Fall 2011, Summer 2011, Spring 2007, Summer 2007

Presentation, "Revising and Re-Submitting Research Board Proposals" Center for Teaching & Learning

Appearance on Campus Radio, "The Value of Philosophy"



## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

2016 American Philosophical Association Article Prize, for the best article published in the previous two years by a younger scholar (under 40 years old or within 10 years of Ph.D. at the time of publication)

Laurence S. Rockefeller Visiting Faculty Fellowship, Princeton University Center for Human Values, 2013-2014

UMSL CAS Conference Travel Award, Fall 2012

UMSL CAS Research Award, "Reasons as Explanations", Summer 2012

UMSL Small Grant Award, Fall 2011

UMSL CAS Conference Travel Award, Fall 2011

UM Research Board Award for "Intentions, Reasons, and Rationality," Fall 2011

UMSL CAS Research Award, "Evidence and the Meaning of 'Ought'", Summer 2011

UMSL CAS Conference Travel Award, Fall 2010

UMSL Small Grant Award, Fall 2010

UMSL Small Grant Award, Fall 2009

UMSL CAS Research Award for "Reasons and Evidence", Spring 2009

UMSL Small Grant Award, Fall 2008

UM Research Board Award for "Explaining Instrumental Rationality", Spring 2008

UMSL CAS Research Award for "Explaining Instrumental Rationality" Spring 2008  
(declined for above award)

UMSL CAS Research Award for "Why Should We Be Rational?" Fall 2007

Columbia GSAS Dissertation Fellowship, 2004-2005

Core Curriculum Preceptor Fellowship, 2002-2004, 2005-2006

George John Bowdery Memorial Fellowship in Philosophy, 2001-2002

Faculty Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University, 1999 - 2001

Columbia GSAS Summer Fellowship Awards 2001, 2005

Core Curriculum Summer Research Awards 2003, 2004

Stephen Coburn Pepper Prize in Philosophy, Colby College, 1998