

Curriculum Vitae

Bryan R.S. Frances

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Academic Positions

Fordham University. Associate Professor (September 2006-present)
Fordham University. Assistant Professor (July 2005-September 2006)
University of Leeds, England. Lecturer (2000-2005)
St. Cloud State University, Minnesota. Part-time Visiting Assistant Professor (2000)
Carleton College, Minnesota. Part-time Visiting Assistant Professor (1999); Part-time Instructor (1997)
University of St. Thomas, Minnesota. Part-time Instructor (1998)
University of Minnesota, Minnesota. Part-time Instructor (1994-1999)

Proficiencies

Areas of Specialty: Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language
Areas of Competence: Logic (through advanced), Philosophy of Religion

Education

PhD in Philosophy, University of Minnesota (1998)
MA in Philosophy, University of Minnesota (1993)
MA in Theoretical Physics, University of Southern California (1990)
BS in Engineering Physics, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (1987)

Refereed Publications

Metaphysics:

“The New Leibniz’s Law Arguments for Pluralism,” *Mind* 115 (2006), 1007-1022.

Philosophy of Mind:

“Externalism, Physicalism, Statues, and Hunks,” *Philosophical Studies* 113 (2007), 199-232.

“On the Explanatory Deficiencies of Linguistic Content,” *Philosophical Studies* 93 (1999), 45-75.

“Contradictory Belief and Epistemic Closure Principles,” *Mind and Language* 14 (1999), 203-226.

“The Twin-Earth Thought Experiments,” in *A Field Guide to the Philosophy of Mind*, an official electronic publication of the University of Rome 3 (invited and refereed), 1998.

Philosophy of Language:

- “A Test for Theories of Belief Ascription,” *Analysis* 62 (2002), 116-25.
- “Disquotation and Substitutivity,” *Mind* 109 (2000), 519-25.
- “Defending the Defense,” *Mind* 108 (1999), 563-566.
- “Defending Millian Theories,” *Mind* 107 (1998), 703-727. Reprinted in *The General Philosophy of John Stuart Mill*, Victor Sanchez Valencia, ed., Ashgate Publishers, 2002.
- “Arguing for Frege’s Fundamental Principle,” *Mind and Language* 13 (1998), 341-346.

Epistemology:

- “Spiritual Mentality and the Theistic Beliefs of Philosophers” forthcoming in the inaugural volume of the *Oxford Studies in the Philosophy of Religion* (11,000 words).
- “Live Skeptical Hypotheses,” in *Oxford Handbook of Skepticism* (2007) (10,000 words).
- “When a Skeptical Hypothesis is Live,” *Noûs* 39 (2005), 559-95.
- Scepticism Comes Alive*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005 (xii + 209pp).

Ancient Philosophy:

- “Plato’s Response to the Third Man Argument in the Paradoxical Exercise of the *Parmenides*,” *Ancient Philosophy* 16 (1996), 47-64.

Works in Progress

- “Who Am I to Disagree with David Lewis?” 16,000 words (“revise and resubmit” at *Mind*)
- “The Concepts Objection to Content Externalism” 8,000 words (“revise and resubmit” at *Noûs*)
- “Worthwhile Physicalist Theses Without Anything Like Physicalism” 8,000 words (under review at *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*)
- “Rational Inconsistency Without Confusion about Modes of Presentation?” 5,000 words (under review at *Philosophical Studies*)
- “The Indeterminacy and Natural Kinds Objections to Twin-Earth” 2,000 words (under review at *Erkenntnis*)
- “Why I Think Research in Non-Applied, Non-Interdisciplinary, Non-Historical Philosophy is Worthwhile” 2,000 words (under review at *Philosophy Now*)
- “Lotteries, Externalism, and Vagueness” 8,000 words
- “How Does the Presentism Debate Smell to You?” 10,000 words
- “The Nature and Varieties of Equivocation” 8,000 words
- “The Inevitability of Sharp Cutoffs” 14,000 words

Teaching Experience

I have taught logic, the philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and the philosophy of language at all levels; epistemology and philosophy of religion at undergraduate levels; introductory courses in theoretical and medical ethics; critical thinking; and the usual introduction to philosophy courses. I have taught academically excellent students as well as those who had developed no such skills. I have taught large classes (450 students) as well as small seminars. I supervised one PhD student to completion and was in the process of supervising two more when I left the University of Leeds.

Courses Taught at Fordham University

I have taught Philosophy of Human Nature (the freshman intro class) every semester I have been here.

Other than that, I have never taught the same course twice. My electives and graduate classes:

Electives:

Existence, Vagueness, and Composition: spring 2006
Responding to Skepticism: spring 2006
Anatomy of Decisions (for MBA students): fall 2006
Philosophy and Language: spring 2007
Symbolic Logic: spring 2007
Paradoxes in Philosophy: fall 2007
Philosophy of Religion: spring 2008

Graduate Courses:

Topics in Contemporary Metaphysics (topic: vagueness): fall 2006
The Epistemology of Disagreement: fall 2007

Fall 2005: one section of PHLF 1000 and one section of PHLU 1000, both Philosophy of Human Nature. About 25 students per class.
Spring 2006: one section of PHEU 1000, Philosophy of Human Nature (about 12 students); one section of PHLU 4100, Existence, Vagueness, and Composition (about 9 students); one section of PHLU 3252 Responding to Skepticism (about 15 students).
Fall 2006: one section of PHEU 1000, Philosophy of Human Nature (20 students), and one section of PHGA 7857, Topics in Contemporary Metaphysics (4 students).
Fall 2006: one section of MGGB 7600, Anatomy of Decisions (an MBA class) (12 graduate students).
Spring 2007: one section of PHEU 1000, Philosophy of Human Nature (10 students), one section of PHLU 3204, Symbolic Logic (10 students), and one section of PHLU 3655, Philosophy & Language (10 students).
Fall 2007: one section of PHEU 1000, Philosophy of Human Nature (X students); one section of PHGA XXXX, The Epistemology of Disagreement (X graduate students); one section of PHLU XXXX, Paradoxes in Philosophy (X students).

Primary Administrative Duties in the Philosophy Department at Fordham University

Executive Committee (2005-6), Merit Committee (2005-6), and Analytic Hiring Committee (2005-6 and 2006-7).

Primary Administrative Duties in the School of Philosophy at the University of Leeds

Finance Officer (for a department with about 30 full-time faculty); 5 years
Health and Safety Officer; 5 years
Faculty Seminar Organizer; 3 years
Standing Committee Member (this is the most powerful committee in the dept); 5 years
Learning and Teaching Committee Member; 3 years

Research Leave

I had research leave once, in the fall of 2002 at the University of Leeds, during which I conceived and wrote the bulk of *Scepticism Comes Alive*. I was awarded the leave (no teaching that semester) from the university itself through a competitive internal process. Some reviews of the book:

I think it is a terrific book. The manuscript is well argued, clearly written, and well organized. It is also entertaining and fun to read. The author has an excellent command of the relevant issues and literature.

In short, I think the ms is very interesting and of very high quality.

John Greco, St. Louis University

Frances's book is exceptionally clear and well-argued. He writes with an engaging style and presents original arguments for a fairly radical skepticism. I think it might make quite a splash.

Richard Fumerton, University of Iowa

Scepticism Comes Alive is an ingenious and persuasive book that brings to light a new kind of skepticism. (It is also one of the funniest philosophy books I have read.) It is required reading for those interested in the theory of knowledge.

Anthony Brueckner, *Philosophical Quarterly*

It's an excellent book—lucid and quite original, richly argued, and very, very funny (laugh-out-loud funny). The sceptical renaissance continues.

Brian Ribeiro, *Philosophical Books*

I once unsuccessfully applied for an AHRB research award (for faculty at UK universities only) while at Leeds. I have never had or applied for any fellowships or awards or taken any leave of absences.

Other Research Activity

My former colleague Andrew McGonigal and I founded and ran a research center, Centre for Metaphysics and Mind, CMM, located at the University of Leeds. For 2003-5 we hosted a series of workshops and distinguished visiting fellows in metaphysics.

Activity in the Profession

Refereeing for OUP, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ancient Philosophy*, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophers Imprint*, and probably others (I don't keep track!).

Member of American Philosophical Association (APA) since about 1993. I have presented numerous sole-authored papers at APA conferences. Have also served as chair of meetings. Member of Aristotelian Society 2000-2005.

Major Presentations

"The Inevitability of Sharp Cutoffs", Russell III Conference, California 2007

"Who Am I to Disagree with David Lewis?", Bled Conference on Epistemology, Slovenia 2007.

"Existence, Time, and Relations", CMM workshop on Existence and Time, 2005.

"Quantification, Ontology, and Time", Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, on Time and Identity, 2005.

"Why You Are So Ignorant", Eastern Division APA colloquium, 2004.

"Presentist Ontology with Eternalist Relations", University of St. Andrews, 2004.

"Presentist Ontology with Eternalist Relations", University of Glasgow, 2004.

"Why You Are So Ignorant", Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, on Skepticism and Knowledge, 2004.

"Universal Skepticism", Pacific Division APA colloquium, 2004.

“When a Skeptical Hypothesis Becomes Live”, University of Liverpool, 2002.
“Afterimages and Lollipops”, University of Nottingham, 2001.
“Afterimages and Lollipops”, University of Birmingham, 2001.
“Afterimages and Lollipops”, University of York, 2001.
“Afterimages and Lollipops”, University of Durham, 2001.
“Substitutivity, Rationality, and Assent”, Oxford University, 2000 (with Tom Stoneham).
“Content, Causation, and Physicalism”, Central Division APA colloquium, 1999.
“Externalism Versus Anti-Individualism”, Pacific Division APA colloquium, 1999.
“Externalism and the Tenacity of Skepticism”, Eastern Division APA colloquium, 1998.
“A New Puzzle About Belief”, Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1998.
“Did Plato Solve the Problem of the Third Man in the *Parmenides*?”, Minnesota Ancient Greek Philosophy Conference, 1998.
“Explanatory Properties and Psychological Explanation”, Pacific Division APA colloquium, 1996 and Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1995.
“Explanatory Properties and Psychological Explanation”, Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1995.
“Propositional Attitudes and Physicalism”, Minnesota Philosophical Society, 1996.
“Return of the Third Man”, Minnesota Ancient Greek Philosophy Conference, 1993.

Contact Information for References

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Professor Duncan Pritchard, University of Stirling, UK, 44-178-646-7594, d.h.pritchard@stir.ac.uk
Professor Peter Simons, Fellow of the British Academy, University of Leeds, UK 44-113-343-3298,
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