

# David K. Henderson

Robert R. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and the Moral Sciences  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Nebraska  
1010 Oldfather Hall, PO. Box 880321 Lincoln, NE 68588-0321  
402-472-8831

## Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, 1985, Washington University,  
M.A. in Philosophy, 1985, Washington University  
M.A. in Political Science, 1982, Wichita State University  
B.A. in Political Science, 1979, Wichita State University

## Areas of Specialization

Epistemology, Philosophy of Social Science

## Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind,  
Environmental Ethics

## Recent work in progress or submitted for publication

(with Terry Horgan) Book MS: *A Priori Naturalized Epistemology*  
Rationality Naturalized and Rationalizing Explanation  
(with Terry Horgan) Epistemic Superpositions

## Publications

### **Books**

Editor (with Deborah Tollefsen), *Southern Journal of Philosophy: Social Epistemology*, Spindel Conference Supplement (2006).

*Interpretation and Explanation in the Human Sciences*. State University of New York Press (1993).

Editor, (with Terry Horgan), *Southern Journal of Philosophy: The Role of the A Priori (and of the A Posteriori) in Epistemology*, Spindel Conference Supplement 38 (2000).

Editor, *Southern Journal of Philosophy, Explanation in the Human Sciences*, Spindel Conference Supplement, 34 (1996).

### **Articles**

"Epistemic Virtues and Cognitive Dispositions," (with Terry Horgan), in K. Steuber, G. Damschen, and R. Schnepf (eds.), *Debating Dispositions:*

- Issues in Metaphysics, Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind*, Berlin: DeGruyter (forthcoming).
- "Interpretation and Explanation," in Patrick Hogan (ed), *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the Language Sciences*. Cambridge University Press. (forthcoming).
- "Motivated Contextualism" *Philosophical Studies* (2009) 142:119-131.
- "Transglobal Evidentialism-Reliablism," (With Terry Horgan and Matjaž Potrč) *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* (forthcoming)
- "Would You Really Rather Be Lucky Than Good? On the Normative Status of Naturalizing Epistemology" (with Terry Horgan), in *Naturalism, Reference and Ontology: Essays in Honor of Roger F. Gibson*, Chase Wrenn (ed), Lang Publishing (2008) pp. 47-76.
- "Testimonial Belief and Epistemic Competence," *Nous* (2008): 190-221.
- "Language and Translation," in Stephen Turner and Mark Risjord (eds.), *Philosophy of Anthropology and Sociology*, Elsevier (2007), pp. 607-638.
- "Transglobal Reliabilism" (with Terry Horgan), *Croatian Journal of Philosophy*, (2006): 171-95.
- "Rationality and Rationalist Approaches in the Social Sciences" in Stephen Turner and William Outwaite (eds.), *Handbook of Social Science Methodology*, Sage Publishing (2007), pp. 282-301.
- "The Ins and Outs of Transglobal Reliabilism" (with Terry Horgan), in Sanford Goldberg (ed.), *Internalism and Externalism in Semantics and Epistemology*, Oxford University Press (2007), pp. 100-130.
- "Monitoring and Reductionism in the Epistemology of Testimony" (with Sanford Goldberg), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2006), 600-617.
- "Norms, Invariance, and Explanatory Relevance," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 35 (2005): 324 - 338.
- "Das Prinzip des Wohlwollens und das Problem der Irrationalität," in Axel Bühler (ed.), *Hermeneutik: Basistexte zur Einführung in die wissenschaftstheoretischen Grundlagen von Verstehen und Interpretation*, Heidelberg: Synchron. (2003) (Translation by Axel Bühler of "The Principle of Charity and the Problem of Irrationality," Henderson (1987))
- Review of Martin Kusch's *Knowledge by Agreement: the Programme of Communitarian Epistemology*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. (2003)
- "What Does It Take to Be a True Believer? Against the Opulent Ideology of Folk Psychology," (with Terry Horgan), in C. Erneling and D. Johnson, (eds.), *Mind as a Scientific Object: Between Brain and Culture*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2003), pp. 211-224 .
- "The A Priori Isn't All It Is Cracked Up To Be, But It Is Something," (with Terry Horgan), *Philosophical Topics* (2001), 219-250.

- "Norms, Normative Principles, and Explanation" *Philosophy of Social Science* 32 (2002), 329-364.
- "Practicing Safe Epistemology," (with Terry Horgan), *Philosophical Studies* 102 (2001): 227-58.
- "Norms, Normative Principles, and Erotetic Explanation," in *Rationality and Irrationality: 23<sup>rd</sup> International Wittgenstein Symposium*. Berit Brogaard (ed.), Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society (2000), 329-64..
- "What is A Priori, and What is it Good For?" (with Terry Horgan), *Southern Journal of Philosophy: The Role of the A Priori (and of the A Posteriori) in Epistemology*, Spindel Conference Supplement, 38 (2000 ), 51-86.
- "Iceberg Epistemology." (with Terry Horgan), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 61 (2000), 497-535.
- "Simulation and Epistemic Competence" (with Terry Horgan), in Hans Kogler and Karsten Steuber (ed.), *Empathy and Agency: The Problem of Understanding in the Social Sciences*, Boulder: Westview Press (2000), pp. 119-143.
- "Epistemic Rationality, Epistemic Motivation, and Interpretive Charity," *ProtoSociology* 8/9 (1996), 4-29.
- Reprinted in Gerhard Preyer and Georg Peter (eds.), *The Contextualization of Rationality*, Paderborn: Mentis (2000), pp. 33-56.
- "Simulation Theory vs. Simulation Theory: A Difference Without a Difference in Explanation," *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, Spindel Conference Supplement 34 (1996), 65-94.
- "Ceteris Paribus Generalizations and Causal Knowledge: A Response to Rosenberg," *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, Spindel Conference Supplement, 34 (1996), 205-16.
- "One Naturalized Epistemological Argument Against Coherentist Accounts of Empirical Knowledge," *Erkenntnis* 43(1995), 199-227.
- "Epistemic Competence and Contextualist Epistemology: Why Contextualism in Not Just the Poor Person's Coherentism," *The Journal of Philosophy* 91 (1994), 627-49.
- "Epistemic Competence," *Philosophical Papers* 23 (1994), 139-67.
- "Conceptual Schemes After Davidson," in Preyer, Siebelt, and Ulfing (eds.), *Language and Philosophy: On Donald Davidson's Philosophy*. Kluwer (1994).
- "Accounting for Macro-level Causation," *Synthese* 101 (1994), 129-56.

"On the Testability of Psychological Generalizations," *Philosophy of Science* 58 (1991), 586-606.

"Rationalizing Explanation, Normative Principles, and Descriptive Generalizations," *Behavior and Philosophy* 19 (1991), 1-20.

"On the Continuing Importance of Epistemologically Couched Accounts in the Sociology of Science," *Social Studies of Science* 20 (1990), 113-48.

"An Empirical Basis for Charity in Interpretation," *Erkenntnis* 32 (1990), 83-103.

"The Role and Limitations of Rationalizing Explanation in the Social Sciences," *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 19 (1989), 267-88.

"Wittgenstein's Descriptivist Approach to Understanding: Is There a Place for Explanation in Interpretive Accounts?" *Dialectica*, 42 (1988), 105-115.

"The Importance of Explanation in Quine's Principle of Charity," *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 18 (1988), 355-69.

"Winch and the Constraints on Interpretation: Versions of the Principle of Charity," *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 25 (1987), 153-73.

"A Solution to Davidson's Problem of Irrationality," *Erkenntnis* 27 (1987), 359-69.

"The Principle of Charity and the Problem of Irrationality," in *Synthese* 73 (1987), 225-52.

Also anthologized in Michael Martin and Lee McIntyre (eds.), *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*. M.I.T. Press, 1994.

"How Important is the Indeterminacy of Action?" *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 16 (1986), 223-31.

## Teaching Experience

Professor, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2007-present

Professor, University of Memphis, 2003-2007

Associate Professor, University of Memphis, 1994-2003

Assistant Professor, Memphis State University, 1991-1994

Visiting Assistant Professor, Memphis State University, 1988-1991

Visiting Assistant Professor, Kansas State University, 1987-88

Visiting Assistant Professor, Grinnell College, 1986-87

## Courses Taught

### **Upper Division and Graduate :**

Seminar in Epistemology: The Epistemological Spectrum

Seminar in Epistemology: Epistemic Relativism and AntiRelativism

Seminar in Epistemology: The Point and Purpose of Epistemology

Seminar in Epistemology: Testimony

Seminar in Epistemology: Naturalized Epistemology

Seminar in Epistemology: Virtue Epistemology

Seminar: Wittgenstein

Seminar: Interpretation

Philosophy of Social Science

Recent Anglo-American Philosophy

Philosophy of Science

Philosophy of Language

Theory of Knowledge and Perception

Intermediate Logic

### **Lower Level Undergraduate Courses:**

Introduction to Philosophy

Environmental Ethics

Classical Issues in Philosophy

Introductory Ethics

Introductory Logic

Mind, Nature, and Knowledge: Skepticism

Critical Reasoning

Mind, Nature, and Knowledge: Internalism and Coherence

### **Presentations**

#### **Papers:**

“Naturalized Rationality and Rationalizing Explanation,” Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, Emory University, March 2009.

“Naturalized Rationality and Rationalizing Explanation,” University of Alabama, Birmingham February 2009.

“Motivated Contextualism.” Midwestern Epistemologist’s Conference, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, November 2007.

- "Motivated Contextualism." Emory University, Invited Colloquium Paper, October 2007
- Motivated Contextualism," University of Nebraska, Omaha, Epistemology Fest, October 2007
- "Would You Really Rather Be Lucky Than Good? On the Normative Character of Naturalized Epistemology." Invited Symposium, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Atlanta, GA, 2007
- "Interpretation and Testimony" Presidential Address, meetings of the Central States Philosophical Society, Memphis, TN, October 2006.
- "Epistemic Virtues and Cognitive Dispositions," invited presentation at a conference in Wittenberg, Germany, June 2006.
- "The Ins and Outs of Transglobal Reliabilism, invited presentation at a conference in Dubrovnik Croatia, June 2005.
- "The Ins and Outs of Transglobal Reliabilism, invited presentation at The University of Kentucky, April 2005.
- "The Ins and Outs of Transglobal Reliabilism," invited presentation at the University of Arizona, February 2005.
- "Making Concepts Talk," Conference of Concepts and the A Priori, University of Konstanz, Germany, June 2004.
- "Testimonial Belief and Epistemic Competence" University of Arizona, October 2003.
- "Morphological Content and Justified Belief," (coauthor Terry Horgan), University College, London, 2002
- "Norms, Explanations, and Invariance," Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, St. Louis, 2002.
- "Norms, Explanations, and Invariance," European Social Science History Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands, 2002.
- "Morphological Content and Justified Belief," (coauthor Terry Horgan), Invited presentation at the University of Cincinnati, 2002.
- "Morphological Content and Justified Belief," (coauthor Terry Horgan), Special Session on the Implications of Recent Cognitive Science for Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind, Meetings of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Society, Atlanta, GA, 2001
- "A Priori Naturalized Epistemology," Austrian-Slovene Philosophical Congress, Celje, Slovenia, August 19-23, 2000.
- "Norms, Normative Principles, and Erotetic Explanation" 2000 Meetings of the Austrian Wittgenstein Society, Conference Topic: Rationality and Irrationality. Kirchberg, Austria. August 13-19, 2000.
- "Norms, Normative Principles, and Explanation," Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, St. Louis, Missouri, April 2000.
- "What is A Priori, and What is it Good For?" (with Terry Horgan), 1999 Spindel

Conference on Philosophy *Topic: The Role of the A Priori (and of the A Posteriori) in Epistemology.*

- "Iceberg Epistemology," Bled Conference on Epistemology, Bled, Slovenia, June 5-8, 1999
- "What is A Priori About Action?" Conference on Human Action and Causation. Aix-en-Provence, France, May 9-11, 1999
- "Rethinking the Connection Between Truth-Conducivity and Justification," Meetings of the Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, 1996
- "Iceberg Epistemology," with Terry Horgan, Philosophy Lecture Series, University of Mississippi, 1996.
- "Simulation Theory vs. Simulation Theory: A Difference Without a Difference in Explanation," 1995 Spindel Conference in Philosophy, Topic: Explanation in the Human Sciences, The University of Memphis.
- "Theory and Explanation in Ecology--Reflections on Peters' Recommendations for Ecology," Savannah River National Ecology Lab, invited lecture, Nov. 1994.
- "On Epistemic Competence," Meetings of the Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, 1992.
- "Defending Micro-level Causal Relevance," Invited paper at Wichita State University, 1991.
- "Interpretation and Explanation in the Human Sciences," and "How Rational Must Beliefs Be?" Invited papers at University of Mississippi, 1991.
- "Rationalizing Explanation, Normative Principles, and Descriptive Generalizations." Meetings of the Kansas Philosophical Society, Wichita, KS 1990
- "Rationalizing Explanation, Normative Principles, and Descriptive Generalizations." Meetings of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, Memphis, TN, 1989.
- "Must Beliefs and Desires be Predominantly Rational?" Meetings of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, IL, 1989.
- "Wittgenstein's Descriptivist Approach to Understanding." Meetings of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, Cincinnati, OH, 1988.
- "Must Beliefs and Desires be Predominantly Rational?" Department of Philosophy Colloquium, Memphis State University, 1988.
- "Rationalizing Explanation in the Social Sciences," Meetings of the Southwest and Rocky Mountains Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Wichita, KS, 1988.
- "The Empirical Basis for Charity in Interpretation," Department of Philosophy Colloquium, Kansas State University, 1988.
- "Rationalizing Explanation in the Social Sciences," Department of Philosophy Colloquium, Kansas State University, 1987.
- "The Principle of Charity and the Problem of Irrationality," Iowa Philosophical

Society Meeting, University of Iowa, 1986.

Helen Stenner Memorial Lecture, 1986. "The Principle of Charity and the Problem of Irrationality." Washington University.

Helen Stenner Memorial Lecture, 1985. "How Important is the Indeterminacy of Action." Washington University.

## **Presentations, Comments:**

Comment on Peter Markie, "Sosa on Rational Intuition," Central States Philosophical Association, St Paul, Minnesota, 2008.

Comment on Cox's paper, "Metaphysical Assumptions of Methodological Naturalism," Meetings of the Central States Philosophical Association, DeMoines IA, October 2007.

Comment on Joshua Thurow's paper, "The A Priori Defended: A Defense of the Generality Argument," Meetings of the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, 2007

Comment on Jennifer Rowe's paper: Descriptive and normative contexts: An examination of Sosa's discussion of Goldman's 1992 theory

Comment on Micheal Veber's paper, "Nothing is Immune," Meetings of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Charlottesville, SC, April 2006

Comment on Brian Ribeiro's paper, "Clarke and Stroud on Plane Spotting," Meetings of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, Fayetteville, AK.

Comment on Tom Polger's paper, "Water, H<sub>2</sub>O, and Conceptual Analysis," Meetings of the Central States Philosophical Association, Lexington, KY, 2005.

Comment on Andrei Buckareff's paper, "Epistemically Irresponsible Action of Epistemic Justification," Meetings of the Central States Philosophical Society, Iowa City, 2004

Comment on Tim Black's paper, "Relevant Alternatives and the Shifting Standards for Knowledge," Meetings of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, Dallas, TX, 2001.

Comment on Samuel Ruhmkorff's paper, "Comparative Reliabilism and Partial Belief." Meetings of the Central States Philosophical Society, St. Louis, MO, 2001.

Comment on Scott Aikin's paper, "A Phenomenalism About Norms," Meeting of the Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN 2000.

Comment on James Montmarquet's paper, "Responsibility, Self-Expression, and Narrative," Meeting of the Tennessee Philosophical Association, Nashville, TN 2000.

Comment on Professor Jaegwon Kim's paper, "Reasons and the First-Person Perspective," Conference on Human Action and Causation, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands, April 24-26, 1996.

- Comment on Professor Doran's paper, "Stroud on the Significance of Skepticism," Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, Austin, TX 1995.
- "Ceteris Paribus Generalizations and Causal Knowledge: A Response to Rosenberg," 1995 Spindel Conference in Philosophy, Topic: Explanation in the Human Sciences, The University of Memphis.
- Comment on Professor Carrier's paper, "Does Contemporary Epistemology Rest on a Mistake?" Meetings of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, 1992.
- Comment on Professor Sarkar's paper, "Realism and the Neutrality of Method." Southwestern Philosophical Society, Fort Worth, TX 1991.
- Comment on Professor Nissen's paper, "Teleological Explanations and Evolution." Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN 1991.
- Comment on Professor Skidmore's paper, "On the Truth of Definitions." Meetings of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, College Station, TX 1990.
- Comment on Professor John Tienson's paper, "Soft Laws." Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, 1990.
- Comment on Professor Michelle Beer's paper, "Is Temporal Becoming Mind-Dependent?" Meetings of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, New Orleans, LA, 1988.
- Comment on Professor Elias Savellos' paper, "Actions without Events." Meetings of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, Wichita, KS, 1987.
- Comment on Professor Eric Stiffler's paper, "Relative Belief." Meetings of the Central States Philosophical Association, St. Louis, MO, 1986.

### Academic Awards and Honors:

- Professional Development Assignment, University of Memphis, Fall 2001.
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Institute, The Philosophy of the Social Sciences, St. Louis University and the University of Missouri, St Louis, 1998.
- Co-Director (with Deborah Tollefsen), 2005 Spindel Conference in Philosophy, Topic: Social Epistemology.
- Co-Director (with Terry Horgan), 1999 Spindel Conference in Philosophy, Topic: The Role of the A Priori (and the A Posteriori) in Epistemology.
- Director, 1995 Spindel Conference in Philosophy, Topic: Explanation in the Human Sciences, The University of Memphis.
- Summer Research Grant, University of Memphis, 1999
- Summer Research Grant, University of Memphis, 1994.
- Professional Development Assignment, University of Memphis, 1993-4.
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Seminar 1991, Causation. University of Virginia. Director: Paul Humphreys.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Seminar 1988, History of Science, University of Maryland, Institute for Physical Science and Technology, Director: Stephen G. Brush.

Reichenbach Fellowship, Washington University 1985-6.

Helen Stenner Memorial Prize, 1986. "The Principle of Charity and the Problem of Irrationality."

Helen Stenner Memorial Prize, 1985. "How Important is the Indeterminacy of Action."

### Other Professional Activities and Memberships

Assistant Editor, Southern Journal of Philosophy, 1988-2006

Southwestern Philosophical Association, Executive Committee Member, 2005-6

Central States Philosophical Association, President 2005-2006

Central States Philosophical Association, Vice President, 2004-2005

Central States Philosophical Society, Treasurer, 2001-2004

Central States Philosophical Society, Web Master, 2001-present

American Philosophical Association, Central Division Program Committee, 2003.

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Treasurer, 1994-2000

Tennessee Philosophical Association, President, 1999-2000

American Philosophical Association, member

Central States Philosophical Society, member