

DAVID SOBEL

Department of Philosophy, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588-0321, david_sobel [at] hotmail.com
W (402) 472-8584, Fax (402) 472-0626

EDUCATION:

University of Michigan, Ph.D., 1997.

Swarthmore College, B.A. with High Honors, 1987.

EMPLOYMENT:

The University of Nebraska

Robert R. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and the Moral Sciences, 2007-

Bowling Green State University

Associate Professor, 2002-2007

Chair, 2003-2007

Assistant Professor, 1996-2002

Instructor, 1995-6

Senior Research Fellow, Social Philosophy and Policy Center, 2002-2007

Visiting Fellow, Australian National University, The Philosophy Program, Research School of Social Sciences, January-August 2003

Taft Postdoctoral Fellow, The University of Cincinnati, 2000-2001

PUBLICATIONS:

Edited Books:

Reasons for Action, under contract with Cambridge University Press. Co-Edited with Steven Wall.

Articles:

"Full Information Accounts of Well-Being" *Ethics* 104 (July 1994): 784-810.

"On the Subjectivity of Welfare" *Ethics* 107 (April 1997): 501-8.

"Well-Being as the Object of Moral Consideration" *Economics and Philosophy* 14 (October 1998): 249-81.

"Pleasure as a Mental State" *Utilitas* Vol. 11, no. 2 (July 1999): 230-35.

"Do the Desires of Rational Agents Converge?" *Analysis* Vol. 59, no. 3 (July 1999): 137-47.

"Against Direction of Fit Accounts of Belief and Desire," *Analysis* Vol. 61, no. 1 (January 2001): 44-53. Co-authored with David Copp.

"Subjective Accounts of Reasons for Action" *Ethics* 111 (April 2001): 461-92.

"Explanation, Internalism, and Reasons for Action" *Social Philosophy and Policy* 18:2 (Summer 2001): 218-35. Also appears in *Moral Epistemology*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.

"Varieties of Hedonism" *The Journal of Social Philosophy* Vol. 33, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 240-256.

"The Moral Importance of the Capability to Achieve Elementary Functionings," in *Eudaimonia and Well-Being: Ancient and Modern Conceptions*, (ed.) Lawrence Jost and Roger Shiner, *Apeiron*, Vol. XXXV, no. 4 (December 2002): p. 163-82.

"Desires, Motives, and Reasons: Scanlon's Rationalistic Moral Psychology" *Social Theory and Practice* Vol. 28, no. 2 (April 2002): 243-76. Co-authored with David Copp. [With a reply from T. M. Scanlon in the same volume.]

"Reply to Robertson," *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. 32, no. 2 (July 2003): 185-91.

"Morality and Virtue," *Ethics* 114 (April 2004): 514-54. Co-authored with David Copp. Portions reprinted in *You Decide!: Current Debates in Ethics* edited by Bruce Waller, Pearson/A.B. Longman, 2006.

"Pain for Objectivists: The Case of Matters of Mere Taste," *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (August 2005), 437-57.

"Instrumental Rationality: Not Dead Yet," *The Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, December 2005.

"Practical Reasons and Mistakes of Practical Rationality," *Moral Psychology*, edited by Sergio Tenenbaum, Poznan Studies in the Philosophy of the Sciences and Humanities, Rodopi, 2007.

"The Impotence of the Demandingness Objection," forthcoming in *Philosophers' Imprint*.

"Introduction," for Sobel and Wall 2007, commissioned. To be co-authored with Stephen Wall.

Critical Notices and Book Reviews:

Review of T. M. Scanlon's *What We Owe to Each Other* (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998), *Economics and Philosophy* Vol. 16, no. 2 (October 2000): 368-72. Co-authored with David Copp.

Review of Ruth Chang's (ed.) *Incommensurability, Incomparability, and Practical Reason* (Harvard University Press, 1997) *The Philosophical Quarterly* Vol. 49, no. 197 (Oct. 1999): 545-48.

Entry on John Harsanyi, forthcoming in *The Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers*, Thoemmes Press.

Review of Michael Zimmerman's *The Concept of Moral Obligation* (Cambridge University Press, 1996) *Ethics* 109 (January 1999): 468-70.

"Sumner on Welfare" (Critical Notice of L. W. Sumner's *Welfare, Happiness, and Ethics*, Clarendon Press, 1996) *Dialogue*, Vol. XXXVII, no. 3 (Summer 1998): 571-77.

Review of David Copp's *Morality, Normativity, and Society* (Oxford University Press, 1995) *Economics and Philosophy* Vol. 14, no. 2 (October 1998): 349-57.

Review of James Griffin's *Value Judgment* (Clarendon Press, 1996) *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* Vol. 1, issue 4 (1998): 479-80.

Short Web-based Reviews:

"Reply to Hubin" Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted November 6, 2000, (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/bears/0011sobe.html>).

"Comment on Anderson" Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted April 8, 1999, (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/bears/9904sobe.html>).

"Reply to Shaver" Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted July 7, 1997, (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/bears/9707sobel.html>).

PRESENTATIONS:

“Subjectivism and Idealization” presented at SPAWN (Syracuse Philosophical Annual Workshop and Network), 2007. Commentator: Michael Smith

-----Also presented at the symposium on Subjective Accounts of Reasons for Action at the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago in 2007 (with Jamie Dreier and Peter Railton).

“Reply to Ruth Chang,” presented at the University of Missouri-Columbia Workshop on Practical Reason, April, 2006.

“The Impotence of the Demandingness Objection,” presented at Dundee University, Scotland at the Demandingness in Ethics and Philosophy Conference, July 2006.

----- Also presented at the British Society for Ethical Theory, Southampton, England, July 2006.

----- Also presented at the International Society for Utilitarian Studies Conference at Dartmouth College, August 2005.

“Subjectivism and Going Haywire” presented at the Central Division APA (Chicago), April, 2005.

“Reply to Raz,” presented at The University of Maryland (College Park) Conference on Practical Rationality, April, 2005.

“Pain for Objectivists” presented at the Central Division APA, Chicago, April, 2004.

----- Also presented at the British Society for Ethical Theory at Kent University in Canterbury, England, June, 2004.

"Morality and Virtue" presented at the Australian National University, Australia (2003).

----- Also presented at the University of Sydney, Australia (2003).

“Practical Reasons and Mistakes of Practical Rationality” presented at the University of Pennsylvania Legal Theory Workshop, March 22, 2002.

-----Also presented at Georgia State University (2002).

-----Also presented at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand (2003).

-----Also presented at the Australian National University, RSSH, Australia (2003).

----- Also presented at Macquarie University, Australia (2003).

----- Also presented at Monash University, Australia (2003).

“Explanation, Internalism, and Reasons for Action,” presented at the Social Philosophy and Policy Center *Moral Epistemology* conference in La Jolla, CA (2000).

-----Also presented at The University of Cincinnati (2001).

-----Also presented at Bowling Green State University’s *Reason and Deliberation* Conference (2001).

-----Also presented at The University of Kansas (2002).

"Reply to Railton and Rosati" presented at the 1999 APA Central Division Symposium: *The Philosophical Legacy of Richard Brandt*, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Subjective Accounts of Reasons for Action" presented at Bowling Green State University's *Well-Being* Conference, Sept. 27, 1998.

-----Also presented at Kenyon College (1999).

-----Also presented at Bowling Green State University’s Department of Economics (2000).

-----Also presented at Swarthmore College (2000).

-----Also presented at The University of Cincinnati (2000).

-----Also presented at Rice University (2002).

-----Also presented at The University of Arizona (2002).

"Well-Being as the Object of Moral Consideration" presented at the *Utilitarianism Reconsidered* Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, 1997.

-----Also presented at Bowling Green State University (1997).

-----Also presented at The University of Michigan (1997).

-----Also presented at North Carolina State University (1997).

-----Also presented at The University of New Mexico (1998).

-----Also presented at The University of Toronto (1998).

Panel discussion member at the Spontaneous Order and Government in Hayek's *Law, Legislation,*

and Liberty 1998 Liberty Fund colloquium in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"The Moral Importance of the Capability to Achieve Elementary Functionings" presented at the *Eudaimonia and Well-Being* Conference at The University of Cincinnati, 1996.

"Decision Theory and Well-Being" presented to Bowling Green State University's Department of Economics, 1996.

"Reply to Professor Horowitz" presented at the University of Michigan *Rational Choice* Colloquium, 1994.

GRADUATE COMMITTEES:

BGSU Ph.D. committee member, Ian Young, "Unity and Diversity: A Reconciliation," defended dissertation 2001.

BGSU Ph.D. committee member, Pam Phillips, "An Aristotelian Conception of Well-Being and Its Applications to the Issues of Genetic Intervention," defended 2005.

BGSU Ph.D. external committee member, Lisa Tracy (department of sociology) "A Discourse Analysis of the Eco-Feminist Social Movement," defended 1999.

BGSU Ph.D. committee member, Ben Dixon, "Toward a Leopoldian Theory of Moral Progress," defended 2005.

BGSU Ph.D. committee member, Aaron Simmons, "In Defense of an Animal's Right to Life," defended 2006.

BGSU Ph.D. committee member, Jason Gatliff, "Terrorism and Just War Tradition: Issues of compatibility," defended 2006.

BGSU Ph.D. committee member, Fred Curry, "Motivational Matters: A Critical Analysis and Refutation of Evolutionary Arguments for Psychological Altruism," defended 2006.

BGSU Ph.D. committee member, Matt Stichter, "The Skill of Virtue," defended 2007.

BGSU Ph.D. committee member, Nicholas Maloberti, "Individual Sovereignty and Political Legitimacy," defended 2007.

BGSU M.A. committee member, Dirk Knemeyer (Popular Culture), "Happiness," defended 1998.

BGSU M.A. committee member, Travis Tucker, "One Problem for Utilitarianism: The Demand for Impartiality," defended 1999.

BGSU M.A. committee member, Darian Queshi, "Rights and States," defended 1998.

FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS:

Visiting Fellow, Australian National University, The Philosophy Program, Research School of Social Sciences, January 2003-September 2003.

Taft Postdoctoral Fellowship, The University of Cincinnati, 2000-2001. Applicants from ten disciplines compete for two such fellowships overall in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Rackham One-Term Fellowship from the University of Michigan, 1993.

Brand Blanchard Essay Prize from Swarthmore College in 1987 for best submitted philosophy paper of the year.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Service for Bowling Green State University:

Department Chair, 2003-2007.

Graduate Committee, Member, 2001-2002.

Chair, Activities Committee, 1996-8 and 2001-2002.

Advisory Council, Member, 1996-2000, 2001-2002.

Personnel Committee, Member, 1998-2000 and 2001-2002.

Placement Committee, Member, 2001-2002.

Budget Committee, Member, 2001-2002.

Undergraduate Advisor, 1998-2000.

Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee, Member, 1998-2000.

Chair, Chair Succession Committee, 1998.

Co-Organizer (with Steven Wall) of the 2006 Practical Reason Conference at Bowling Green State University. Participants include: Michael Bratman, Ruth Chang, Stephen Darwall, Nico Kolodny, James Dreier, Donald Hubin, Daniel Jacobson, Douglas Lavin, Elijah Millgram, Peter Railton, Joseph Raz, Scott Shapiro, Michael Smith, Michael Thompson, and Gary Watson.

Panel discussion participant, *After the Apocalypse: Exploring our Environmental and Social Future*, 9/25/01.

Organizer of the 1998 *Well-Being* Conference held at Bowling Green State University.
Participants: Ruth Chang, James Griffin, Donald Regan, Peter Railton, Connie Rosati, David Sobel, and L. W. Sumner.

Academic Coordinator for the Social Philosophy and Policy Center's *Self-Interest* Conference for Minority Undergraduate Philosophy Students, held at Bowling Green State University, 1995.

Service Outside of Home University:

Philosophy Compass Ethics section co-editor (with Valerie Tiberius).

Program Committee Member for the Metaethics workshop at The University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2005 and 2006.

External Honors examiner, Swarthmore College, 2004.

Promotion and Tenure reviews for: University of Simon Frasier and The University of Utah.

External Evaluation of the Oklahoma University Department of Philosophy's Outcomes and Assessment Program, 2002.

Guest editor for BEARS for a web colloquium on Elizabeth Anderson's "What is the Point of Equality?" (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/bears/symp-anderson.html>).
Participants: Elizabeth Anderson, Richard Arneson, Thomas Christiano, David Sobel.

Occasional Referee for: *Ethics*, *Nous*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Ethics*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Explorations*, Oxford University Press.

Contributor: Pea-Soup.