

DAVID SOBEL

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EDUCATION:

University of Michigan, Ph.D., 1997.

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

EMPLOYMENT:

The University of Nebraska

Robert R. Chambers Professor of Philosophy, 2007-

Bowling Green State University

Associate Professor, 2002-2007

Chair, 2003-2007

Assistant Professor, 1996-2002

Instructor, 1995-6

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Visiting Fellow, All Souls College, University of Oxford, April-July, 2009.

Visiting Fellow, Philosophy Department, University of Leiden, January-April, 2009.

Visiting Fellow, Centre for Ethics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs, University of St. Andrews, September-December, 2008.

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, University of Cincinnati, 2000-2001.

Brand Blanchard Essay Prize, 1987, for best submitted philosophical essay of the year, Swarthmore College.

EDITING:

Co-editor of *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy*. This will involve an annual conference and resulting volume published by Oxford University Press.

PUBLICATIONS:

Edited Books:

Reasons for Action, Cambridge University Press, 2009. Co-Edited with Steven Wall.

Articles:

- 1) ["Full Information Accounts of Well-Being"](#) *Ethics* 104 (July 1994): 784-810.
- 2) ["On the Subjectivity of Welfare"](#) *Ethics* 107 (April 1997): 501-8.
- 3) ["Well-Being as the Object of Moral Consideration"](#) *Economics and Philosophy* 14 (October 1998): 249-81.
- 4) "Pleasure as a Mental State" *Utilitas* Vol. 11, no. 2 (July 1999): 230-35.
- 5) ["Do the Desires of Rational Agents Converge?"](#) *Analysis* Vol. 59, no. 3 (July 1999): 137-47.
- 6) ["Against Direction of Fit Accounts of Belief and Desire,"](#) *Analysis* Vol. 61, no. 1 (2001): 44-53. Co-authored with David Copp.
- 7) ["Subjective Accounts of Reasons for Action"](#) *Ethics* 111 (April 2001): 461-92.
- 8) ["Explanation, Internalism, and Reasons for Action"](#) *Social Philosophy and Policy* 18:2 (Summer 2001): 218-35. Also appears in *Moral Epistemology*, ed. by Ellen Frankel Paul, Fred D. Miller, Jr., and Jeffrey Paul, Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- 9) "Varieties of Hedonism" *The Journal of Social Philosophy* Vol. 33, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 240-256.

- 10) "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.
- 11) "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.]
- 12) "Reply to Robertson," *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. 32, no. 2 (July 2003): 185-91.
- 13) "[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.
- 14) "[Pain for Objectivists: The Case of Matters of Mere Taste.](#)" *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (August 2005), 437-57.
- 15) "Instrumental Rationality: Not Dead Yet," *The Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, December 2005.
- 16) "Practical Reasons and Mistakes of Practical Rationality," *Moral Psychology*, edited by Sergio Tenenbaum, 299-321, Poznan Studies in the Philosophy of the Sciences and Humanities, Rodopi, 2007.
- 17) "[The Impotence of the Demandingness Objection.](#)" *Philosophers' Imprint*, September 2007.
- 18) "Introduction," in *Reasons for Action*, eds. David Sobel and Steven Wall, Cambridge University Press, 2009, p. 1-13. Co-authored with Steven Wall.
- 19) "[Subjectivism and Idealization.](#)" *Ethics* 119 (January 2009): 336-52.
- 20) [Review of Mark Schroeder's *Slaves of the Passions*](#), Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, posted online April 26, 2009.
- 21) "Subjectivism and Blame," in *Reasons to be Moral Revisited*, eds. Sam Black and Evan Tiffany, *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Supplementary Volume 33, 2009, p. 149-170.
- 22) "The Limits of the Explanatory Power of Developmentalism," *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* 7 (4), 2010: 517-27.
- 23) "[Parfit's Case Against Subjectivism](#)," *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, volume 6, edited by Shafer-Landau, Oxford University Press, 2011: 52-79.

- 24) "Backing Away from Self-Ownership," under re-submission to *Ethics*.
- 25) "Self-Ownership and the Conflation Problem," promised to *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics*. This paper must survive a refereeing process to be included in this volume.
- 26) TBD, Commissioned paper on Parfit's *On What Matters* for a Routledge volume on that book edited by Simon Kirchen. Parfit is to provide replies to the papers.

Shorter Critical Notices and Book Reviews:

"Humean Theories of Motivation," forthcoming in Lafollette (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*.

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.

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.

["Reply to Hubin"](#) Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted November 6, 2000

["Comment on Anderson"](#) Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted April 8, 1999

["Reply to Shaver"](#) Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted July 7, 1997

PRESENTATIONS:

“Taking ‘Taking Morality Seriously’ Seriously,” to be presented at a symposium on David Enoch’s *Taking Morality Seriously* at the Eastern Division of the APA, December 2012.

“Backing Away from Self-Ownership,” to be presented at The University of Lund (Sweden) and at the (2012) NOISE Conference at Tulane University. Presented (2012) at a mini-conference on this paper organized by David Schmidtz at The University of Arizona with Jason Brennan, Dan Russell, and John Thrasher as commentators, at the Transitional Justice Group in the Political Science Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2011), at The Ohio State Conference *Reason and Right* in Dubrovnik, Croatia (2011), and at ISUS XI *The Ethics of Economic Development* in Lucca, Italy (2011).

“Self-Ownership and the Conflation Problem,” to be presented at the University of Copenhagen, the University of Syracuse, and the 2012 NOISE Conference at Tulane University. Presented (2012) at the *Third Annual Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics*.

“Is There a Conceptual Connection Between a Sense of Self-Worth and Autonomy? Comments on Rosati” presented at the NOISE Conference at Tulane University (2011).

“Portmore’s Complaint Against Anti-Rationalism,” presented at the NOISE Conference at Tulane University (2010).

“Parfit’s Case against Subjectivism,” presented at the University of Oxford (2009). Also presented at the Sydney, Australia conference *Emotion, Evolution, and Metaethics* (2009), the 6th Annual Madison Metaethics conference (2009), The University of Kansas (2009), and Southern Methodist University (2010).

“Is Proportionalism Optional for Humeans?” presented at the University of Amsterdam, 2009.

“The Limits of the Explanatory Power of Developmentalism,” presented at the *Richard Kraut and His Critics* Conference at Leiden University, 2009.

“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 co-presenters Jamie Dreier and Peter Railton), at Stirling University (2008), The University of Leeds (2008), The University of St. Andrews (2008), The University of Birmingham (2009), the University of Leiden (2009), and the University of Utrecht (2009).

“Reply to Ruth Chang,” presented at the University of Missouri-Columbia Workshop *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, and 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 *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), The University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand (2003), The Australian National University, RSSS, Australia (2003), Macquarie University, Australia (2003), and 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), Bowling Green State University’s *Reason and Deliberation* Conference (2001), and 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), Bowling Green State University’s Department of Economics (2000), Swarthmore College (2000), The University of Cincinnati (2000), Rice University (2002), and 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), The University of Michigan (1997), North Carolina State University (1997), The University of New Mexico (1998), and 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.