

## Curriculum Vitae

Joseph Mendola

### Work Address:

Department of Philosophy  
315K Louise Pound Hall  
University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0321

(402) 472-0528  
email: jmendola1@unl.edu

### Employment:

Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2017-present  
Chair and Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1998-2017.  
Chair and Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1997-1998.  
Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1992-1997.  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1986-1992.  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan, Summer 1984, 1985, and 1987, Winter 1989, Summer 1991.  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Oklahoma, 1985-1986.  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, North Carolina State University, 1984-1985.  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Rochester, 1983-1984

### Education:

Ph.D. (philosophy), University of Michigan, 1983.  
M.A. (philosophy), University of Michigan, 1981.  
A.B. *magna cum laude* (philosophy), Haverford College, 1979.

AOS: ethics, metaphysics, philosophy of mind

AOC: social and political philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of physics

## Publications:

### A) Books:

*Human Thought*, volume 70 in The Philosophical Studies Series (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1997).

This book develops a chastened empiricist account of the possible contents of human thoughts, and explores the conditions required for the truth and existence of such thoughts.

*Goodness and Justice: A Consequentialist Moral Theory* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006). Paperback issued 2011. This book presents a three-part moral theory. It develops a new form of consequentialism involving group acts, called 'multiple-act consequentialism'. It defends classical hedonism, but argues that the overall value of outcomes is distribution-sensitive.

*Anti-Externalism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008). Paperback issued 2013. This book argues that externalism in the philosophy of mind is false. It critically examines arguments for externalism resting on intuitive examples, externalist accounts of perceptual content, and externalist theories that involve the mediation of thought by language. And it develops a plausible internalist but physicalist alternative.

*Human Interests, or Ethics for Physicalists* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014). This book develops a desire-based account of the good that is an alternative to the hedonism of *Goodness and Justice*. And it applies a modified form of multiple-act consequentialism and the proper understanding of the distributional-sensitivity of valuable outcomes to issues about the evaluation of alternatives in ethics and social and political philosophy. It argues that under the presumption of physicalism there are no viable competitor normative theories, often because of debilitating indeterminacies.

*Experience and Possibility*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press. This book concerns the modal structure of the ontology of commonsense objects present in our experience.

This is the foundation for two other related monographs in late stages of preparation. *Consciousness and Modality* is a modal structural account of the neurophysiological basis of phenomenal consciousness. *Physical Possibility* concerns the modal structure of the physical world.

This trilogy is in turn intended as the foundation for three future monographs: on belief and truth, on desire and its appropriate role in social-political philosophy, and on aesthetics and objective theories of the good.

B) Papers, book sections, and reviews:

"Parfit on Directly Collectively Self-Defeating Moral Theories", *Philosophical Studies* 50, 1986, 153-166.

"The Indeterminacy of Options", *American Philosophical Quarterly* 24, 1987, 125-136.

"Gauthier's *Morals by Agreement* and Two Kinds of Rationality", *Ethics* 97, 1987, 765-774.

"On Rawls' Basic Structure: Forms of Justification and the Subject Matter of Social Philosophy", *The Monist* 71, 1988, 437-454.

"Normative Realism, or Bernard Williams and Ethics at the Limit", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 67, 1989, 306-318.

"Objective Value and Subjective States", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* L, 1990, 695-713.

"An Ordinal Modification of Classical Utilitarianism", *Erkenntnis*, 33, 1990, 73-88.

"Intending and Motivation", *Analysis* 50, 1990, 190-193.

Review of Heller, *General Ethics*, in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, June 1991.

Review of Hardin, *Color for Philosophers*, in *Nous*, December 1992.

Review of Bigelow and Pargetter, *Science and Necessity*, in *The Philosophical Review*, January 1993.

Entry on transcendental arguments, in the Blackwell *Companion to Metaphysics*, 1994.

Review of Bhargava, *Individualism in Social Science*, in *The Review of Metaphysics*, September 1994.

Entry on informed consent, in the *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, 1995.

Entry on moral psychology, in the *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, 1995.

Entry on rational psychology, in the *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, 1995.

Review of Stocker, *Valuing Emotions*, in *The Review of Metaphysics*, December 1997.

Review of Levi, *For The Sake of Argument*, in *Philosophy of Science*, December 1998.

“Hart, Fuller, Dworkin, and Fragile Norms”, *The SMU Law Review* 52, 1999, 111-134.

Review of Robinson, *Philosophy and Mystification*, in *Philosophical Books*, October 1999.

“A Dilemma for Asymmetric Dependence”, *Nous* 37, 2003, 232-257.

Review of Bittner, *Doing Things for Reasons*, in *Ethics*, January 2003.

Review of Joyce, *The Myth of Morality*, in *Philosophical Books*, October 2003.

“Justice Within Life”, *American Philosophical Quarterly* 41, 2004, 125-140.

“Consequences, Group Acts, and Trolleys”, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 86, 2005, 64-87.

“Intuitive Maximin”, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 35, 2005, 439-440.

“Intuitive Hedonism”, *Philosophical Studies* 128, 2006, 441-447.

“Multiple-Act Consequentialism”, *Nous* 40, 2006, 395-427.

“Papineau on Etiological Teleosemantics for Beliefs”, *Ratio* 19, 2006, 305-320.

Review of Ci, *The Two Faces of Justice*, in *Mind*, July 2007.

“Knowledge and Evidence”, *The Journal of Philosophy* 104, 2007, 157-160.

Review Essay on Fred Feldman, *Pleasure and the Good Life*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 74, 2007, 220-232.

Review Essay on Graham Oddie, *Value, Reality, and Desire*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 76, 2008, 484-494.

“Real Desires and Well-Being”, *Philosophical Issues* 19, 2009, 148-165.

Review of Joseph Heath, *Following the Rules*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, March 2009).

“Precis of *Anti-Externalism*” and “Reply to Richard, Hilbert, and Ebbs”, *Analytical Philosophy* 54, 2013, 244-247 and 268-276.

Review of Iwao Hirose, *Moral Aggregation*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2015.

With Aaron Bronfman, “Allan Gibbard”, *Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2015.

Review of Barbara Gail Montero, *Thought in Action*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2016.

Review of Fred Feldman, *Distributive Justice*, *Ethics* 2017, 929-934.

“Self-Defeat and Consequentialism”, forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Consequentialism*, edited by Douglas Portmore.

Recent presentations:

“The Conditional Analysis of Ability”, Department of Philosophy, Florida State University, September 12, 2008.

“Morality and Starvation”, Halifax, Public Lecture sponsored by CCEPA and the Department of Philosophy, St. Mary’s University, September 24, 2009.

“Intrinsic and Instrumental Desires”, Department of Philosophy, Dalhousie University, September 25, 2009.

“Reply to Commentators”, book symposium on *Anti-Externalism*, APA 2011 Pacific Division Meeting.

“Multiple-Act Consequentialism and Losses from Defection”, ISUS XII Conference at NYU, August 10, 2012.

“The Metaphysics of Hedonism”, Oxford University Hedonism Conference, March 6, 2014.

Panel discussant, University of Michigan Gibbard Conference, May 2016.

“Comment on James Kintz”, APA Central Division Meeting, February 2018

“The Work of J.D. Trout”, Illinois Institute of Technology Calamos Chair Inauguration, February 2018.

“Comment on Veronica Gomez”, APA Eastern Division Meeting 2020.

Courses Taught:

History and Continental Philosophy:

Graduate Survey of the History of Early Modern Philosophy (Nebraska)  
Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy (Nebraska)

Metaphysics:

Graduate Seminar on Individuation (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Properties (Nebraska)  
Graduate Metaphysics Survey Seminar (Nebraska)  
Metaphysics of Modality Graduate Seminar (Rochester)  
Undergraduate Metaphysics Survey (Nebraska)  
Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology (Michigan)

Philosophy of Mind:

Graduate Philosophy of Mind Survey Seminar (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Belief (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Modal Structuralism (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Perception (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Recent Work on Consciousness (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Externalism in Philosophy of Mind (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Content and Consciousness (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Eliminative Materialism (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on the Passions (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Human Thought (Nebraska)  
Undergraduate Philosophy of Mind Survey (Nebraska)  
Introduction to Philosophy of Mind (Rochester)

Philosophy of Science:

Philosophy of Physics (Nebraska)  
Graduate Philosophy of Science Survey (Nebraska)

Ethics and Social-Political Philosophy:

Graduate Seminar on Just Good (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Liberty Equality (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Deontological Ethical Theories (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Neo-Utilitarian Moral Theory (Nebraska)  
Graduate Seminar on Neo-Kantian Ethical Theory (Nebraska, Oklahoma)

Graduate Seminar on Neo-Aristotelian Ethical Theory (Nebraska)  
Graduate Survey of Ethics (Oklahoma)  
Graduate Survey of Social Philosophy (Michigan)  
Introduction to Ethical Theory (Michigan, Nebraska) Medical Ethics (Nebraska, North Carolina State)

Introductory Courses Taught:

Contemporary Moral Problems (North Carolina State, Nebraska)  
Introduction to Logic (Michigan, Nebraska)  
Introduction to Philosophy (Nebraska, Oklahoma, Michigan, North Carolina State)

Service to the Profession:

ACLS fellowship reviewer, 2012-2015  
Chair, Program Committee, 2001 American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting  
Member of the Program Committee, 2000 American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting

Refereeing for:

*Mind*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*,  
*Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Erkenntnis*, *Nous*, *Ethics*, *Philosophy and  
Phenomenological Research*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*,  
*Philosophia*, *Analysis*, Cornell University Press, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University  
Press, Wadsworth Press, Blackwell Publishers

Who's Who in America: 2006-present

University Service at UNL:

University Representative on History Department academic program review, 2020  
Associate Dean Search Committee, 2020  
Chair, Philosophy Department, 1997-2017  
Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Chair Search Committee, 2015-2016  
College Executive Committee Elected Member, 2012-2015  
Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee Member, 2013-2014  
Law School Ethics Center steering committee, 2004-present  
University Committee on Conflicts of Interest in Research, 2006-2015  
Chair, University Committee on Conflicts of Interest in Research, 2009-2015  
Chancellors Committee to Revise Conflict of Interest Policy, 2010-2011  
National Science Foundation Internal Investigation Committee, 2007  
College of Arts and Sciences Executive (tenure and promotion) Committee, 1995-1997  
Search Committee for the Director of the Nebraska Humanities Center, 2000  
Associate Dean Search Committee, 2004

Departmental Service at UNL:

Transfer Credit Review, 2018-2019  
Philosophy Curriculum Committee Chair, 1995-1997

Philosophy Graduate Chair and Graduate Advisor, 1988-1995

Philosophy Graduate Advisor, 2019-2020

Search Committees, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1993-94, 2019-2020