

[CV for web: January 2011]

Steven A. Gross

Work

Department of Philosophy
Johns Hopkins University
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3400 North Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218

Web

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Home

4935 47th St., NW
Washington, DC 20016

Academic Positions

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University, 2006-
(secondary appointment in Cognitive Science)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2005-6
Researcher, 2006-
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, 1999-2005
Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania,
1999-2005
Faculty, Language and Communication Science (IGERT interdisciplinary graduate
training program), University of Pennsylvania, 2004-5
Lecturer (Permanent Member of the Faculty), University College London, 1998-1999

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. in philosophy, June 1998
Dissertation: *Essays on Linguistic Context-Sensitivity and its Philosophical Significance*
(advisors: Professors Warren Goldfarb and Richard Heck)
University of California, Los Angeles, 1987-9, doctoral candidate
Harvard University, A.B. with honors in philosophy, 1987

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology, Early Modern Philosophy, Kant, History of Analytic
Philosophy, Undergraduate Logic

Publications

1. "Innateness" (with Georges Rey), in *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy & Cognitive Science*, eds. E. Margolis, R. Samuels, and S. Stich (Oxford, forthcoming).
2. "Davidson, First Person Authority, and the Evidence for Semantics," in *Davidson's Philosophy: Truth, Meaning and the Mental*, ed. G. Preyer, Oxford University Press (forthcoming).
3. "Revisited Linguistic Intuitions" (with Jennifer Culbertson), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (forthcoming).
4. "Knowledge of Meaning, Conscious and Unconscious," in *Meaning, Understanding, and Knowledge*, eds. B. Armour-Garb, D. Patterson, and J. Woodbridge (Vol 5: The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic and Communication), 2009 [appeared 2010], pp. 1-44.
5. "Are Linguists Better Subjects?" (with Jennifer Culbertson), *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 60, 2009, pp. 721-36.
6. "Sincerely Saying What You Don't Believe Again," *Dialectica* 62, 2008, pp. 349-54.

7. “Reply to Jackendoff,” *The Linguistic Review* 24, 2007, pp. 423-9.
8. “Relating Conscious and Unconscious Semantic Knowledge,” *Croatian Journal of Philosophy* 7, 2007, pp. 427-45.
9. “Trivalent Semantics and the Vaguely Vague,” *Synthese* 156, 2007, pp. 97-117.
10. “Can Empirical Theories of Semantic Competence Really Help Limn the Structure of Reality?,” *Nous* 40, 2006, pp. 43-81.
11. “Can One Sincerely Say What One Doesn’t Believe?,” *Mind & Language* 21, 2006, pp. 11-20.
12. “The Nature of Semantics: On Jackendoff’s Arguments,” *The Linguistic Review* 22, 2005, pp. 249-270.
13. “The Biconditional Doctrine: *Contra* Kölbel on a ‘Dogma’ of Davidsonian Semantics,” *Erkenntnis* 62, 2005, pp. 189-210.
14. “Context-Sensitive Truth-Theoretic Accounts of Semantic Competence,” *Mind & Language* 20, 2005, pp. 68-102.
15. “Linguistic Understanding and Belief,” *Mind* 114, 2005, pp. 61-6.
16. “Putnam, Context, and Ontology,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 34, 2004, pp. 507-54.
17. “Vagueness, Indirect Speech Reports, and the World,” *Protosociology* (Special Issue on Semantic Theory and Reported Speech) 17, 2002, pp. 153-68.
18. “Is Context-Sensitivity Elimidable? Some Remarks,” *The Dialogue* (Yearbook of Philosophical Hermeneutics: The Legitimacy of Truth, Proceedings of the Third Meeting, Italian-American Philosophy) 2, 2002, pp. 21-38.
19. “Putnam, Kontext und Ontologie,” in *Hilary Putnam und die Tradition des Pragmatismus*, eds. Marie-Luise Raters and Marcus Willaschek (Suhrkamp, 2002), pp. 404-36. (An abridged translation of an early version of (10).)
20. “Vagueness, Indeterminacy, and Uncertainty,” in *Indeterminacy*, ed. Jose Cipurut (MIT Press, 2008), pp. 129-49. [written and submitted 1999-2000]
21. “Vagueness in Context,” in *Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, eds. Lila Gleitman and Avarind Joshi (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2000), pp. 208-13.
22. *Essays on Linguistic Context-Sensitivity and its Philosophical Significance*, Studies in Philosophy: Outstanding Dissertations (Routledge, 2001), pp. xvi + 148.
 Contents: Introduction; I. The Pervasiveness and Utility of Context-Sensitivity; II. What is a Context?; III. Context-Sensitivity and Truth-Theoretic Accounts of Semantic Competence; IV. Context, Vagueness, and the Sorites Paradox; V. Context and Ontology (Some Initial Considerations)

Reviews, Encyclopedia Entries, Etc.

20. Review of Michael Tomasello, *Origins of Human Communication*, in *Mind & Language* 25 (April 2010), pp. 237-46.
21. Review of Ray Jackendoff, *Language, Consciousness, Culture: Essays on Mental Structure*, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (May 2009).
22. Review of Stewart Shapiro, *Vagueness in Context*, in *The Philosophical Review* 118 (April, 2009).
23. “Natural Kind Terms,” *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd ed., ed. Keith Brown (Elsevier, 2006), vol. 8, pp. 492-6. Reprinted in *The Concise Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Language and Linguistics*, eds. A. Barber and R. Stainton (Elsevier, 2009).
24. “Normativity,” *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 2nd ed., ed. Keith Brown (Elsevier, 2006), vol. 8, pp. 698-701. Reprinted in *The Concise Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Language and Linguistics*, eds. A. Barber and R. Stainton (Elsevier, 2009).
25. Review of Robert Brandom, *Articulating Reasons*, in *The Philosophical Review* 111 (April 2002), pp. 284-7.
26. Review of Jerry Fodor, *Concepts*, in *Mind* 110 (April 2001), pp. 469-75.

27. Review of Fiona Cowie, *What's Within? Nativism Reconsidered*, in *The Philosophical Review* 110 (January 2001), pp. 94-7.
28. "What is a Hole?" (review of Roberto Casati and Achille Varzi, *Holes and Other Superficialities*), *The Harvard Review of Philosophy* IV (Spring 1994), pp. 76-80.
29. "An Interview with Henry Allison," *The Harvard Review of Philosophy* VI (Spring 1996), pp. 31-45. Reprinted in *Philosophers in Conversation* (Routledge, 2002), pp. 81-97.

Honors and Awards

- Excellence in Teaching Award Finalist (2009)
- "Philosophy of Religion" selected as a Gilman Lecture Course in the Humanities, Johns Hopkins University (Fall 2008)
- Principal Investigator, "Evolution, Cognition, and Culture," awarded Metanexus grant of \$390,000 (2007-2010)
- Penn Faculty Fellow, Penn Humanities Forum (2003-4)
- Fellowship Nominee, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University (2002)
- Dissertation selected for Studies in Philosophy: Outstanding Dissertations, edited by Robert Nozick, Routledge (2001)
- Robert M. Martin Fellow (1997-8)
- Minna de Gunzburg Scholar (1992)
- John T. Hoopes Prize (1987)

Presentations

- "Problems of Free Will," Gilman Hall Celebration, Johns Hopkins, October 2010
- "Davidson, First Person Authority, and the Evidence for Semantics," Society for Exact Philosophy, Kansas City, March 2010
- "Do Kids Know What We Mean?," Symposium for Cognition, Logic and Communication, Riga, Latvia, August 2009
- "Are Linguists Better Subjects?" (with Jennifer Culbertson)
 - Society of Philosophy and Psychology, Philadelphia, June 2008
- "Comments on Louise Antony's 'In Praise of Loose Talk'"
 - Society of Philosophy and Psychology, Philadelphia, June 2008
- "Problems of Free Will"
 - Undergraduate Humanities Colloquium, Johns Hopkins University, October 2007
- "Problems of Consciousness"
 - Undergraduate Cognitive Science Club, Johns Hopkins University, September 2007
- "Is Assertion a Natural Kind?"
 - Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik, September 2007
- "Reply to Jim Hopkins' 'Rules, Privacy, and Physicalism'"
 - "Wittgenstein and the Philosophy of Mind," University of California, Santa Cruz, June 2007
- "Thoughts in Words on *Words and Thoughts*"
 - Book Symposium on Rob Stainton's *Words and Thoughts*, Canadian Philosophical Association, Saskatoon, May 2007
- "The Right to Risk: Clifford vs. James"
 - Faculty Keynote Address, Hopkins-Georgetown-Maryland Philosophy Graduate Conference, April 2007
- "Contextualism and Shared Content"
 - Department of Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University, April 2007
- "Reply to Noë's 'Conscious Reference'"
 - "Putnam at 80," University College Dublin, March 2007
- "Are We Understanding Innateness Yet?"
 - Philosophy of Linguistics Workshop, University of Maryland, February 2007

- “Sincerely Saying What One Doesn’t Believe Again”
 -European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Belfast, August 2006
- “Knowledge of Meaning, Conscious and Unconscious”
 -Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik, September 2006
 -Department of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, March 2006
 -Department of Philosophy, Boston University, February 2006
 -Department of Philosophy, Georgetown University, January 2006
 -Department of Philosophy, Northwestern University, January 2006
 -Department of Philosophy, Ohio State University, January 2006
 -Department of Philosophy, University of Illinois, Chicago, October 2005
 -Department of Philosophy, Queen’s University, October 2005
 -European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Lund, August 2005
 -Department of Philosophy, University of Georgia, March 2005
 -Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, January 2004
- “One Way Language Matters to Philosophy: Knowledge-Ascriptions as a Case Study”
 -2nd Symposium of the Penn Working Group in Language, Plenary Address, University of Pennsylvania, April 2005
- “Reply to Ebbs’ ‘Truth and Words’”
 -Eastern Division APA, December 2004
- “Reply to Brandom’s ‘Kantian Lessons about Mind, Meaning, and Rationality’”
 -Symposium on Language and Mind: Priority of Syntax or Use, Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium, December 2004
- “Reply to Fodor and Lepore’s ‘Out of Context’”
 -Symposium on Language and Mind: Priority of Syntax or Use, Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium, December 2004
- “Who Needs a Meaning-Theory?”
 -Joint Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology and the European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Barcelona, July 2004
- “Bilgrami on Liberalism and Identity”
 -Institute for Law and Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, December 2003
- “Context-Sensitive Truth-Theoretic Accounts of Semantic Competence”
 -European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Turin, July 2003
- “Can Empirical Theories of Semantic Competence Really Help Limn the Structure of Reality?”
 -Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland, March 2003
 -Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, December 2001
- “Sketch of a Pragmatic, Context-Sensitive Approach to Vagueness”
 -Rutgers Semantics Workshop, Rutgers University, September 2001
- “Is Context-Sensitivity Elimidable? Some Remarks”
 -Third Annual Italian/American Philosophy Conference, University of Rome, June 2001
- “An Invitation to Vagueness”
 -Institute for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania, February 2001
- “Vagueness in Context”
 -Twenty-Second Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society, University of Pennsylvania, August 2000
- “Putnam, Context, and Ontology”
 -Conference on *Hilary Putnam und die Tradition des Pragmatismus*, Muenster, June 2000
- “Metaphysics and Linguistics: On Moltmann on Nominalization, Properties, and Generalized Reference to Kinds”
 -Conference on *Language and Compositionality*, School of Advanced Study, University of London, June 2000
- “Vagueness, Indeterminacy, and Uncertainty”
 -Cross-Campus Conversations at Penn: Indeterminacy, December 1999

“Context and the Semantics-Pragmatics Border”

-Department of Philosophy, University College London, February 1999

“What is a Context?”

-Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, March 1999

-Conference on *Pragmatics and Meaning*, School of Advanced Study, University of London, October 1998

“Kant and Empirical Psychology”

-Faculty Address, 6th UCL Graduate Conference, October 1998

“Vagueness, Context, and the Sorites Paradox”

-New York Area Vagueness Group, New York University, November 1999

-Stapeldon Lecture, University of Liverpool, February 1999

-Logic and Philosophy of Mathematics Seminar, University of Cambridge, November 1998

-Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield, October 1998

-Department of Philosophy, University College London, February 1998

“A Plea for a Neglected Approach to the Sorites Paradox”

-Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan, January 1998

-Department of Philosophy, University of California, Santa Cruz, January 1998

-Department of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, January 1998

Invitation-only workshop participation:

-Rutgers Semantics Workshop, 1999-2002

-*Mind & Language* Workshop on Pragmatics and Cognitive Science, 2000

-AHRB International Workshop on Word-Meaning, Concepts and Communication, 2005

Service

University

Johns Hopkins University

University:

Neuro-Education Initiative Committee

Krieger School of Arts and Sciences:

Chair: Evolution, Cognition, Culture Project (interdisciplinary effort sponsored 3 distinguished Templeton Research Fellows, 7 conferences, 9 workshops, one film screening, 47 visiting lectures, and other activities)

Mellon Committee

Tenure Ad Hoc Committee (twice)

Gilman Conferences Committee (and Chair of sub-committee for “Brains, Minds, Humanities”)

Dissertation Defense Committees:

-*Christological Nihilism in the Twelfth Century: The Contested Reception of Peter Lombard’s Sententiae*, Clare Monagle (History)

-*Modality Dependence and Independence in Human Spatial Memory*, Naohide Yamamoto (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

-*Learning to Attend: Effects of Practice on Information Selection*, Todd Kelley (Psychological and Brain Sciences)

-*Creation, Eden, Temple and Mountain: Literary Presentations of Sacred Space in the Hebrew Bible*, Seung Il Kang (Near Eastern Studies)

-*Formal and Cognitive Restrictions on Vowel Harmony*, Sara Finley (Cognitive Science)

-*A Vision of Language: The Mechanism, Development and Consequence of an Interaction Between Language and Vision*, Banchiamlack Dessalegn (Cognitive Science)

-*On Fodor’s Concept Nativism*, Youngsup Park (Philosophy)

- Epistemology in the Shadow of Pyrrhonism*, Michael Perry (Philosophy)
- Representing the Orientation of Objects: Evidence from Mirror-Image Confusion*, Emma Gregory (Cognitive Science)
- Learning Biases, Regularization, and the Emergence of Typological Universals in Syntax*, Jennifer Culbertson (Cognitive Science)
- 'Ser' and 'Estar': Their Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics, and Acquisition in Mexican Spanish*, Monica Lopez-Gonzalez (Cognitive Science)
- Mind, Nature, and Normativity in Hume*, Lisa Ievers (Philosophy)
- Real Causes For Revision: Scientific Methods in the So-Called Vera Causa Tradition*, Victor Difate (Philosophy)

Department: Senior Search Committee (multiple), Miller Prize Committee (twice), Miller Retreat Committee, Colloquium Committee, Futures Seminar Committee, Thalheimer Lectures Committee

University of Pennsylvania

University: Interdisciplinary Oversight Committee for “Mind, Religion, and Ethics in Dialogue”

College: Symposium on Curricular Reform, Penn Reading Project, IRCS/CCN Undergraduate Summer Workshop in Cognitive Science and Cognitive Neuroscience, Spruce House Faculty Associate, Faculty Commentator: Penn Humanities Forum Undergraduate Conference

Department: Philosophy Library Committee, Secretary to Philosophy Faculty Meeting, Philosophy Job Search Committee, Flower Prize Committee, Philosophy Graduate Admissions Committee, Philosophy Colloquium Committee

UCL

Affiliates Tutor, Job Placement, Library Advisor

Professional

Program Committee, Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, 2007-9

Organizer, Workshop on Expression and Self-Knowledge, Georgetown University, May 2007

Moderator, Conference on Induction, Johns Hopkins Center for History and Philosophy of Science, March 2007

Chair, Session at “Putnam at 80,” University College Dublin, March 2007

Co-organizer, Philosophy of Linguistics Workshop, University of Maryland, February 2007

Chair, Round Table Discussion, AHRB International Workshop on Word-Meaning, Concepts and Communication, September 2005

Chair, Colloquium on Philosophy of Language, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, December 2002

Referee:

Book – Cambridge University Press; Harvard University Press (multiple); Oxford University Press (multiple); Routledge

Journal – *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (multiple); *Erkenntnis* (multiple); *First Language*; *Mind* (multiple); *Mind & Language* (multiple); *Nous* (multiple); *Philosophers' Imprint* (multiple); *Philosophical Papers*; *Philosophical Quarterly* (multiple); *Philosophical Review* (multiple); *Philosophical Studies*; *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (multiple); *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*; *Synthese* (multiple)

Conference/Proceedings – 14th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information; American Philosophical Association (multiple); Society for Philosophy and Psychology (multiple)

Fellowship – Harris Fellowship, Grinnell College

Grants – National Science Foundation; Czech Science Foundation

Tenure – Open University of Israel; David Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Expert Witness: DLA Piper

Community

Education-related volunteer work: Writing Coach, College Summit; Mentor, Brown v. Board of Education Project (Thurgood Marshall Academy); Consultant, RIME (Renovation in Music Education); Moderator, Clinton Global Initiative; Civilian Invited Participant: Strategy Implementation Seminar (U. S. Army War College)

Teaching

Johns Hopkins University

Undergraduate

Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy and Cognitive Science

-The New Synthesis and Fodor's Challenge

-The Cognitive Science of Religion

Philosophy of Language

Senior Honors Essay

-Sam Messing

Graduate

Topics in the Philosophy of Language

-Foundations of Linguistics

-Shared Content

-Innateness

-Linguistic Understanding and the Phenomenology of Speech

-Burge's *Origins of Objectivity*

Dissertation Advising:

-Michael Gentzel

-Nicholas Goldberg

-Michael Hicks

-Jonathan Hricko

-Julia Krause

-Patrick Leland

-Jeff Maynes

-Martin Moran

-Youngsup Park

-Diana Puglisi (Georgetown)

-Nicholas Tebben

Third-Year Paper Advising and Examining:

-Nicholas Tebben

-Giorgi Lebanidze

-Michael Gentzel

-Nicholas Goldberg

-Derek Leben

-Jeffery Maynes

-Bryan Miller

-Jonathan Hricko

-John Waterman

-Karen Yan

Qualifying Examination Advising:

-Nicholas Goldberg

-Derek Leben

-Jeffery Maynes

-Bryan Miller

-John Waterman

-Karen Yan
Georgetown University
Undergraduate
Philosophy of Religion
Graduate
Topics in the Philosophy of Language
University of Pennsylvania
Undergraduate
Introduction to Philosophy
Perspectives on Cognitive Neuroscience (co-taught)
Metaphysics
Philosophy of Mind
Philosophy of Language
Epistemology
Philosophy of Religion
Directed Reading Courses and Honors Projects
-Skepticism about Meaning
-Modularity
-Wittgenstein on Rule-Following
-Externalism and Slow-Switching
-Perceptual Interfaces, Skeptical Hypotheses, and Metaphysical Hypotheses
Graduate
Self-Knowledge and Consciousness
Topics in the Philosophy of Language
-Context-Sensitivity
-Quantifiers and Ontology
-Vagueness
-The Semantics-Pragmatics Border
Dissertation Advising:
-*Attention to Consciousness*, Morgan Wallhagen
-*The Bundling of the Self: The Empirical Basis for the Unity of the Self in Hume and James*, Yumiko Inukai
-*Kant on the Unity of Reason*, Michael Rohlf
-*Kant's Moral Idealism: The Logical Basis and Metaphysical Origin of the Ideas of Community and Autonomy*, Lucas Thorpe
-*Perception in Action*, Jeffrey Scarborough
UCL
Undergraduate
Logic
Epistemology
Philosophy of Language
Diverse Tutorials
Graduate
MA Seminar
Diverse Tutorials
MA Thesis supervising: Jesse Norman, *Diagrammatic Reasoning and Propositional Logic*
PhD Thesis supervising: Mark Jenkins, *Frege's Logicism*
Harvard (as sole responsibility instructor)
Undergraduate
The Nature and Existence of God
Old and New Riddles of Induction
Ontology

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association, Aristotelian Society, *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* associate, Cognitive Science Society, European Society for Analytic Philosophy, European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, North American Kant Society, Society for Exact Philosophy, Society for Philosophy and Psychology