**Curriculum Vitae**

Eric Sotnak

Department of Philosophy

455 College of Arts & Sciences

The University of Akron

Akron, OH 44325

(330) 972-5501

e-mail: sotnak@uakron.edu

**Education**:

June 1994 Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Rochester

May 1991 M.A., Philosophy, University of Rochester

May 1987 M.A., Philosophy, University Of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

May 1984 B.A., Philosophy, Gustavus Adolphus College

**Dissertation**:

Title: Contingency and Freedom in Leibniz' Metaphysics

Advisor: Professor Ralf Meerbote

**M.A. Thesis** (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee):

Title: William James on Truth and Religious Belief

Advisor: Professor William J. Wainwright

**Areas of Specialization**:

● History of Early Modern Philosophy (esp. Leibniz, Kant)

● Philosophy of Religion

**Areas of Competence**:

● Metaphysics

● Ethics

● East Asian Philosophy

● Philosophy of Mind

● Epistemology

**Publications and Book Reviews**:

“Fictional Truth and Make-Believe”, co-authored with Dimitria Gatzia, Philosophia 42(2): (2014) pp. 349-361

“Nonhuman Chimeras with Human Brain Cells” *Between The Species*, Issue VII: August 2007, <http://cla.calpoly.edu/bts/issue\_07/07sotnak.pdf>

“The Kalam Cosmological Argument and the Possibility of an Actual Infinite” *Philo,* 2:2 (1999), pp. 41-52.

“The Range of Leibnizian Compatibilism” in *New Essays on the Rationalists,* ed. Charles Heunemann and Rocco Gennaro, (Cambridge, MA: Oxford University Press, 1999), pp. 200-223.

"Primary and Secondary Divine Decrees in The Leibniz-Arnauld Correspondence" *Studia Leibnitiana*, Band XXVII/1, (1995), pp. 85-103.

"Kant and The Impossibility of The Soft Sciences" (with Abhaya Nayak) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research,* 55:1 (1995), pp. 133-151.

Review of Leibniz’s Writings on China, by Daniel Cook and Henry Rosemont, *North American Leibniz Society Newsletter*, 5, (1995), pp. 33-35.

**Works in Progress**:

“Skeptical Theism”

“Degrees of Freedom and the Free Will Defense”

“Berkeley’s Theory of Time”

“A Pain Management Argument for Active Euthanasia”

**Presentations**:

“Are We Free to do Evil (or Good)?” Invited public presentation sponsored by the Sacramento State University Philosophy Department, Fall 2010

“Skeptical Theism” invited paper presented to the Sacramento State University Philosophy Department, Fall 2010

Comments on Monica Gerrek’s "Modified Speciesism and Humean Arguments Against It" Spring 2004 Ohio Philosophical Association

“Berkeley’s Theory of Time” presented at The Northeast Ohio Philosophy Consortium Fall Meeting, October 26, 2002.

Comments on Barbara Labossiere’s “Hume, Justice, and the Example of the Family”

Spring 2001 Ohio Philosophical Association

“Abortion and the Separation of Conjoined Twins” presented at The Northeast Ohio Philosophy Consortium Fall Meeting, October 24, 1998.

**Additional Professional Activities**:

Philosophy of Religion Area Editor for the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/)

Member of Northeast Ohio Philosophy Consortium Steering Committee (1996-present)

Member of *North American Leibniz Society*

Member of *American Philosophical Association*

**Teaching Experience/Employment**:

***The University of Akron*** (Associate Professor):

2001- Introduction to Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy, Eastern Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion*,* History of Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Law*,* British Empiricism, Continental Rationalism*,* Computer Ethics, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Kant, Critical Thinking

***The University of Akron*** (Assistant Professor):

1995-00 Introduction to Ethics, Eastern Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion*,* Introduction to Philosophy, History of Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Law*,* British Empiricism, Continental Rationalism*,* Computer Ethics

***Grinnell College*** (Assistant Professor):

1994-95 History of Early Modern Philosophy, Introduction to Philosophy, Ethical Theory

***Ithaca College*** (Instructor):

1993-94 Reasoning, Medical Ethics, 17th Century Philosophy

***University of Rochester*** (Instructor):

Spring 1993 History of Early Modern Philosophy

Sum. 1992 Reason and Argument

Spring 1992 History of Early Modern Philosophy

Sum. 1991 Philosophy of Religion

**Awards and Miscellaneous:**

2006 Recipient“Celebrating Inclusive Excellence Award” for commitment to teaching and service to students with disabilities, Office of Accessibility

Spring 2000 Recipient of Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Chairs’ Awardfor outstanding achievement in Research

Sum. 1995 Participant in NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers, supervised by Jonathan Bennett, Syracuse University

1990-93 Member of Lewis While Beck’s *Privatissimum* (a private seminar for graduate students)