

Steven Winterfeldt

❖ 1815 South Arlington Street, Apt I ❖ Akron, Ohio 44306 ❖ (931) 257-6693 ❖
personal: smwinterfeldt90@gmail.com ❖ work: swinterf@kent.edu; swinterfeldt@uakron.edu
Last Updated: 08/10/2017

Research Interests

History of Philosophy (esp. Modern), Epistemology

Educational Background

Kent State University, Kent, OH (August 2016)

M.A., Philosophy

GPA: 3.66

Thesis: The Indispensability of Conscious Access

I focus on the debate between internalists and externalists concerning epistemic justification. A belief is justified when there is a reason why it is likely to be true. Internalists have traditionally interpreted this to mean having conscious access to evidence or good reasons for a belief. Externalists argue that justification is conferred on a belief by virtue of some fact which is (or may be) external to the conscious awareness of an agent, such as the reliability of a belief-forming mechanism in producing true beliefs. Laurence Bonjour suggests that we can resolve the debate if we make a distinction between the first-person perspective of a believing agent and the perspective of some third-person assessor. He suggests that internalism is an account of first-person justification and that externalism is an account of third-person justification. Drawing on Ernest Sosa, I argue that making this distinction does not solve the debate. However, Bonjour briefly suggests one important consideration in favor of internalism. I attempt to expand on that suggestion. The idea is that any time that we want to assert that an agent's belief is externally justified, that claim turns on the fact that we, as the assessors of the epistemic subject, have conscious access to the relevant information that enables us to make a determination about the justification of that agent's beliefs. I conclude that conscious access is an indispensable aspect of epistemic justification.

Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN (August 2012)

B.S., Philosophy

Overall GPA: 3.31

History and Religious Studies double minor

Academic Employment

University of Akron, Department of Philosophy, Akron, OH (August 2017—Present)

Assistant Lecturer

Instruction of students, grading, and other related duties

Academic Employment (Continued)

Kent State University, Department of Philosophy, Kent, OH (August 2016—Present)

Adjunct Instructor

Instruction of students, grading, and other related duties

Kent State University (Stark Campus), Department of Philosophy, North Canton, OH
(August 2015—May 2016)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Instruction of students, grading, and other related duties to assist professors and other faculty

Kent State University, Department of Philosophy, Kent, OH (August 2014—May 2015)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Instruction of students, grading, and other related duties to assist professors and other faculty

Kelly Educational Services, Clarksville, TN (December 2013—May 2014)

Substitute Teacher

Implementation of lesson plans, instruction of students, classroom management

Courses Taught

Syllabi are available upon request

Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction to Ethics

Presentations

2nd Annual Chicagoland Graduate Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago (Spring 2015)

Presenter, “The Sophist, Socrates, and the Philosopher”

Kent State University Graduate Symposium, Kent State University (Spring 2015)

Presenter, “Attachment and Suffering in Buddhism and Stoicism”

Indiana Philosophical Association, Indiana-Purdue University Fort Wayne (Fall 2014)

Commenter on Leigh C. Vicens’ “Objective Probabilities of Free Choice” (later published in *Res Philosophica* 93, no. 1 (2015): 1-11).

Academic Service

May 4th Philosophy Graduate Conference, Kent State University (August 2015—May 2016)

Program Coordinator

Evaluation of submitted papers, organization of conference and distribution of program, chairing speaker sessions, general logistics

Academic Service (Continued)

Kent State University, Department of Philosophy (August 2015—May 2016)
Representative to the Graduate Studies Committee

May 4th Philosophy Graduate Conference, Kent State University (August 2014—May 2015)

Program Coordinator

Evaluation of submitted papers, organization of conference and distribution of program, chairing speaker sessions, general logistics

Students for Secular Humanism, Austin Peay State University (Fall 2011)

Secretary

Maintenance of organizational records, taking of meeting minutes, planning and participation in group events and discussions

Academic Awards

Nathaniel Dempsey Memorial Award, Philosophy, Austin Peay State University (Spring 2012)

Outstanding Philosophy Student, Austin Peay State University (Spring 2012)

Volunteer Experience

Inquiring Minds Summer Debate Camp, International Institute of Akron, Akron, OH (June 2016)

Debate Coach

Lead and facilitate a small group of middle school students during a two-week summer debate camp; Certified debate judge

References

Dr. Deborah Smith, Associate Professor of Philosophy (Thesis Advisor)
Department of Philosophy, Kent State University
330-672-0275, dcsmith1@kent.edu

Dr. David Pereplyotchik, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Kent State University
330-672-2315, dpereply@kent.edu

Dr. Michael Byron, Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Kent State University
330-672-0273, mbyron@kent.edu