

PHONE: +1 202-994-8684  
EMAIL: aarcher@gwu.edu  
WEBSITE: www.averyarcher.com  
BLOG: www.thespaceofreasons.blogspot.com

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
554 ROME HALL  
801 22<sup>nd</sup> St. NW, T-252  
WASHINGTON, DC 20052

---

## EMPLOYMENT

**The George Washington University**, District of Columbia, United States  
**Assistant Professor**, Department of Philosophy (2016 – present)

**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**, Tennessee, United States  
**Assistant Professor**, Department of Philosophy (2013 – 2015)

## EDUCATION

**Columbia University**, New York, United States  
**Ph.D.:** Philosophy (2013)  
**Dissertation:** *The Rational Significance of Desire*  
**Committee:** Katja Maria Vogt, Susanna Siegel, and Christopher Peacocke

**Columbia University**, New York, United States  
**M.Phil.:** Philosophy (2011)  
**Supervisor:** Katja Maria Vogt

**University of St Andrews**, Scotland, United Kingdom  
**M.Phil.:** Philosophy (2008)  
**Thesis:** *McDowell, Gettier, and the Bipartite Account of Perceptual Knowledge*  
**Supervisors:** Crispin Wright and Duncan Pritchard

**Harvard University, The Divinity School**, Massachusetts, United States  
**M.A.:** Theological Studies (2002)  
**Supervisors:** Diana Eck and David Lamberth

**Andrews University, Caribbean Union College**, Trinidad, West Indies  
**B.A.:** Theology, *magna cum laude* (2000)  
**Senior Thesis:** *The Cameo of God in Cartesian Epistemology*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Areas of Specialisation**      Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology

**Areas of Competence**      Moral Psychology, Normativity Theory, Logic

## PUBLICATIONS

**Are Desires Beliefs about Normative Reasons?** (forthcoming) *Analytic Philosophy*.

**Agnosticism, Inquiry, and Unanswerable Questions** (2019) *Disputatio* **11** (53):63-88.

**Wondering about What You Know** (2018) *Analysis* **78** (4): 596-604.

**Trying Cognitivism: A Defence of the Strong Belief Thesis** (2018) *Theoria* **84** (2): 140-156.

**Do We Need Partial Intentions?** (2017) *Philosophia* **45** (3): 995-1005.

**Do Desires Provide Reasons?** (2016) *Philosophical Studies* **173** (8): 2011-2027.

**Reconceiving Direction of Fit** (2015) *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy* **4** (2): 171-180.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

**Inquiry as Epistemic Improvement**, currently under review.

**Is Intending Really Believing?** currently under review.

**Suspension Pragmatism**, currently under review.

## PRESENTATIONS

### **Inquiry as Epistemic Improvement**

(49) *Departmental Colloquia*, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY, November 2019.†

(48) *Departmental Colloquia*, Portland State University, Portland, OR, November 2019.†

(47) *Philosophy Brown Bag*, George Washington University, Washington, DC, November 2019.

### **Does Agnosticism Entail Inquiry?**

(46) *Northwest Philosophy Conference*, Pacific University, Portland, OR, November 2019.

### **Are Desires Beliefs about Normative Reasons?**

(45) *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Cincinnati, OH, March 2019.†

### **Acceptance Cognitivism**

(44) *Virginia Philosophical Association 79 Annual Meeting*, Marymount University, Arlington, VA, October 2018.

(43) *Northwest Philosophy Conference*, Bellevue College, Bellevue, WA, October 2018.

(42) *Ohio Philosophical Association Annual Meeting*, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, April 2018.

(41) *North Carolina Philosophical Society Conference*, Winthrop University, Winthrop, SC, March 2018.

### **Reconceiving Cognitivism**

(40) *Fordham Epistemology and Ethics Workshop*, Fordham University, New York, NY, September 2018.†

(39) *Alabama Philosophical Society*, Pensacola Beach, FL, September 2018.

(38) *Philosophy Department Workshop*, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA, February 2018.†

### **Cognitivism and the Aim of Desire**

(37) *Agency, Rationality and Value Conference*, University Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain, November 2017.

### **Wondering about What You Know**

(36) *Indiana Philosophical Association*, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, November 2017.

(35) *Alabama Philosophical Society*, Pensacola Beach, FL, September 2017.

(34) *Philosophy Brown Bag*, George Washington University, Washington, DC, September 2017.

### **Agnosticism and Inquiry**

(33) *Philosophy Brown Bag*, George Washington University, Washington, DC, April 2017.

(32) *Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, June 2017.†

### **Do or Do Not, There is No Withholding**

(31) *University of Vermont Philosophy Colloquium*, Burlington, VT, March 2017.†

(30) *Philosophy Brown Bag*, George Washington University, Washington, DC, November 2016.

(29) *Midwest Epistemology Workshop*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, September 2016.†

### **Do We Need Partial Intentions?**

- (28) *University of Albany Philosophy Colloquium*, Albany, New York, February 2016.†
- (27) *University of South Carolina Colloquium Talk*, Columbia, SC, February 2016.†

### **Theoretical Approaches to Dual-Plan Cases**

- (26) *Great Plains Philosophy Symposium*, Lawrence, Kansas, October 2015.

### **On the Nonexistence of Practical Withholding**

- (25) *Faculty Research Seminar*, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, October 2015.

### **How to Distinguish Between Theoretical and Practical Attitudes**

- (24) *Departmental Colloquia*, George Washington University, Washington, DC, December 2014.†
- (23) *Faculty Research Seminar*, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, November 2014.

### **What is Direction of Fit?**

- (22) *Midsouth Philosophy Conference*, Memphis, TN, March 2015.
- (21) *Intentionality Conference*, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium, December 2014.
- (20) *Southwestern Philosophical Society*, Lawrence, KS, October 2014.
- (19) University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, February 2014.†

### **Do Desires Provide Reasons? An Argument Against the Cognitivist Strategy**

- (18) *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting*, Vancouver, Canada, April 2015.
- (17) *The Eight European Congress of Analytic Philosophy*, University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania, August 2014.
- (16) *The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Western Canadian Philosophical Association*, Winnipeg, MB, October 2013.

### **Making Sense of Direction of Fit**

- (15) *Faculty Research Seminar*, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, February 2014.

### **Do Desires Provide Rational Guidance?**

- (14) *The University of Missouri, St Louis Gateway Conference*, University of Missouri, St Louis, MO, April 2013.
- (13) *The University of Waterloo Philosophy Graduate Conference*, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, Canada, March 2013.
- (12) *Knowledge and Action Conference*, University of Calgary, Alberta, CA, March 2013.
- (11) University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, February 2013.†

### **Competing Aims: Velleman vs. the Guise of the Good**

- (10) *Rocky Mountain Philosophy Conference*, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, April 2012.
- (9) *The Princeton-Rutgers Philosophy Graduate Conference*, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, March 2012.

### **Argumentation and Informal Fallacies**

- (8) *Red Wing Kiwanis Club Invited Talk*, Red Wing, MN, March 2012.†

### **Unpacking the Guise of the Good Theory of Desires**

- (7) *The 2011 Intermountain West Graduate Philosophy Conference*, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, April 2011.  
(6) *The University of Waterloo Philosophy Graduate Conference*, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON, April 2011.

### **Moral Responsibility and Moral Luck: A Defence of the Control Principle**

- (5) *Philosophy Department Colloquium*, Carleton College, Northfield, MN, January 2011.†

### **Evaluation without Hyper-intellectualisation**

- (4) *The 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial University of Washington Graduate Student Philosophy Conference*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, November 2009.

### **Desires as Sub-agential Evaluations of the Good**

- (3) *Philosophical & Psychological Issues Conference*, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL, September 2009.

### **Desires as Sub-agential Perspectives on the Good**

- (2) *Action, Agency and Explanation Conference*, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, May 2009.

### **Dreams, Solar Flares and Supernovas: A Reply to Moore's Linguistic Objection to Scepticism**

- (1) *The Raasay Philosophy Reading Party*, University of St Andrews, Scotland, October 2005.

‘†’ =<sub>df</sub> invited

## COMMENTARY

### **On Kintz's "Acting Together"**

- (7) *Northwest Philosophy Conference*, Pacific University, Portland, OR, November 2019.

### **On Lee's "Inquiring into What You Believe?"**

- (6) *The Pacific American Philosophical Association*, Vancouver, CA, April 2019.

### **On Falvey's "Against the Ubiquity of Trying in Action"**

- (5) *The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference*, Bellevue, WA, October 2018.

### **On Harman's "Ethics is Hard! What Follows?"**

- (4) *Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference*, Bellingham, WA, August 2015.

**On Sussman's "Is Agent-Regret Rational?"**

(3) *Midsouth Philosophy Conference*, Memphis, TN, March 2015.

**On Pollon's "Is There a Difference Between Primitive Agency and Mere Behaviour?"**

(2) *Western Canadian Philosophical Association*, Winnipeg, MB, October 2013.

**On Bengson's "Practical Perception"**

(1) *Imperative Aspects of Perception Conference*, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, August 2013.

## TEACHING

**Assistant Professor**, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

*Advanced Analytic Philosophy* (Fall 2019); *Epistemology* (Fall 2019)

*Ethics of Belief* (Fall 2018); *Logic* (Fall 2018)

*Theory of Knowledge* (Spring 2018); *Topics in Epistemology* (Spring 2018)

*Analytic Philosophy* (Fall 2017); *Logic* (Fall 2017)

*Epistemology* (Spring 2017); *Advanced Philosophy of Mind* (Spring 2017)

*Mind, Brain, and Artificial Intelligence* (Fall 2016); *Proseminar* (Fall 2016)

*Theory of Knowledge* (Spring 2016); *Analytic Philosophy* (Spring 2016)

**Assistant Professor**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

*Mind and Action* (Fall 2015); *Logic* (Fall 2015)

*Philosophy of Mind* (Spring 2015); *Logic* (Spring 2015)

*Desire & Intention* (Fall 2014); *Epistemology* (Fall 2014)

*Epistemology* (Spring 2014); *Logic* (Spring 2014)

*Action Theory* (Fall 2013); *Logic* (Fall 2013)

**Visiting Instructor**, Carleton College, Northfield, MN

*Logic* (Fall 2011); *Epistemology* (Spring 2012)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Journal Refereeing**

(13) *Philosophia*, 2019-present.

(12) *Philosophical Quarterly*, 2019-present.

(11) *Nous*, 2018-present.

(10) *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 2018-present.

(9) *Analysis*, 2017-present.

(8) *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 2016-present.

- (7) *Social Theory and Practice*, 2016-present.
- (6) *Dialectica*, 2015-present.
- (5) *The American Philosophical Quarterly*, 2015-present.
- (4) *Ratio: An International Journal of Analytic Philosophy*, 2015-present.
- (3) *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 2014-present.
- (2) *Synthese: An International Journal for Epistemology*, 2013 – present.
- (1) *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*, 2013-present.

### **Conference/Competition Refereeing**

- (5) *Thacher-Reynolds Fellowship*, George Washington University, 2018.
- (4) *Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference*, Western Washington University, 2015.
- (3) *Hardwig Prize Essay Competition*, University of Tennessee, 2015.
- (2) *Richard Aquilla Prize Essay Competition*, University of Tennessee, 2015.
- (1) *Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference*, Columbia University, 2008-2013.

### **Conference Organizing**

- (4) *George Washington University Thacher Lectures*, George Washington University, 2017.
- (3) *Tennessee Value and Agency Conference*, University of Tennessee, 2015.
- (3) *Carleton College Undergraduate Philosophy Colloquium*, Carleton College, 2011.
- (2) *Anscombe Reading Group*, Columbia University, 2008.
- (1) *Philosophy of Perception Reading Group*, University of St Andrews, 2006.

### **Conference Chairing**

- (4) *Practical Reasons Conference*, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2016.
- (3) *Tennessee Value and Agency Conference*, University of Tennessee, 2015.
- (2) *American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting*, 2015.
- (1) *Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network*, Syracuse University, 2013.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

*American Philosophical Association*

*Minorities and Philosophy*

*People of Color in Philosophy*

*Society for Philosophy of Agency*

*Society of Young Black Philosophers*