

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**DR. WILLIAM S. WILKERSON**

UAH Honors College  
Frank Franz Hall 104  
University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Huntsville, AL 35899

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**EDUCATION:**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1992-1997 | <b>Ph.D.</b> , August 1997, Purdue University.<br><b>Dissertation:</b> <i>The Ends of Behavior: Contemporary Cognitive Science, Merleau-Ponty, and the Interpretation of Behavior</i> . Calvin O. Schrag (chair), Lilly-Marlene Russow, Dorothy Leland, Rod Bertolet |
| 1986-1990 | <b>B.A.</b> , Willamette University, <i>Magna cum Laude</i> .                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:**

20th Century Continental Philosophy and Political Philosophy  
Philosophy of Gender

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE:**

History of Modern Philosophy  
Philosophy of Mind  
Critical Social Theory

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS:**

Liberal Arts Outstanding Faculty Member, 2009-2010.  
Liberal Arts Research Incentive Grant, 2006  
UAH Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award, 2003.  
Student Government Assoc. Outstanding Liberal Arts Faculty Award, 1999-2000.  
NEH Summer Seminar Participant, St. Louis, Summer 1999. Seminar topic: Folk Psychology and Simulation. Director: Robert Gordon.  
UAH Mini-Grant for Research, Summer 1998. Topic: Developing a Concept of Mind from a Concept of Intention.  
Andrews Fellowship, Purdue University, 1992-94

**APPOINTMENTS:**

|                |                                                                                                          |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2014 - present | Dean, UAH Honors College                                                                                 |
| 2011 - 2014    | Chair, Philosophy Department, University of Alabama in Huntsville                                        |
| 2010 - present | Professor of Philosophy, University of Alabama in Huntsville                                             |
| 2003 - 2010    | Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Alabama in Huntsville                                   |
| 2001 - 2005    | Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Alabama in Birmingham School of Medicine, Huntsville Campus. |
| 1997 - 2003    | Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Alabama in Huntsville                                   |
| 1997 (summer)  | Adjunct Faculty, University of Indiana at Kokomo                                                         |
| 1995-97        | Teaching Assistant, Purdue University                                                                    |

**ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING:**

ACE Leadership Academy for Department Chairs, January 2013

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Inaugural Dean of Honors College (formerly an Honors Program)
- Created all new policies for Honors College
- Created Honors Curriculum consisting of core seminar, Introduction to Honors (research methods course), and worked with other colleges to double range of Honors Courses offered, from courses in 15 subjects to over 30 subjects.
- Created new Honors Seminar program, raising number of Honors interdisciplinary seminars from 2 per AY to 10 per AY. Highlights include Robot Ethics, Prototyping with Raspberry Pi, Philosophy of Star Wars, Yoga: Philosophy and Practice.
- Developed major- and college-specific Honors curriculum.
- Created undergraduate research grant program.
- Created programs to increase student success. Reduced number of Honors Students dropped from Honors College due to low GPA by almost 50% in first two years.
- Developed new recruiting measures. Nearly doubled the size of the Honors freshman cohort and raised their average GPA and median ACT.
- Developed student leadership program and service opportunities.
- Created Faculty Fellow program to bring faculty into Honors
- Increased alumni donations and began alumni affinity group.
- Worked with private donor to secure a \$1 million donation to establish a more rigorous Honors curriculum supported by scholarships.
- Created assessment programs to ensure quality of instruction, and support program.
- Worked with Office of Housing to create an Honors Residential experience.
- Created Community Leader program to establish student leadership in events and programming.
- Created graduate fellowship advisor position and office.
- Automated data and enrollment processes, made all credit approval forms electronic.

**COURSES TAUGHT:**

Ethics; Engineering Ethics; Biomedical Ethics; Introduction to Philosophy; Contemporary philosophy: Consciousness, Embodiment, World; Contemporary Philosophy: Modernism and Postmodernism; Contemporary Philosophy: Temporality, Subjectivity and Freedom in the Existentialist Tradition; Junior Research Seminar; Feminist Philosophy; Advanced Moral Philosophy: Marxism, Anarchy, Utopia; Honors Seminar: Biology and Culture: Shaping Persons and Personality (with Dr. William Garstka, Biology Dept.), Ancient Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Contemporary Political Thought, Metaphysics of Time and Freedom

**PUBLICATIONS:****BOOKS:**

*Beauvoir and Western Thought from Plato to Butler*. Co-editor with Shannon Mussett. SUNY Press, October 2012. Paper edition, June 2013.

*Ambiguity and Sexuality: A Theory of Sexual Identity*. Palgrave-Macmillan, May 2007. Paper edition, March 2010.

*New Critical Theory: Essays on Liberation*, co-editor with Jeffrey Paris, September 2001. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

**ARTICLES:**

"Beauvoir and Merleau-Ponty on Situated Freedom and Meaning," invited contribution for *Blackwell Companion to Beauvoir*. 2018.

"Merleau-Ponty the Metaphysician" in 2012 SPEP Proceedings, *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 2013.

"What Is Sexual Orientation?" for *The Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Raja Halwani, Nicholas Power, and Alan Soble, eds. Rowman and Littlefield, Spring 2013.

"A Different Kind of Universality: Beauvoir and Kant on Ethical Universals" in *Simone de Beauvoir Engages the Philosophers: Essays on Beauvoir's Engagement with Western Thought*, November 2012.

"Editors Introduction" (co-authored with Shannon Mussett) in *Simone de Beauvoir Engages the Philosophers: Essays on Beauvoir's Engagement with Western Thought*, November 2012.

"Introduction to Beauvoir's 'Merleau-Ponty and Pseudo-Sartreanism'" for *Simone de Beauvoir: Political Writings* edited by Margaret A. Simons and Marybeth Timmerman, University of Illinois Press, September 2012.

"Is it a Choice? Sexual Orientation as Interpretation" forthcoming in *Queer Philosophy: Proceedings of the Society for Lesbian and Gay Philosophy 1998-2008*, Raja Halwani, Carole Quinn and Andy Wible, editors. Rudopi Press, November 2012. This paper is an abridged version of the paper of the same title that appears in *Journal of Social Philosophy*.

"The Paradox of Time and the Will in Kant, Existentialism and Derrida" in 2009 SPEP Proceedings, *Philosophy Today*, Fall 2010.

"Neo-Liberalism, Bio-Discipline and Cultural Critique, Commentary on Ladelle McWhorter's *Feminism, Reprogenetics, and Foucault's Analysis of Neoliberalism*" for 2009 Spindel Conference Proceedings in *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*.

"Time and Ambiguity: Reassessing Merleau-Ponty's Criticism of Sartrean Freedom" *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, April 2010.

"In the World but not of the World: The Relation of Freedom to Time in Kant and Sartre," *Epoché*, Fall 2009.

"Religious Identity in the Realist Classroom" *Identity in Education*, edited by Susan Sanchez-Cassal and Amie McDonald, Palgrave-Macmillan, May 2009.

"Is it a Choice? Sexual Orientation as Interpretation" *Journal of Social Philosophy*, December 2009.

"What Is Gay and Lesbian Philosophy?" by Gary Jaeger, James Stramel, Richard Nunan, William S. Wilkerson, and Timothy Murphy, with a brief introduction by Raja Halwani. *Metaphilosophy*, vol. 39, nos. 4-5, October 2008. Sole author of section, "Social Constructionism and Essentialism."

"Inhabiting Hope: Contributions to a New Materialist Phenomenology" in *New Critical Theory: Essays on Liberation*, September 2001.

"Introduction: Why a New Critical Theory?" with Jeffrey Paris in *New Critical Theory: Essays on Liberation*, September 2001.

"Simulation, Theory, and the Frame Problem: The Interpretive Moment." *Philosophical Psychology*, June 2001.

"Is There Something You Need to Tell Me? Coming Out and the Ambiguity of Experience" in *Reclaiming Identity: Realist Theory and the Predicament of Postmodernism*, Paula Moya and Michael Hames-Garcia, eds. University of California Press, 2000.

"Knowledge of Self, Knowledge of Others, Error, and the Place of Consciousness." *Continental Philosophy Review*, January 2000.

"From Bodily Motions to Bodily Intentions: The Perception of Bodily Activity" *Philosophical Psychology*, March 1999.

"Real Patterns and Real Problems: Making Dennett Respectable on Patterns and Beliefs" *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, December 1997.

#### WEB-BASED SYMPOSIA:

Gender, Race and Philosophy: The Blog. Contributed Commentary for Spring 2010 Symposium on Ladelle McWhorter's *Racism and Sexual Oppression in Anglo-America*. Stable URL: <http://sgrp.typepad.com/sgrp/spring-2010-symposium-mcwhorter.html>

#### REVIEWS:

"Michelle Darnell's *The Self in the Theoretical Writings of Kant and Sartre*" forthcoming in *Sartre Studies*.

"The Quest for Objectivity in Husserl," review of Jan Potacka's *An Introduction to Husserl's Phenomenology*, *Human Studies*, 23, March 2000.

Jan Potacka's *Body, Community, Language, World*, booknote for Ethics.

Jan Potacka's *Heretical Essays in the History of Philosophy*, booknote for Ethics.

"Communism and Homosexuality," literature review for the *Reader's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Studies*, Fitzroy Dearborn Press.

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**

"Structure, Temporality, and Interiority in Merleau-Ponty's Theory of Consciousness" under review at *Continental Philosophy Review*

The appearance of meaning in Beauvoir and Merleau-Ponty. Requested essay for Blackwell Companion to Beauvoir. Under contract, manuscript in preparation.

"Association, Synthesis, Holism: Explaining the Continuity of Conscious Experience" Manuscript in development.

"Merleau-Ponty's Theory of Freedom" Essay manuscript in preparation

**PAPERS PRESENTED:****INVITED:**

"Becoming and Complexity: Hengehold on Beauvoir and Deleuze," Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Conference, October 2018, Penn State

"Commentary: Contaminating the Transcendental," Anthony Fernandez (Graduate Student Prize Award), Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Annual Conference 2014, New Orleans

"Commentary: Darwin's Invisible Hand: Feminism, Reproductive Genetics, and Foucault's Analysis of Neoliberalism," Ladelle McWhorter for 2009 Spindel Conference, Memphis

*Ambiguity and Sexuality: A symposium in the philosophy of Sexual Identity.* Two-day symposium presenting a critical response to my book, *Ambiguity and Sexuality*. University of San Francisco, February 2008. Two presentations: "A Defense of Ambiguity" and "Why do They Hate Us So Much? Towards a Genealogy of Religious Homophobia"

"Choosing desire, choosing identity: Freedom, Determinism and Sexual Orientation," Invited Symposia on Queer Issues and Philosophy. Pacific Division APA, March 2007

"Kant and Sartre," book session on Michelle Darnell's *Self in the Theoretical Writings of Sartre and Kant: A Revisionist Study*, North American Sartre Society, October 2006.

"What Will Ethics Teach Me," University of Alabama in Birmingham, School of Optometry, November 2004

"Between Two Columns: Erotic Freedom and Truth in *The Motion of Light in Water*," Future of Minority Studies Conference, Cornell University, June 2004

**REVIEWED:**

"Taking the Ontological Road all the Way: Merleau-Ponty's Living Body as a Plurality of Forces." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Rochester, November 2012.

"Beauvoir's Different Kind of Universality: Beauvoir and Kant on Universal Ethics." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Montreal, November 2010.

"The Paradox of Time and the Will in Kant, Existentialism and Derrida." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, November 2009.

"Time and Ambiguity: Reassessing Merleau-Ponty on Sartrean Freedom." Eastern Division APA, December 2008.

"Choosing Desire, Choosing Identity" Eastern Division APA, December 2005

"Locating Sexual Liberation," Radical Philosophy Association North American Conference, Howard University, November 2004.

"Beauvoir's Sexual Attitudes," North American Sartre Society Conference, Purdue, Indiana, September 2003.

Commentary, Pacific Division APA, San Francisco, March 2003.

Panelist: "New Critical Theory," Pacific Division APA, March 2002.

Respondent, Society for Lesbian and Gay Philosophy meeting, Eastern Division APA, December 2001.

"Coming Out and the Ambiguity of Experience." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Conference, Eugene, October 1999.

"Knowledge of Self, Knowledge of Others, Error, and the Place of Consciousness." Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, March 1999.

Respondent, "The Tension Between Self-Identity, Renewal and Critique in Husserl's Phenomenology," Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, March 1999.

"Self-knowledge, Other-Knowledge, Error, and the Place of Consciousness." Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Denver, October 1998.

"How Do We Know What We Know? Coming Out and Problems of Self-Knowledge and Knowledge of Others." SLGP Group Session, Central APA, May 1998.

"Functionalist Consciousness from the First Person Point of View" at "Toward a Science of Consciousness (Tucson III)," Tucson, April 1998.

"From Bodily Motions to Intentions," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, April 1998.

"From Bodily Motions to Intentions," Alabama Philosophical Society, Auburn University, November 1997.

"A Phenomenology of Another's Intentions," Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Conference, October 1997.

"A Phenomenology of Another's Intentions," Mid-South Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, March 1997.

Respondent, "Minds, Machines, and Gödel" by Randall Ridenour, Mid-South Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, March 1997.

"Bodily Socialization and the Limits of Habermasian Theory," Radical Philosophers Association International Conference, Purdue, November 1996.

"The Limits of the Theory-Theory," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Conference, Nashville, April 1996.

"How to Generate a Pattern: Dennett on Patterns and Beliefs," Society for Philosophy and Psychology, SUNY Stony Brook, June 1995.

"Habermas and Feminism," Purdue Women's Studies Symposium, April 1995.

"Why Be Moral? Kant on the Fact of Reason," Graduate Student Colloquium, Purdue, February 1995.

"Levinas's Phenomenology of Eros," Sixth Annual North American Gay and Lesbian Studies Conference, University of Iowa, November 1994.

"Real Patterns and Real Problems: Dennett on Beliefs," Indiana Philosophical Association, Butler University, October 1994.

"Can Dasein Watch TV? Heidegger and Television," Purdue University Cultural Studies Collective, March 1993.

## **SERVICE:**

### **UNIVERSITY:**

Chair, College of Nursing Dean Search Committee Spring 2021-present

Chair, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Dean Search Committee, Fall 2017-Spring 2018 (Successful search)

Chair, Deans' *Ad Hoc* Committee on Standardized Testing, Fall 2020

Chair, Deans' *Ad Hoc* Committee on Advising, Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Chair, Internal Review Board for Human Subjects Research, Fall 2015 – Spring 2017

Clear the Path Committee, 2015-2017

Quality Enhancement Planning Committee for SACSCOC Accreditation, 2014-2015.

Provost Search Committee, 2013

Chair, ad-hoc committee to form a BA in Humanities and Sciences, Fall 2012-Spring 2013

President's Planning Steering Committee, Spring 2012-Fall 2012

Chair, Curriculum Committee, Fall 2010-Fall 2011

Faculty Advisor, Student GLTB Group, Fall 2009-Spring 2010

Chair, Hearing Committee of Faculty Appeals Committee, November 2007-May 2008

Search Committee, Department of Music, Piano Instructor, Fall 2007

Search Committee, Department of Music, Choral Conductor, Fall 2007

RELACS, Spring 2007

Foundation Teaching Awards Distinguished Teaching Lecture, Fall 2006

Foundation Teaching Awards Committee, 2006, 2007

Faculty Appeals Committee, 2006-2007. Chaired Hearing Committee in Fall 2007-Spring 2008.

Promotion and Tenure Advisory Committee for Liberal Arts, Fall 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010

Liberal Arts Graduation Auditor, Fall 2004.

Chair, University Internal Review Board for Ethical Treatment of Human Subjects, Fall 2003-2008.

Faculty Advisor, UAH PRISM (Student GLB Group), Spring 2004-Spring 2005.

Coordinator, Visiting Eminent Professor Program, Spring 2004. (Visiting Scholar: Charles Mills)

Humanities Center Steering Committee Member, Fall 2003-present.

University Ombudsperson, Fall 2003 – Spring 2004.

Faculty Senate, Fall 1999 – 2001, Fall 2002-present.

Governance and Operations Committee, Fall 1999 – 2001, Fall 2002-Spring 2003.

Day of Discovery Sample College Course, November 2000, April 2001



Women's Studies Program Advisory Committee, Spring 1999 – Spring 2001.

Coordinator, Philosophy Forum, Fall 2001.

Honors Program Council, Fall 1998-Spring 2002.

Faculty Advisor, UAH-HOPE (Student Lesbian and Gay group), Fall 1998-Fall 2000.

"Feminist Epistemology" guest lecture for WS 200 (repeated occasions).

"What is Ethics?" Lecture for Nur. 500, Issues In Organ Transplantation, June, 1998.

Member, Cultural Events Committee, Spring 1998-Spring 2000.

Faculty Representative, SGA Elections Board, Spring 1998-Spring 1999.

"What Makes Feminist Philosophy Feminist and Philosophy?" Talk for UAH Women's Studies Colloquium, March 1998.

"Consciousness From the Inside-Out and Outside-In" RELACS Presentation for UAH, March 1998.

Co-coordinator (with Dr. Hanks) of the Philosophy Forum for Fall 1998.

Hiring Committee, Philosophy Department, Fall 1997.

Director of Library Acquisitions for Philosophy Department at UAH, Fall 1997-Spring 2001.

**PROFESSIONAL:**

Member, Sub-Committee for Sexual Diversity, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), Fall 2010-2013. Chair of Committee for AY 2012-2013.

Member, Ad Hoc Committee for Governance, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), Fall 2011-Fall 2012

Editor, APA Newsletter for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Philosophy, Spring 2011 – Fall 2013

Treasurer, Co-Creator, and Webmaster for the *Pluralists' Guide to Philosophy*.  
[www.pluralistsguide.org](http://www.pluralistsguide.org), 2009- present

Ad hoc Reviewer for

*British Journal for the History of Philosophy*

*Hypatia*

*Journal of Moral Philosophy*

*Radical Philosophy Review*

*PhiloSOPHIA*

*Philosophical Psychology*

*Philosophy Compass*

*Social Theory and Practice*

*Southern Journal of Philosophy*

Ad hoc Reviewer for

Routledge Books

Chair, SLGP Group session at Pacific Division APA, Portland, 2006

Judge, Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry Student Award in Clinical Ethics (a national essay contest for optometry students) Spring 2005

Program Committee, Radical Philosophy Association, Fall 2002.

Panel Moderator for "Critical Theory and Technology," Third Radical Philosophy Conference, Loyola University, November 2000.

"I'm Gay and I Got a Job" published in the Society for Lesbian and Gay Philosophy Newsletter, Fall 1997.

Panel Moderator for "Understanding Latina Identity," conference on U.S. Latina Feminism, Cornell University, October 1995. Panel Participants: Paula L. Moya, Linda Martin-Alcoff.

**COMMUNITY:**

"Ethics for Lawyers," talk for Alabama Bar Association: Consumer Law and Insolvency Issues Seminar, December 2006

President of the Board of Directors of the Aids Action Coalition, Huntsville, AL, 2001-2003.  
Board Member from 2000-2005.

Ethics Consultant, Ethics Committee of the Columbia Medical Center of Huntsville, 1997-2003.