

JOHN CORVINO

Department of Philosophy
Wayne State University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1998 The University of Texas at Austin
Dissertation: Hume's Moral Realism (dir. A.P. Martinich)

B.A. 1990 *cum laude*, St. John's University, New York

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics (including applied ethics), Early Modern Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Religion, Social and Political Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS:

Books Edited:

Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science, and Culture of Homosexuality, edited and with an introduction by John Corvino, (Rowman & Littlefield, 1997).

Articles:

"Reframing 'Morality Pays': Toward a Better Answer to 'Why be Moral?' in Business," forthcoming in the *Journal of Business Ethics*.

"Homosexuality, Harm, and Moral Principles," forthcoming in Laurence Thomas, ed., *Contemporary Debates in Social Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2006).

"By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them: Homosexuality, Biblical Revisionism, and the Relevance of Experience," forthcoming in *Remapping the Humanities: Identity, Memory, Community, and (post)Modernity* (Wayne State University Press, 2006).

"Homosexuality and the PIB Argument," *Ethics* 115 (April 2005), pp. 501-534.

"Loyalty in Business?" *Journal of Business Ethics* vol. 41 (November/December 2002), pp. 179-185.

"Naughty Fantasies," *Southwest Philosophy Review*, Vol. 18, Number 1 (January 2002), pp. 213-220.

"Homosexuality and the Moral Relevance of Experience," in Hugh LaFollette, ed., *Ethics in Practice*, 2nd ed., (Blackwell, 2001), pp. 241-250.

"Justice for Glenn and Stacy: On Gender, Morality, and Gay Rights," in James P. Sterba, ed., *Social and Political Philosophy: Contemporary Perspectives* (Routledge, 2001) pp. 300-318.

"Analyzing Gender," *Southwest Philosophy Review*, Vol. 17, Number 1 (January 2001), pp. 173-180.

“Why Shouldn’t Tommy and Jim Have Sex: A Defense of Homosexuality,” originally in John Corvino, ed., *Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science, and Culture of Homosexuality*, (Rowman & Littlefield, 1997), pp. 3-16; reprinted in James E. White, ed., *Contemporary Moral Problems*, 7th ed. (Wadsworth, 2002), pp. 308-318, and 8th ed. (2006), pp. 266-277; and in Mark Timmons, ed., *Disputed Moral Issues* (Oxford University Press, 2005); and in Bruce N. Waller, ed., *You Decide! Current Debates in Contemporary Moral Problems* (Pearson Longman, 2006), pp. 131-138; revised and reprinted as “Homosexuality: The Nature and Harm Arguments,” in Alan Soble, ed. *The Philosophy of Sex*, 4th ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2002), pp. 135-146; and in Terence Ball and Richard Dagger, eds., *Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader* 4th ed. (Longman, 2002), pp. 373-381, 5th ed. (2003), and 6th ed. (2005). Revised and reprinted in part in Robert C. Solomon, *Introducing Philosophy* 7th ed. (Harcourt College Publishers, 2000), pp. 571-574, and 8th ed. (2004), pp. 591-594; and in Thomas A. Mappes and Jane S. Zembaty, eds., *Social Ethics: Morality and Social Policy* 6th edition (McGraw Hill, 2002), pp. 189-196, and 7th edition, forthcoming.

“Hosmer and the ‘Why be Moral?’ Question,” with Bill Shaw, *Business Ethics Quarterly* Volume 6, Issue 3 (1996), pp. 373-383.

“How Not to Argue for Gay Rights,” in Juha Räikkä, ed., *Do We Need Minority Rights?: Conceptual Issues* (Kluwer Law International, 1996), pp. 215-235.

Book Reviews and Shorter Articles:

Entry on “Homosexuality, Ethics of,” in Alan Soble, ed., *Sex from Plato to Paglia: A Philosophical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2005), pp. 460-468.

Entry on “Orientation, Sexual,” in Alan Soble, ed., *Sex from Plato to Paglia: A Philosophical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2005), pp. 728-734.

Entry on “Social Constructionism,” in Alan Soble, ed., *Sex from Plato to Paglia: A Philosophical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2005), p. 1026-1033.

“Why Baby Gauvin is Not a Victim,” *The Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide*, Vol IX., No. 6 (November-December 2002), pp. 25-26; reprinted in *Deaf Life* (forthcoming).

“Review of Edward Stein’s *The Mismeasure of Desire*,” *Philosophical Quarterly* Vol. 52 No. 208 (July 2002), pp. 421-422.

“No Slippery Slope,” *The Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide*, Vol. VII, No. 3 (Summer 2000), pp. 37-40. Reprinted as “Should Society Accept Homosexuality?,” in Auriana Ojeda, ed., *Homosexuality: Opposing Viewpoints* (Greenhaven Press, 2004), pp. 86-94.

“Review of Hugh LaFollette’s *Personal Relationships: Love, Identity, and Morality*,” *Philosophical Quarterly* Vol. 48 No. 190 (January 1998), pp. 110-111.

“The Bible Condemned Usurers, Too,” *The Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review*, vol. III, no. 4 (Fall 1996), pp. 11-12; reprinted in *The Octopus*, Vol. III, No. 7 (February 21, 1997), pp. 6-7. Reprinted as “The Bible Does Not Necessarily Condemn Homosexuality,” in Auriana Ojeda, ed., *Homosexuality: Opposing Viewpoints* (Greenhaven Press, 2004), pp. 159-165.

DISSERTATION: Hume's Moral Realism (directed by A.P. Martinich)

For much of the twentieth century Hume has been interpreted as a non-cognitivist in his metaethics. I argue that this interpretation depends upon the conflation of three distinct elements in Hume's theory: moral qualities (vice and virtue) which exist in the objects evaluated; moral sentiments, which provide a non-cognitive and non-inferential means of grasping these moral qualities; and moral judgments, which are complex ideas about the presence of moral qualities. Attention to these distinctions reveals that Hume is best read as a moral realist who embraces a secondary-quality model for moral value. As such, he believes that there are true moral propositions, that their truth is to some extent independent of human beliefs, attitudes, and desires, and that, nevertheless, moral qualities cannot be understood apart from their effect on human perceivers. I defend this account against both exegetical objections by Hume scholars and substantive objections by contemporary moral realists and anti-realists; in the process, I show how Hume's account sheds some light on contemporary metaethical debates.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- Comments on Geoffrey Sayre-McCord's "Hume on Practical Morality and Inert Reason," 33rd Annual Hume Society Conference, Koblenz, Germany, August 10, 2006.
- "Homosexuality, Harm, and Moral Principles," Chinese University of Hong Kong, June 5, 2006.
- "Reframing 'Morality Pays': Toward a Better Answer to 'Why be Moral?' in Business"
Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (China), May 31, 2006.
Nanjing Audit University (China), May 29, 2006.
- "Comments on 'Gay Identity' Panel" (papers by Chris LaBarbera, Andy Wible, and William Wilkerson), American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern Division Meeting, Society for Gay and Lesbian Philosophy (SLGP) session, New York, NY, December 29, 2005.
- "How to Be a Humean Moral Realist," WSU Humanities Center, September 20, 2005.
- "Rose-colored Glasses and Tax Assessors: Comments on Michael Gill's 'Humean Comparison and the Analogy Between Color and Virtue,'" 32nd Annual Hume Society Conference, Toronto, Canada, July 21, 2005.
- "Hume's Hollow Reassurance?" APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, Illinois, April 29, 2005.
- "Homosexuality and the PIB Argument,"
Rice University, April 1, 2005.
Georgia State Philosophy Department and Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, March 25, 2004.
- "Moral Preferences,"
Philosophy Dialogue Series, Texas State University, October 29, 2004.
WSU Humanities Center, November 16, 2004.
- "Hume and the Secondary Quality Analogy," 31st Annual Hume Society Conference, Tokyo, Japan, August 2, 2004.
- "When Morality Doesn't Pay, Can Virtue Ethics Help?"
University of Texas Ethics Conference: Foundations for Ethical Education in a Post-Enron Age, April 16, 2004.
Grand Valley State University, October 30, 2003.
Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum Conference, Austin, Texas, October 25, 2003.

- “Homosexuality, Education, and Public Values”
Southwest Texas State University, April 10, 2003.
Wayne State University, March 21, 2003
- “Homosexuality, Usury, and Biblical Interpretation,” Wayne State University Religious Studies Conference,
October 25, 2002.
- “Hume on Miracles,” University of Turku, Finland, August 15, 2002.
- “Two Distinctions in Hume’s Moral Theory;”
29th Annual Hume Society Conference, Helsinki, Finland, August 9, 2002.
Central Michigan University, November 30, 2000.
University of Windsor, November 15, 2000.
Wayne State University, February 17, 2000.
California State University, Northridge, February 4, 2000.
- “Loyalty in Business,” International Conference Promoting Business Ethics, Chicago, IL, October 26, 2001.
- “Naughty Fantasies”
Wayne State University LGBT Issues Conference on Sexuality, October 26, 2002.
Cornell University, October 11, 2002.
Wayne State University Humanities Center, February 19, 2002
Southwestern Philosophical Association Meeting, Dallas, Texas, November 4, 2001.
APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago IL, April 27, 2002.
- “The Boy Scouts and Gay Rights,” Special Session of the APA Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and
Transgender People in the Profession, APA Central Division Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, May 5,
2001.
- Comments on Timothy Costelloe’s “Strawson’s Hume and Hume’s Moral Standards,” APA Central Division
Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, May 4, 2001.
- Comments on “What Must a Bisexual Do?” APA Eastern Division Meeting, SLGP session, New York, NY,
December 28, 2000.
- “Analyzing Gender,” Southwestern Philosophical Association Meeting, Austin, Texas, November 10, 2000.
- “First Gays, Then Polygamists?” presented to the Humanities Center at Wayne State University,
October 27, 2000; the philosophy department at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on
February 28, 2000; and to the APA Pacific Division Meeting SLGP Session, Albuquerque
NM, April 7, 2000.
- “Business Ethics and the ‘Why be Moral?’ Question,” Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting, Toronto,
Ontario, Canada, August 6, 2000.
- “Comments on Frederick Rauscher’s ‘Moral Realism and the Divine Essence in Hutcheson and Hume,’” Hume
Society Meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia, July 27, 2000.
- “Two Kinds of Moral Discovery in Hume,” American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division
Meeting, Chicago IL, April 22, 2000.
- “Comments on ‘Issues in Education’ Panel,” APA Eastern Division Meeting, SLGP Session, Boston
MA, December 28, 1999.

- “Hume the Intuitionist?” American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division Meeting, Berkeley CA, April 2, 1999.
- “Hume on the Color of Virtue,” APA Eastern Division Meeting, Washington DC, December 28, 1998.
A longer version of this paper was given at:
The University of Texas at Austin, December 4, 1998
Wayne State University, November 12, 1998.
- “Not by Reason Alone: Hume’s Response to Wollaston and Clarke in Treatise III.i.1”:
APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL, May 7, 1998.
Mountain Plains Philosophy Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, October 3, 1997.
- “What Hume Was Really Arguing in ‘Of Miracles’” APA Pacific Division Meeting, Berkeley, CA, April 1997.
- “Homosexuality and Biblical Interpretation”:
APA Central Division Meeting, Society for Lesbian and Gay Philosophy Session, Chicago, IL, April 25, 1996.
Coe College (IA), April 23, 1996.
- “A Matter of Sentiment, But Not Just a Matter of Taste: Hume and Moral Truth”:
APA Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle, April 5, 1996.
Mountain Plains Philosophy Conference, Santa Fe, October 27, 1995.
- “Hosmer and the ‘Why be Moral?’ Question,” Society for Business Ethics Meeting, Vancouver, August 4, 1995.

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES:

- “Born or Made—and What’s the Difference?”
Wayne State University Medical School, March 21, 2006.
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD, June 10, 2005.
- “Same-Sex Marriage: A Civil Debate”
Augustana College (with Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family), April 19, 2006.
Central Michigan University (with Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family), April 18, 2006.
Grand Valley State University (with Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family), February 15, 2006.
Wayne State University (with Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family), February 13, 2006.
Kingwood College (with Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family), November 7, 2005.
Hampden-Sydney College (with Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family), October 20, 2005.
Bar Harbor, Maine (with Rev. John Rankin of the Theological Education Institute), October 17, 2005.
South Texas College of Law (with Attorney John Stemberger), April 5, 2005.
Texas A&M University (with Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family), March 31, 2005.
Eastern Michigan University (with Patrick Gillen of the Thomas More Law Center), October 20, 2004.
Saginaw Valley State University (with Glenn Stanton of Focus on the Family), September 23, 2004.
Community College of Southern Nevada (with David Rowberry of the Las Vegas Institute of Religion), April 29, 2004.
Texas State University (with Randy Hicks of the Georgia Family Council), April 14, 2004.
Georgia State University Blumenfeld Center for Ethics (with Randy Hicks of the Georgia Family Council and Juliana Kubala of GSU’s Women’s Studies Institute), March 24, 2004.
- “Maintaining the Gay Moral High Ground”
Texas State University (Texas Out Conference Keynote), October 30, 2004.
Southern Methodist University, April 19, 2004.
Cornell University, November 13, 2003.

- University of Texas at Austin, October 23, 2003.
 P-FLAG Great Lakes Regional Conference (Pontiac, MI), October 18, 2003.
 Lawrence Livermore National Research Laboratory, June 10, 2003.
- “What’s Morally Wrong With Homosexuality?”
 Lake Superior State University (MI), March 9, 2006.
 Hofstra University (NY), January 27, 2006.
 St. Paul’s School (NH), January 26, 2006.
 Ripon College, December 1, 2005.
 Grand Valley State University (MI), October 11, 2005, October 29, 2003, February 27, 2003,
 November 29, 2001.
 University of Detroit-Mercy, April 18, 2005.
 SUNY Brockport, April 14, 2005.
 University of Iowa, April 13, 2005.
 Central Michigan University, April 7, 2005.
 Delta College, January 26, 2005.
 University of Texas-Dallas, November 11, 2004.
 Texas State University, October 30, 2004.
 Wayne State University (MI), March 1, 2000; March 25, 1999, February 20, 2002, October 19, 2004.
 University of Colorado-Denver, October 12, 2004.
 University of Missouri-Columbia, October 14, 2004.
 Muskegon Community College (MI), June 2, 2004, April 17, 2003.
 “Together in Faith” Conference, American Friends Service Committee, Ypsilanti, MI, May 22,
 2004.
 University of Texas-San Antonio, May 8, 2004.
 Michigan State University, April 22, 2004.
 Saginaw Valley State University (MI), April 21, 2004.
 Southwestern University (TX), October 23, 2003, April 13, 2000, October 12, 1995; November
 9, 1993.
 Grace Dow Library (Midland, MI), June 26, 2003.
 Southern Methodist University (TX), April 11, 2003, April 17, 1997.
 Southwest Texas State University, April 10, 2003.
 Penn State University, April 8, 2003.
 Temple University, April 7, 2003.
 First United Methodist Church, Ferndale, MI, December 10, 2002.
 Bowling Green State University (OH), November 5, 2002.
 Cornell University (NY), October 10, 2002.
 University of Texas at Austin, April 10, 2002; April 11, 1996; April 22, 1993; April 15, 1992.
 University of Tennessee, November 16, 2001.
 Central Michigan University, November 29, 2000.
 Georgia Southern University, March 30, 2000.
 University of Michigan, October 12, 1999.
 Coe College (IA), April 24, 1996; March 11, 1993.
 SUNY Stony Brook, November 17, 1993, November 22, 1992.
 St. John’s University (NY), November 24, 1992.
 Vassar College (NY), November 3, 1992.
 Texas A&M, October 12, 1992.
- “Ethics in Engineering: Why Bother?” Michigan Society for Professional Engineering Annual Conference,
 Harbor Springs Michigan, May 18, 2002.
- “Homosexuality, Morality, and Diversity”
 National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD, June 12, 2006.
 Valencia Community College, August 4-5 (various campuses), 2006.
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, March 28, 2006.

Southern Methodist University, March 23, 2006.
 McNeese State University (LA), March 22, 2006.
 Penn State Erie – The Behrend College, March 16, 2006.
 Columbia Basin College (WA), February 23, 2006.
 Oakland Community College, February 17, 2006.
 Grand Valley State University, October 11, 2005.
 Michigan College and University Professional Association (CUPA) for Human Resources Conference,
 luncheon keynote, April 7, 2005.
 Accenture Michigan Regional Meeting, November 19, 2004.
 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, June 21, 2002.
 American Association for Affirmative Action Annual Conference, April 5, 2002.

HONORS AND AWARDS

President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2006.
 Wayne State University "Innovative Projects in the Humanities" small grant, 2005
 Spirit of Detroit Award, 2004 (presented by the Detroit City Council for work on behalf of
 Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights)
 Wayne State University College of Liberal Arts Research and Inquiry Grant (course release),
 Fall 2002
 Wayne State University Humanities Center "City and Civic Virtue" Summer Grant, 2002.
 Wayne State University Humanities Center "Innovative Projects in the Humanities" small
 grant, 2002
 College of Liberal Arts Teaching Award, Wayne State University, May 1999
 Departmental Teaching Award, The University of Texas at Austin:
 Spring 1996, Fall 1996, Spring 1997.
 A.D. Hutchison Dissertation Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin: Fall
 1997 - Spring 1998

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor (Lecturer 1998-1999, Senior Lecturer 1999-2001), Wayne State University:
 Courses taught include Graduate Seminar in Moral Realism, Graduate Seminar in Moral
 Preferences, 20th Century Analytic Ethics, British Empiricism, Introduction to Ethics, Philosophy
 of Sex and Sexual Orientation, Professional Ethics, Contemporary Moral Issues, Introduction to
 Philosophical Systems, and Honors Senior Seminars on "Morality and Objectivity" and "Moral
 Preferences."

 Visiting Lecturer, Nanjing Normal University (China) May 22-June 2, 2006. Lectures on Business
 Ethics

 Assistant Instructor (full teaching duties), The University of Texas at Austin:
 Contemporary Moral Problems, Fall 1995-Spring 1997

 Teaching Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin:
 Logic (Spring 1995), Early Modern Philosophy (Fall 1994), Existentialism (Spring 1994), Introduction to
 Philosophy (Fall 1993), Business Ethics (Spring 1993), Philosophy of Religion (Fall 1992), Contemporary
 Moral Problems (Fall 1991-Spring 1992)

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (select)

WSU Center for Citizenship Advisory Board, since Fall 2006.
Philosophy Department Graduate Recruitment Officer, since Fall 2001.
Women's Studies Advisory Board, Wayne State University (WSU), since Winter 1999.
Placement Committee, WSU Philosophy Department, since Fall 1998.
Humanities Center Advisory Board, Fall 2004-Summer 2006.
Advisory Board for *Sex from Plato to Paglia: A Philosophical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Publishers) 2003-2005.
Referee for Hume Society International Meeting 2004, 2005, 2006.
Referee for Blackwell Publishers, 1999.
Referee for *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 1996.
Referee for *Hume Studies*, 2002, 2006.

REFERENCES

A. P. Martinich, Roy Alan Vaughan Centennial Professor
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Department of Philosophy
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556
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Department of Philosophy
Syracuse University
Syracuse, New York 13244-1170
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