Manuel R. Vargas

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Areas of Specialization — Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Action, Free Will, Ethics

Areas of Competence — Philosophy of Law, Social & Political Philosophy, Latin American

Education

Stanford University
Joint-Ph.D. in Philosophy and Humanities, 2001

University of California, Davis
A.B. in Philosophy, 1995
Highest Honors (*Summa cum laude*); Departmental Citation

Principal Employment

University of San Francisco
Professor of Philosophy and Law, 2012
Professor of Philosophy, 2010
Associate Professor with tenure, 2006
Assistant Professor, 2002

Visiting Appointments

University of California, Berkeley, Vist. Asst. Prof. 2005-2006

California Institute of Technology, Vist. Asst. Prof. 2003-2004

Stanford University, Acting Assistant Professor, 2001-2002

Awards & Grants

USF Distinguished Research Award, 2012
Davies Professor, University of San Francisco, 2012
USF Arts & Sciences Dean's Scholar (research award), 2011-2012
USF Faculty Team Innovation Award, 2010-11
NEH Fellowship and Research Award, 2009-10
Visiting Fellow, Center for Ethics, Stanford University, 2009-10
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University 2008-09
NEH Chair in the Humanities at U. of San Francisco, 2005-06
NEH Summer Institute: Latin American Phil. (declined), 2005
APA Prize in Latin American Thought, 2004
Faculty Development Fund, various, USF, 2002-2012
Fleishhacker Family Endowment Research Grant, USF, 2003-04

Academic Publications

Books

Vargas, M. *Building Better Beings: A Theory of Moral Responsibility* Oxford: Oxford University Press (in press).

Vargas, M and Yaffe, G, eds. *Rational and Social Agency: On Themes in the Philosophy of Michael Bratman*. New York: Oxford University Press (in progress).

Fischer, J.M., Kane, R., Pereboom, D., Vargas, M. *Four Views on Free Will*. Oxford: Blackwell (2007).

Articles on Ethics, Agency, & Metaphysics

"Reconsidering Scientific Threats to Free Will" in *Moral Psychology, Vol. 4: Free Will and Moral Responsibility*, ed. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press (forthcoming).

"Social Explanation & the Free Will Problem" in *Moral Psychology, Vol. 4: Free Will and Moral Responsibility*, ed. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press (forthcoming).

"How To Solve the Problem of Free Will" in *The Philosophy of Free Will: Selected Contemporary Readings*, ed. by P. Russell and O. Deery, New York: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

"Situationism and Moral Responsibility: Free Will in Fragments" in *Decomposing the Will*. Edited by Till Vierkant, Julian Kiverstein and Andy Clark. New York: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

"Why the Luck Problem Isn't" in *Philosophical Issues 22: Philosophy of Action.* Edited by Ernest Sosa and Enrique Villanueva. Oxford: Blackwell (forthcoming).

"Revisionist Accounts of Free Will: Origins, Varieties, and Challenges" in *The Oxford Handbook of Free Will*, 2nd ed. Edited by Robert Kane. New York: Oxford University Press (2011): 457-84.

"The Revisionist Turn: A Brief History of Recent Work on Free Will" in *New Waves in Philosophy of Action*. Edited by J. Aguilar, A. Buckareff, K. Frankish. New York: Palgrave Macmillan (2011), 143-172.

"Responsibility in a World of Causes" *Philosophic Exchange* 40 (2010): 56-78.

"Reasons and Real Selves" Special issue on Determinism, Free Will, and Moral Responsibility in *Ideas y Valores: Revista Colombiana de Filosofía* 58.141 (2009), 67-84.

"Revisionism about Free Will: A Statement and Defense" *Philosophical Studies* 144.1 (2009): 45-62.

"Moral Influence, Moral Responsibility" in *Essays on Free Will and Moral Responsibility*. Edited by Nick Trakakis and Daniel Cohen. Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2008), 90-122.

"Libertarianism and Skepticism about Free Will: Some Arguments Against Both" *Philosophical Topics* 32:1&2 (2004): 403-426. (Note: actual year of publication is 2006.)

"On the Importance of History for Responsible Agency" *Philosophical Studies* 127:3 (2006): 351-382.

"Practical Reason, Instrumental Irrationality, and Time" *Philosophical Studies* 126:2 (2005): 241-252.

"The Revisionist's Guide to Responsibility" *Philosophical Studies* 125:3 (2005): 399-429.

"The Trouble with Tracing" *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 29:1 (2005): 269-291.

"Compatibilism Evolves? Some Varieties of Dennett Worth Wanting" *Metaphilosophy* 36:4 (2005): 460-475.
Reprinted in *Daniel Dennett: Critical Assessment of Leading Philosophers*, ed. by John Symons, New York: Routledge (2013): tbd-tbd.

"Responsibility and the Aims of Theory: Strawson and Revisionism" *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 85:2 (2004): 218-241.
Reprinted in *Free Will and Reactive Attitudes*, ed. by Michael McKenna & Paul Russell, Burlington, VT: Ashgate (2008): 297-318.

Articles on Latin American Philosophy

"The Value of Philosophy: The Latin American Case" *Comparative Philosophy* 1.1 (2010): 33-52.

"Real Philosophy, Metaphilosophy, and Metametaphilosophy" CR: *The New Centennial Review* 7.3 (2007): 51-78.

"Introducción" (with Carlos Marichal) in Francisco Bulnes, *El triste porvenir de la naciones hispanoamericanas*. México, D.F.: Instituto Mora (forthcoming).

"Eurocentrism and the Philosophy of Liberation" *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues* (Spring 2005): 8-18.
Winner of the first APA Prize in Latin American Thought.

"Lessons from the Philosophy of Race in Mexico" *Philosophy Today*, vol. 44, SPEP Supplement 2000 vol. 26: 18-29.
Revised and translated as "Biología y la Filosofía de la Raza en México: Bulnes y Vasconcelos" *Construcción de las Identidades Latinoamericanas: Ensayos de Historia Intelectual*, ed. by A. Granados and Carlos Marichal. México, D.F.: Colegio de México, (2004).

Discussion Notes, Replies, & Reviews on Diverse Subjects

Review of John Martin Fischer, *Our Stories: Essays on Life, Death, and Free Will*. In *Ethics*. 120.3 (2010): 600-604.

Review of Alfred Mele, *Effective Intentions: The Power of the Conscious Will*. In *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. (September 14, 2009). <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=17385>

"Taking the Highway on Luck, Skepticism, and the Value of Responsibility" *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 6.2 (2009), 249-265.

Vargas, Manuel and Nichols, Shaun. "Psychopaths and Moral Knowledge" *Philosophy, Psychiatry, and Psychology* 14.2 (2007), 157-162.

Nichols, Shaun and Vargas, Manuel "How to Be Fair to Psychopaths" *Philosophy, Psychiatry, and Psychology* 14.2 (2007), 153-155.

Review of James Stacey Taylor, ed. *Personal Autonomy: New Essays on Personal Autonomy and its Role in Contemporary Moral Philosophy*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (August 21, 2006). <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=7363>

"Philosophy and the Folk: On Some Implications of Experimental Work for Philosophical Debates on Free Will" *The Journal of Cognition and Culture* 6:1&2, (2006), 239-254.

Review of *Contemporary Philosophy: Volume 8: Philosophy of Latin America*, ed. by of G. Floistad. *Philosophy in Review* 24, no. 4 (2004): 259-261.

Review of Nomy Arpaly, *Unprincipled Virtue*. In *Journal of Ethics* 8:2 (2004): 201-204.

"Crossing the Borders of Philosophy: Some Thoughts on the 14th Interamerican Congress" *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues*. 99: 2 (Spring 2000): 217-219.

Review of The Identity of Liberation in Latin American Thought by Mario Saenz. *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues*. 00:1 (Fall 2000): 73-4.

Selected Recent Presentations

Society for the Philosophy of Agency, Seattle, April 2012
"After the Free Will Renaissance"
Stanford University, Future Faculty Seminar, November 2011
"Publishing in the Humanities"
Bowdoin College Conference on Free Will, October 2011
"What If Only Theists Failed To Realize We've Solved the Problem of Free Will?"
Moral Responsibility 2010: KANTL Ghent, Belgium, October 2010
"Between the Metaphysics and Attribution of Moral Responsibility"
Workshop on Strawsonian and Consequentialist Views of Responsibility, Rotterdam, October 2010
"Second Thoughts About Desert"
Normative Conceptions & Empirical Foundations of Responsibility, Oslo, Norway, October 2010
"Between the Metaphysics and Attribution of Moral Responsibility"
2nd Annual California Cognitive Science Conference, UC Berkeley, May 2010
"(Almost) Everything You Believe About Free Will is Wrong"
Bay Area Forum for Legal Ethics, Berkeley, April 2010
"Doubts About Inverse Akrasia"
American Association of Mexican Philosophers, San Francisco, March 2010
"Doubts About Inverse Akrasia"
Ethics at Noon, Stanford University, March 2010
"When Philosophy is Unethical"
Ethics in Society Workshop, Stanford University
"Doubts about Inverse Akrasia," January 2010
"The Luck Problem," February 2010
SOFIA Conference on Philosophy of Action, Mexico, January 2010
Comments on Scott Sehon.
Werkmeister Conference on Experimental Philosophy, Florida State, January 2010.
Comments on David Pizzaro.
Ethics in Society Center Workshop, Stanford University, December 2009
"Desert and Moral Responsibility"
Working Group on Cultural Synchronization and Disjuncture, Stanford University, October 2009

"Recent Latin American Philosophy: Prospects and Criticism"
Center for Practical & Professional Ethics, Sacramento State University, October 2009
"Building Better Beings: Responsibility in a World of Causes"
Vista Speakers Series, Cosumnes River College, Sacramento, October 2009.
"Science, Philosophy, and Race: The Mexican Puzzle"
National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, October 2009.
"Doubts About Inverse Akrasia"
College at Brockport, SUNY, Brockport, NY, September 2009
"Building Better Beings: Responsibility in a World of Causes"
Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference, Boulder, Colorado, August 2009.
"Desert and Moral Responsibility"
Inverse Akrasia Conference, Tübingen, Germany. June 2009.
"Doubts about Inverse Akrasia"
American Association of Mexican Philosophers, CUNY, April 2009
"How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Luck"
Symposium on Latin American Philosophy, University of North Florida, February 2009.
"Culture and the Value of Philosophy: The Latin American Case"
Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY April 2009.
"Culture and the Value of Philosophy: The Latin American Case"
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard
"Towards a Theory of Moral Responsibility"
International Society for Utilitarian Studies X, Berkeley, September 2008.
"Normative Ethics, Responsibility, and Desert"
Center for Comparative Philosophy, San José State University, May 2008.
"Culture and the Value of Philosophy: The Latin American Case"
Pacific Division Meeting, American Philosophical Association, March 2008.
Author Meets Critics for *Four Views on Free Will*
Bay Area Forum for Legal Ethics, Jan. 2008.
"Situationism and Moral Responsibility"
Werkmeister Conference on Agency, Florida State, January 2008.
Comments on Helen Beebee's "Metaphysics & the Phenomenology of Free Will"
University of California, San Diego, December 2007.
"Building a Better Beast"
University of California, Riverside, workshop discussion, November 2007.
"Psychopaths, Fairness, and Moral Knowledge"
Selfhood, Normativity, and Control, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, May 2007.
"Situationism and Blame"
Affective Intentionality and the Moral Brain, Bonn, Germany, December 14-16, 2006.
"Freedom, Responsibility, and the Sciences of the Mind"
1st International Conference on Global Ethics, Ghent, Belgium, April 2006.
"On the Diversity of Moral Conceptions and the Possibility of Global Ethics"
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, February 3, 2006.
"Building a Better Beast"
University of California Riverside, January 23, 2006.
"The Value of Philosophy: The Latin American Case"

Professional Service, Organizations, Academic Activities

Professional Affiliations and Editorial Boards

Kadish Center for Morality, Law, and Public Affairs at UC Berkeley, 2007+

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Subject Editor: Latin American Philosophy, 2006-2010
Philosophical Gourmet Report: Evaluator for Philosophy of Action, 2004+
Comparative Philosophy, Executive Editorial Board Member, 2009+
Pluralist's Guide to Philosophy, Advisory Board for Philosophy of Race and Ethnicity, 2010+

The American Philosophical Association

Executive Board, Pacific Division Representative, 2011-2014
Executive Board, Committee on Members and Membership Services, co-chair, 2011-2012
Executive Board, Committee on Committees 2011-2014
Executive Board, Defense of Professional Rights Committee 2011-2014
Pacific Division, Program Committee 2010-2011

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

Matthew King (Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland)
Ph.D. Completed: 2008.

Chris Franklin (Department of Philosophy, University of California at Riverside)
Ph.D. Completed: 2010.

Conferences and Speaker Series Organized

Responsibility, Agency, and Persons 2, USF, October 2011
Mind, Agency, and Emotion: New Perspectives on Moral Psychology, USF, November 2007
Responsibility, Agency, and Persons, USF, October 2007
New Perspectives on Free Will, USF, November 2006
Evil and Psychopathy, USF, April 2006
Organizer & Czar of USF's first Philosophy Colloquium Series, 2002-2003

Referee

AJOB Neuroscience
American Philosophical Quarterly
Australasian Journal of Philosophy
Behavioral Sciences and the Law
Canadian Journal of Philosophy
Consciousness and Cognition
Dialectica
Erkenntnis
Ethical Theory and Moral Practice
Ethics
European Journal of Philosophy
European Review of Philosophy
The Journal of Ethics
Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy
Inquiry
Latino Studies
Mind
MIT Press
Neuroethics
Noûs
Oxford University Press
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly
Philosophy and Phenomenological Research
Philosophical Explorations
Philosophical Psychology
Philosophical Quarterly
Philosophical Studies
Polity Press
Social Theory and Practice
University of Notre Dame Press
Wiley-Blackwell

University Service, Organizations, Academic Activities

Director

The Saint Ignatius Institute, USF 2006-2008

A Great Books program & living-learning community
Responsibilities included: hiring and recruiting faculty, student recruitment, advising approximately 110 students, developing and instituting a new curriculum (including design of a service-learning course), overseeing two study abroad programs, and administering a variety of service and community life events.

USF Departmental & Program Affiliations

Philosophy (2002+)
The Honors Program in the Humanities (2006+)
Latin American Studies (2002-2008)
The Saint Ignatius Institute (2004-2008)

College and University Committees

Co-director, Task Force for The Center for Excellence in Research and Scholarship, 2010-2011
Faculty Development Fund, 2010+
Faculty Representative, Board of Trustees University Life Committee, 2005-2006
Humanities Advisory Board, USF College of Arts and Sciences, 2002-2008
Latin American Studies Advisory Board, USF College of Arts and Sciences, 2003-2007
USF Faculty/Staff Diversity Working Group, 2004-2005