

Curriculum Vitae

Samuel F. Walker
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Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Colorado, December 1992.
Dissertation: "On the Status of Hobbes's Laws of Nature"

M.A., Philosophy, University of Colorado, 1989.

B.A., Music/Philosophy, Oberlin College, 1981.

Areas of Specialization

History of Modern Philosophy/Continental Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Social and Political Philosophy/Ethics

Teaching Experience

Senior Instructor, University of Colorado, Denver, fall 1999-Present

Lecturer, University of Colorado, Denver, fall 1996-Spring 1999
Fall 1991

Lecturer, International College at Beijing, summer 1997

Instructor, California State University, Stanislaus, spring 1995

Lecturer, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 1986-
Fall 1994

Dissertation: "On the Status of Hobbes's Laws of Nature"

I account for Hobbes's references to the laws of nature as both theorems concerning one's conservation and defense and as commands, combining essential characteristics of two seemingly incompatible interpretations, as a first step towards a more comprehensive reading of Hobbes. J. W. N. Watkins, attempts to address Hobbes's reference to the laws of nature as theorems by characterizing the laws of nature as Kantian hypothetical imperatives. Such an interpretation is consistent with Hobbes's description of human

psychology as egoistic. In A. E. Taylor's reading, however, Hobbes's ethical theory must be disengaged from his egoistic psychology. The laws of nature, according to Taylor, must be understood as commands, and in terms of a theism he believes is at work in Hobbes's theory. Each of these interpretations alone provides a compelling but incomplete account of the laws of nature. Watkins accounts for the prudential character of the laws of nature, but fails to address Hobbes's references to them as commands. Taylor accounts for the command character of the laws of nature, but discounts the egoistic psychology Hobbes presents. An account that addresses the references to the laws of nature as both theorems and commands, and yet comprehends essential aspects of both Watkins' and Taylor's interpretations, can provide a more comprehensive reading of Hobbes.

Areas of Current Study

Other areas of study include: virtue theory in the works of Plato and Aristotle as a viable normative ethics; investigation of the effects of Sartre's phenomenological ontology on his discussion of the development of social groups in the *Critique of Dialectical Reason*; philosophy of science, with emphasis on the scientific revolutions of the 17th century.

Honors

University of Colorado Denver Teaching Excellence Award, 2002

University of Colorado Graduate Teaching Excellence Award, 1990.

University of Colorado Graduate Fellowship, 1985-86.

Publications

"The Natural Condition of the Soul and the Development of Virtue", Dialogue, April, 1987.

Committee Work/Service in the University

University of Colorado, Denver Association of Lecturers and Instructors: steering committee member 1997-present

University of Colorado Non-Tenure Track Faculty Task Force: June 1998-Sept. 1999
A university wide task force addressing inequities facing non-tenure track faculty in the University of Colorado system.

University of Colorado Faculty Personnel Committee: invited member representing UCD non-tenure track faculty Sept. 2001-present

University of Colorado at Denver Budget Priorities Committee: invited member representing non-tenure track faculty Sept. 1998-present

Committee Work/Service in the Community

Board Member of The Laura Jane Musser Fund: A non-profit foundation promoting education in the arts, intercultural harmony and environmental stewardship Dec. 1999-present.

Chair of the Laura Jane Musser Fund Environmental Focus Committee: promoting community based solutions to environmental problems and environmental stewardship. July 2001-January 2014.

Chair of the Laura Jane Musser Fund Intercultural Harmony Committee: promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between groups and citizens of different cultural backgrounds. January 2014-present.

Interests

Music composition and performance. Acoustic guitar construction and repair (Luthier Certificate, Roberto-Venn School, Phoenix AZ, 1994). Photography, backpacking, bicycling, and skiing.

