

Richard Neal Manning

Department of Philosophy
University of South Florida
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Academic appointments

Permanent (tenure-track) appointments:

Associate Professor, University of South Florida	2007-present
Associate Professor, Carleton University	2000-2007
Assistant Professor, Carleton University	1998-2000
Assistant Professor, Ohio University	1995-98

Visiting faculty appointments:

Visiting Associate Professor, Georgetown University	2002-2005
Visiting Associate Professor, The Johns Hopkins University	Spring 2005
Visiting Associate Professor, University of Victoria	Winter 2002
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Oregon	1993-95
Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh	1992-93

Education

Ph.D. (Philosophy) Northwestern University	1992
Dissertation: <i>The Resurrection of Coherence</i> (Arthur Fine, Director)	
J.D. Northwestern University School of Law	1985
B.A. (Philosophy) Northwestern University	1981

Research Areas

Epistemology and Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language,
Philosophy of Science, History of Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Art

Publications

Articles and book chapters:

“Unconventional Linguistic Normativity: Maybe not so Deranged After All”,
Philosophia 2023 (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-023-00614-3>)

“First, Do No Harm”, *Florida Philosophical Review* (forthcoming Spring 2021)

“Reflections on Davidsonian Semantic Publicity”, *Protosociology* 34, 2017

“Is this a Truth-Maker which I See Before Me?”, *Florida Philosophical Review* XVI:1
94-104 (2016)

“Critical Notice: *The Norm of Belief*, by John Gibbons” (Oxford University Press), *Analysis* first published online August 7, 2015 doi:10.1093/analys/anv060

“Sellarsian Behaviorism, Davidsonian Interpretivism, and First-Person Authority”, *Philosophia* 42:433-456 (2014)

“Changes in View: Concepts in Experience”, *Concepts: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives, ProtoSociology* v. 30, pp. 124-151 (2013)

“Escoffier”, in P. Thompson, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Food and Agricultural Ethics* (Springer 2013)

“Taking Back the Excitement: Construing ‘Theoretical Concepts’ so as to Avoid the Threat of Underdetermination”, in Preyer, ed., *Donald Davidson on Truth, Meaning, and the Mental* (Oxford University Press 2012), pp. 269-87.

“A Spinozistic Deduction of the Category of a Natural End”, *Philo* 14.2 (Fall/Winter 2011)

“Interpretive Semantics and Ontological Commitment”, in J. Malpas, ed. *Dialogues with Davidson: Acting, Interpreting, and Understanding* (MIT Press 2011), pp. 61-86.

“Spinoza’s Physical Theory”, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/spinoza-physics/>

“The Philosophical Significance of Stephen Neale’s *Facing Facts*”, Preyer and Peter (eds.), *Anti-Representationalism, Facts and Slingshots: On Stephen Neale’s Facing Facts* (*Protozoologie* 23, 2006).

“The Necessity of Receptivity: Exploring a Unified Account of Kantian Sensibility and Understanding”, in Kukla, ed., *Aesthetics and Cognition in Kant’s Critical Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press 2006), pp. 61-84.

“Rationalism in the Philosophy of Donald Davidson” *A Companion to Rationalism*, A. Nelson, ed. (Blackwell 2005), pp. 468-487.

“Facing Facts with Davidsonian Semantics”, *Philosophical Books* 45:111-127 (2004).

“Interpretation, Reasons, and Facts”, *Inquiry*, 46, 346-376 (2003).

“The Dialectical Illusion of a Vicious Bootstrap”, in Olsson, E. J. (ed.), *The Epistemology of Keith Lehrer*, Philosophical Studies Book Series, (Kluwer 2003), pp. 195-216.

"Spinoza, Thoughtful Teleology, and the Significance of Representational Content", in J. Biro and O. Koistinen (eds.), *Spinoza: Metaphysical Themes*, (Oxford University Press 2002), pp. 182-209.

"Foundering Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Critical Study of Susan Haack's *Inquiry and Evidence*", *Philosophia*, 315-353 (1999).

“Functional Explanation”, *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 802-805 (1998).

"All Facts Great and Small", in *Protosociologie: Cognitive Semantics II*, 18-40 (1998).

----- Reprinted in G. Preyer, G. Peter, M. Ulkan (eds.), *Concepts of Meaning: Framing an Integrated Theory of Linguistic Behavior*, (Kluwer 2003).

"Biological Function, Selection, and Reduction", *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 69-82 (1997).

"On Shiner's 'Hume and the Causal Theory of Taste'", co-authored with J. Bender, *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 317-320 (1997).

"Interpreting Davidson's Omniscient Interpreter", *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 335-374 (1995).

"Justified Acceptance, Information, and Knowledge", *Philosophical Forum*, XXV, 212-230 (1994).

"Intrinsic Value and Overcoming the Benefit Principle: Response to Feinberg", *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 125-140 (1994).

"Pragmatism and the Quest for Truth", *Metaphilosophy*, 350-362 (1992).

Works in Progress:

“Spinoza’s Individuals”

"Selected Causes: A Unified Account of Biological and Artifactual Norms"

Edited Volumes

Protosociology 34, *Meaning and Publicity*, (2017), with editorial introduction (forthcoming)

Reviews:

The New Pragmatism, by Alan Malchowski, *Analysis* (2011) 71(4): 776-778

Between Two Worlds, by John Carriero, *Intellectual History Review*, June 2010

Knowledge, Reason and Taste, by P. Guyer, Princeton University Press, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=14065>

Beyond Moral Judgment, by A. Crary, Harvard University Press 2007, *Philosophical Books* 49 (2008)

Theory and Truth: Philosophical Critique within Foundational Science, by L. Sklar, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* 33:583-587 (2002).

Representation and the Mind-Body Problem in Spinoza, by M. Della Rocca, *Philosophical Review*, (1999).

Science, Reason, and Rhetoric, by Krips, McGuire, and Melia (eds.), *Philosophia*, 26:641-658

The Myth of the Framework, by K. Popper, *Ethics*, 405 (1997).

Beyond Relativism: Science and Human Values, by R. D. Masters, *Ethics*, 985 (1995).

World Changes: Thomas Kuhn and the Nature of Science, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 634-635 (1994).

Selected Presentations

Plenary Session Panelist, Diversity and Governmental Relations in Florida Higher Education, Florida Philosophical Association Meetings, St. Augustine, FL February 2025

Panelist, "Six Reasons for the Excommunication of Spinoza", USF Philosophy Department, September 2024

"Dormitive Power and Epistemic Injustice", Plenary Keynote Diversity Panel, Florida Philosophical Association Meetings, St. Petersburg, FL February 2024

"First, Do No Harm", Presidential Address, Florida Philosophical Association Annual Meetings, Gainesville, FL, November 2019

"On Brogaard's *Seeing and Saying*", Symposiast presentation at the annual meeting of the Florida Philosophical Association, Gainesville, FL, November 2019

"Against Conventional Linguistic Norms", Language-Culture-Mind Conference 8, Denison University, July 2019

Comments on Robinson, "Contrastive Closure", APA Central Division Meetings, Kansas City 2017

"Public Language, Radical Interpretation, and Linguistic Normativity", *Is there any Such Thing as a Language?: 30 Years After 'A Nice Derangement'* University of South Florida, November 2016

"On a Strategy for Naturalizing Objective Norms", University of Florida, December 2015

"Requiring the Unreasonable", Florida Philosophical Association, November 2015

Book Symposiast, on Elijah Chudnoff's *Intuition*, Florida Philosophical Association Meeting, Tampa 2014

Comments on Ryan, "Beyond Expressive Power: Cassirer's Critique of Logic", APA Pacific Division Meetings, San Diego 2014

"Can a This-Such be a Reason?", University of South Florida, September 2013

Comments on Forber and Smead, "The Evolution of Spite", APA Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle 2012

"First Person Authority: Mythical and Ideal", University of South Florida, November 2010

"Sellarsian Descendants, Davidsonian Interpretivists, and First Person Authority", Ohio University, October 2010

"Interpretivism and First Person Authority: What Davidson Should (and Should Not) Have Said", Decision University, April 2010

"Comments on Robinson, Klein, and Martin", North American Spinoza Society-APA Pacific Division San Francisco May 2010

"The (Bio)-Ethical (In-)significance of Normal Biological Function", Canadian Philosophical Association Meetings, Ottawa 2009

"The Ethical (In-)significance of Normal Biological Function", Philosophy Department Workshop on Science, Medicine and Society, University of South Florida, September 2008

"Objective Norms, Selection History, and Objectivity", *Reclaiming the World: The Future of Objectivity*, Conference at University of Toronto, May 2008

"The Context Principle, Semantic Knowledge, and Metaphilosophy: Comments on Stainton's *Words and Thoughts*" Carleton University, May 2007

"A Spinozistic Deduction of the Category of a Natural End", Pacific Northwest/Western Canada Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Portland March 2007

"Spinoza's Unimaginable Physical Theory?", *Thinking Imagination – Imaginative Thinking: Imagination from Descartes to Leibniz*, Conference at Dominican University College, Ottawa, November 2005

"Spinoza's Individuals", San Francisco State University, February 2005; Yale Spinoza Study Group, Yale University, Spring 2005; North American Spinoza Society Meetings, in conjunction with Central Division meetings of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, April 2006

“Interpretivist Semantics and Ontological Commitment”, University of South Florida, The Johns Hopkins University, May 2005; Carleton University, September 2005

Symposiast: *Explorations in Pragmatics and Metaphysics*, Georgetown University, April 2005

Comment on Schiller, “That Other Myth: Understanding Sellars’ Myth of Jones, APA Pacific Division, April 2005

“Modal Judgment and the Necessity of Receptivity: Defending an Integrated Account of Kantian Sensibility and Understanding”, Mid-Atlantic Seminar in Modern Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, November 2003

"Selected Causes: A Unified Account of Biological and Artifactual Norms", Carleton University, October 2003

“Naturalism and Improper Functions”
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, March 2003
Committee for Philosophy and the Sciences, University of Maryland, November 2002

“Perceptual Rationalism and the Coherence Dictum” Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, Halifax, May 2003

“Coherentism and Perceptual Rationalism”, Institute Jean Nicod, Paris, April 2003

Comment on D. Matravers, “Modernism”, SPSCVA, APA Pacific Division, March 2002

“Interpretation, Facts and Reasons”, University of Victoria, March 2002; University of Toronto, November 2001

“Minimal Empiricism, Kantian Judgment and the Phenomenology of Sensibility”, joint conference of NEASECS and the Atlantic Society for 18thC Studies, November 2001.

Comment on H. Jackman, “Charity and Self-Interpretation”, Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, May 2001

“Davidsonian Interpretivism Rationally Constrained”, Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, May 2000

“Peircean Truth at the End of Davidsonian Enquiry, Atlantic Region Philosophy Conference, Sydney, NS October 1999

Comment on D. Hunter, “Do Functional States Need Realizers?” Ontario Philosophical Society, October 1999

Comment on P. Davies, “Why Evolutionary Functions are Causal Role Functions” APA Central Division, 1998

Comment on Kaufer, "Carnap and Heidegger on Physical Language" APA Pacific Division, 1999

Symposiast on Lepore and Ludwig, "Outline of a Truth Conditional Semantics for Tense", Canadian Philosophical Association Meeting, Ottawa, 1998

Comment on Endicott, "Churchland-Hooker Reduction: Types and Tokens" APA Pacific Division, 1998

Symposiast on Affirmative Action, Institute for Applied and Professional Ethics, Ohio University, April, 1998

"Function and Intentionality", Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico, September 1997

Comment on B. Glymour, "Population Level Causation and a Unified Theory of Natural Selection" APA Central Division 1997

Comment on Hall, "Functionalism, Attitudes, and Mental States" Ohio Philosophical Association, April 1997

"Spinoza, Thoughtful Teleology, and the Causal Significance of Content", North American Spinoza Society, April 1997 (in conjunction with Central Division APA meetings)

Comment on Goddu, "Is Davidson Inconsistent After All?", APA Central Division, 1996

Comment on M. Perlman, "The Trouble with Two Factor Conceptual Role Theories", APA Eastern Division, 1994

"Function and Selection", Northwest Conference on Philosophy, Reed College, November 1994

"Thought and the Concept of Function" Institute of Cognitive and Decision Sciences, University of Oregon, July 1994

Comment on J. Van Camp, "Freedom of Expression and the National Endowment for the Arts", APA Pacific Division, 1994

Symposiast, Session on Aesthetics and the Law, APA Pacific Division, 1993

"Logical Determinism and Unsatisfying Truth", APA Pacific Division, 1992

"Pragmatism and the Quest for Truth", Conference for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts, Northwestern University, 1989

Conferences and Sessions Organized:

Program coordinator, Annual Meetings of the Florida Philosophical Association, Pensacola, FL, November 2018.

“Is There any Such Thing as a Language?: 30 Years after ‘A Nice Derangement’” University of South Florida, November 2016

Symposium: Robert Stainton’s *Words and Thoughts*, Carleton University, May 2007

Symposium, *Art versus the Aesthetic: Explorations in Philosophy and Sensuous Expression*, Carleton University (March 2006)

Symposium, *Explorations in Pragmatism and Metaphysics*, Georgetown University, April 2005

Symposium, *Coherentism and Externalism*, Canadian Philosophical Association Meetings (in conjunction with the Learned), Halifax (May 2003)

Selected Courses Taught

Lower Division:

Introduction to Philosophy (both historical and topical versions)
 Language, Mind and World (Introductory Epistemology)
 Logic, Free Love, and the Bomb (First Year Seminar on Bertrand Russell)
 Introduction to Analytic Philosophy
 Introduction to Logic (in versions emphasizing critical thinking and/or formal logic)
 Introduction to Ethics
 Contemporary Moral Issues

Upper Division:

Contemporary Philosophy: Moral Encroachment and Epistemic Justice
 History of Modern Philosophy (16th, 17th, and 18th Centuries)
 Philosophy of Language
 Philosophy of Science
 History of Analytic Philosophy
 Analytic Philosophy
 Philosophy of Art
 Intermediate Logic (Formal logic through predicate logic with descriptions and identity)
 Philosophy of Mind
 Philosophy of Human Sexuality
 Metaphysics
 The Mind-Body Problem
 Rationalism
 Facts
 Philosophy of Law
 Epistemology of Perception

Graduate:

Richard Rorty
 Some Sellars and Some Sellarsians
 The Philosophy of John McDowell

Externalisms

Meaning and Knowledge in the Philosophy of Donald Davidson

First Person Authority

Perceptual Knowledge

Anti- and Post- Representationalism in Recent Philosophy

Roots of Analysis (Brentano, Bolzano, Bradley, Moore, Russell and Frege)

Logical Metatheory

Theory of Knowledge

Science, Nature, and Teleology

Philosophy of Language

Sensibility and Understanding in Twentieth Century Philosophy

Theories of Explanation

Seminar in Contemporary Philosophy: Donald Davidson

Graduate Tutorials:

Recent McDowell (Spring 2024)

Spinoza's *Ethics*

Spinoza's Physical Theory

Theories of Metaphor

Davidson

Sellars' Epistemology

Sellars and McDowell

Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*

Foundations of Legal Obligation

Thesis supervision, etc.

Supervisor:

John Smart, Philosophy PhD (Co-Major Professor, in progress)

Peter Olen, Philosophy Ph.D. (2012) *Sellars in Context* (Co-Major Professor)

Alex Wong, Philosophy M.A. 2002 "The Pittsburgh Variations: Sellars and Brandom on the Metaphysics of Norms"

Leo Rini, B.A., "Nonsense in Every Sense: the Resolute Reading of Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*", (Honors, with Distinction)

Second Reader/Committee Member:

Marrissa Cook, Ph.D. (USF, in progress)

Kevin Smith, Ph.D. (USF, in progress)

Jeremy Kelly, Ph.D. (USF, 2008)

Thomas Brommage, Ph.D. (USF 2008)

Joseph Rayhill, Ph.D. in progress, Georgetown University).

Jamie Kelly, M.A. (2002 Carleton)

Madeleine Arsenault, M.A. (2000 Carleton)

Anton Petrenko, M.A. (1998 Carleton)

Gregory Bee M.A. (1997 Ohio University)

External Examiner:

John Russell Cook, *Is There Such a Thing as a Language? An Examination of Donald Davidson's "A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs"*, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Toronto (2001)

Dat Tran, *Austin and Derrida: The Problem with Performatives*, MA Thesis, Carleton University Department of English (2005)

Miscellaneous Professional Service

Co-Chairperson, UFF-USF Bargaining Committee, AY 2024-2025

Member, UFF LEID Committee, 2022-2024

UFF USF Chapter Senator, 2017-present

FEA Delegate 2017-present

Diversity Committee Chair, Florida Philosophical Association, 2020-2024

President, Florida Philosophical Association, 2019

Vice President, Florida Philosophical Association, 2018

Manuscript Reviewer: Springer–Synthese Library, Harvard University Press, Northwestern University Press

Referee: *Archiv für Geschichte die Philosophie*, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, *Philosophia*, *Dialectica*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Inquiry*, *Erkenntnis*, *Perspectives on Science*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Noûs*, *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Dialogue*, Canadian Philosophical Association, Florida Philosophical Association, Ontario Graduate Scholarship applications.

Major Administrative Service***University:***

Member-at-Large, USF Faculty Senate Executive Committee (2024-present)

Member, USF Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws committee, (AY 2023-2024, 2024-2025)

Secretary, USF Faculty Senate Executive Committee (2022-2024)

Sergeant-at-Arms, USF Faculty Senate Executive Committee (2019-2022)

Member-at-Large, USF Faculty Senate Executive Committee (2017-2019)

Member, USF Faculty Senate (2015-present)

Member Ex-Officio, USF Faculty Senate Council on Racial Justice (2021-2022)

College:

Member, USF CAS Diversity Committee 2017, 2018

Chair, CAS Faculty Counsel (2010-13)

Member, CAS Dean's Advisory Counsel (2008-2010)

Member, Arts and Sciences Academic ad hoc Grievance Committee (USF, 2008)

Panelist, Internal Award Proposal Review Panel (USF, Fall 2007)

Department:

Departmental Senate Representative (2021-present)

Chair, Guignon Fund ad hoc committee (2025)

Member, Mid-Tenure review committee (2024)

Member, Assistant Professor of Instruction search committee (2023-2024)
 Graduate Committee, Department of Philosophy (USF, 2007-09, 2010-11, 2013-16 2020-23)
 Undergraduate Committee, Department of Philosophy 2018-2020
 Placement Co-Director, Department of Philosophy (USF, 2007-09)

Faculty Advisor, Freethinkers Society (USF, 2007-08)
 Graduate Supervisor, Department of Philosophy (Carleton, 2000-01, 2006-07)
 Colloquium Organizer, Department of Philosophy (Carleton 2005-2006, Winter 2007)
 Graduate Program Evaluation Committee, Department of Philosophy (Carleton, 2005-2006)
 Search Committee member, term position search (Carleton 2006)
 Board Member, Faculty of Arts and Sciences (Carleton, 2000-2002)
 Chair, Senior Search Committee, Department of Philosophy (Carleton, 2000-2001)
 Member, Junior Search Committee, Department of Philosophy (Carleton, 2002-2003)
 Member, Adjunct Search Committee, Department of Philosophy (Carleton, 2003)

Grants

USF Internal Conference Grant, \$5000,(2016)
 CAS Research and Development Grant, USF (Summer 2008)
 GR-6, Carleton University/SSHRC \$3000CDN (1998-1999)
 GR-6, Carleton University/SSHRC \$3000CDN (1997-1998)
 NEH Summer Institute: How Background Practices Produce Intelligibility
 (H. Dreyfus and D. Hoy, Directors, University of California at Santa Cruz 1997) \$3600US
 NEH Summer Seminars:

- 20th Century American Philosophy: Quine and Davidson (Gilbert Harmion and Ernest LePore, Directors. Princeton University 2011) \$4500US
- Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz (Jonathan Bennett, Director, Syracuse University 1996) \$3200US
- Mental Representation: (Robert Cummins, Director, University of Arizona 1993) \$3200US