**Erik J. Wielenberg**

3-5-25

Department of Philosophy

DePauw University

Greencastle, Indiana 46135

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**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

*DePauw University*

Professor, 2013-present

Associate Professor, 2005-2013

Assistant Professor, 2000-2005

Instructor, 1999-2000

**EDUCATION**

*University of Massachusetts at Amherst Lawrence University*

PhD, Philosophy, 2000 BA, Philosophy, 1994

MA, Philosophy, 1998

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Ethics (moral psychology, meta-ethics), Philosophy of Religion

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Blair Anderson and Martha Caroline Rieth Chair in Applied Ethics, 2023-2028

Visiting Fellow, Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs, University of  
 St. Andrews, 2014-15

Johnson Family University Professor (for “sustained excellence in teaching

effectiveness, professional activity and service”), 2010-2014

DePauw Faculty Fellowship (for research), 2009-2012

DePauw Summer Stipends (for research), 2004, 2006, 2013, 2016

Visiting Graduate Student Fellow, Center for Philosophy of Religion,

University of Notre Dame, 1998-99

**PUBLICATIONS**

Books  
 4. *A Debate on God and Morality: What is the Best Account of Objective Moral Values  
 and Duties?* (Routledge, 2020) (co-authored with William Lane Craig;  
 contributions from D. Baggett, M. Huemer, A. Johnson, M. Linville, J.P.

Moreland, W. Morriston).

3. *Robust Ethics: The Metaphysics and Epistemology of Godless Normative Realism*

(Oxford University Press, 2014).

2. *God and the Reach of Reason: C.S. Lewis, David Hume, and Bertrand Russell*

(Cambridge University Press, 2007).

1. *Value and Virtue in a Godless Universe* (Cambridge University

Press, 2005)

Book co-edited

1. *New Waves in Philosophy of Religion*, co-edited with Yujin Nagasawa (New

York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

Journal Articles and Book Chapters  
 49. “Craig’s *Kalam* Cosmological Argument and the Cosmic Bomb Hypothesis”,  
 *Faith and Philosophy* (forthcoming).

48. “Jesus’s Ethics of Wealth: Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Will Be  
 Also”, *Biblical Theology Bulletin* (forthcoming).

47. “Opaque Theism and Divine Testimony”, *TheoLogica* 9:1 (2025).  
 <https://ojs.uclouvain.be/index.php/theologica/article/view/83943>  
 46. “The Psychopath Challenge to Divine Command Theory: Reply to

Flannagan”, *Sophia* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11841-023-00949-0>

45. “Sterba’s Logical Argument from Evil and the God Who Walks Away from

Omelas”, *Religions* 13:9, 782 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13090782>

(invited).

44. “Craig’s God Cannot Create a Temporal Universe”, *Philosophia Christi* 23:2:  
 329-340 (2022).  
 43. "Atheism and Meaning in Life”, in Iddo Landau (ed.), *The Oxford*

*Handbook of Meaning in Life* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022), pp.  
 217-228 (invited).

42. “Divine Commands Are Unnecessary for Moral Obligation”, *Journal of  
 Ethics and Social Philosophy* 22:1 (2022).

41. “Three Sources of Human Dignity”, in B. Bussey and A. Menuge (eds.), *The*

*Inherence of Human Dignity, Volume I: Foundations of Human Dignity* (New

York: Anthem Press, 2021), pp. 63-77 (invited).

40. “A Temporal First Cause? A Reply to Craig’s Reply”, *TheoLogica* 5:1 (2021).

39. “Craig’s Contradictory *Kalam*: Trouble at the Moment of Creation”,

*TheoLogica* 5:1 (2021).

38. “Divine Command Theory and Psychopathy,” *Religious Studies* 56:4 (2020):  
 542-557.

37. “In Defense of C.S. Lewis’s Soul-Making Theodicy: A Reply to

Wolterstorff”, *Journal of Inklings Studies* 9:2 (2019): 192-199.

36. "Secular Humility," in Jennifer Cole Wright (ed.), [*Humility*](https://global.oup.com/academic/product/humility-9780190864880?cc=us&lang=en&) (Oxford: Oxford

University Press, 2019), 42-107 (invited).  
 35. “Evil and Atheistic Moral Realism”, Responses to Richard Brian Davis,  
 Paul Helm, and Michael Ruse, and Reply to Critics in W. Paul Franks  
 (ed.), *Explaining Evil: Four Views* (New York: Bloomsbury 2019), pp. 36-40,  
 72-76, 111-116, 123-139, and 152-158 (invited).

34. "Reply to Craig, Murphy, McNabb, and Johnson", *Philosophia Christi* 20:2

(2018): 365-375 (invited - part of a forum on *Robust Ethics*)  
 33. “The Absurdity of Life in a Christian Universe as a Reason to Prefer that  
 God Not Exist,” in Klaas Kraay (ed.), *Does God Matter? Essays on the  
 Axiological Consequences of Theism* (New York: Routledge, 2018), pp. 147- 163 (invited).  
 32. “In Defense of Theism-Independent Moral Realism,” in Leonard Clapp  
 (ed.), *Philosophy for Us* (Cognella, 2018), pp. 125-133 (invited).

31. “Agency and Responsibility in a Natural World,” in John Shook and Phil

A. Zuckerman (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Secularism* (Oxford: Oxford

University Press, 2017), pp. 623-637 (invited).  
 30. “Ethics and Evolutionary Theory,” *Analysis* 76:4 (2016): 502-515 (invited).

29. “Euthyphro and Moral Realism: A Reply to Harrison,” *Sophia* 55:3 (2016):  
 437-449.

28. “Plantingian Theism and the Free-Will Defence,” *Religious Studies* 52:4  
 (2016): 451-460.

27. “Evolutionary Debunking Arguments in Religion and Morality,” in Uri

Leibowitz and Neil Sinclair (eds.), *Explanation in Ethics and Mathematics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), pp. 83-102 (invited).

26. “The Parent-Child Analogy and the Limits of Skeptical Theism,”  
 *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 78:3 (2015): 301-314.  
 25. “A Critique of C.S. Lewis’s Moral Argument” and “Reply to David  
 Baggett,” in Gregory Bassham (ed.), *C.S. Lewis’s Christian Apologetics: Pro  
 and Con* (Boston: Rodopi-Brill, 2015), 141-52 and 163-70 (invited).  
 24. “Difference-Making and Easy Knowledge: Reply to Comesana and

Sartorio,” *Logos and Episteme* 6:1 (March 2015): 141-146.

23. “Disgust, Moral Knowledge, and Virtue,” in Nancy Snow and Franco

Trivigno (eds.), *The Philosophy and Psychology of Character and Happiness*

(New York: Routledge UniversityPress, 2014), 91-112 (invited).

22. “Divine Deception,” in Trent Dougherty and Justin McBrayer (eds.),

*Skeptical Theism: New Essays* (Oxford: Oxford University Press,

2014), 236-249 (invited).

21. “Atheism and Morality,” in Stephen Bullivant and Michael Ruse (eds.), *The*

*Oxford Handbook of Atheism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 89-103

(invited).

20. “An Inconsistency in Craig’s Defense of the Moral Argument,” *European*

*Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 4:4 (2012): 49-58.

19. “The Failure of Brown’s New Supervenience Argument,” *Journal of Ethics*

*and Social Philosophy*, October 2011.

18. “Aristotelian Love-making,” in Adrianne L. McEvoy (ed.), *Sex, Love, and*

*Friendship: Studies of the Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love: 1993-2003*

(New York: Rodopi, 2011), 365-372.

17. “God, Morality, and Meaning in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*,” *The Cormac*

*McCarthy Journal* 8:1 (2010), 1-16.

16. “Skeptical Theism and Divine Lies,” *Religious Studies* 46:4 (2010), 509-523.

15. “Objective Morality and the Nature of Reality,” *American Theological Inquiry*

3:2 (July 2010), 77-84 (invited).

14. “On the Evolutionary Debunking of Morality,” *Ethics* 120 (April 2010), 441-

464.

13. “Dawkins’s Gambit, Hume’s Aroma, and God’s Simplicity,” *Philosophia*

*Christi* 11:1 (Summer 2009), 111-125.

12. “In Defense of Non-Natural, Non-Theistic Moral Realism,” *Faith and*

*Philosophy* 26:1 (January 2009), 23-41.

11. “Response to Maria Antonaccio,” *Conversations in Religion and Theology* 4:2

(November 2006), 219-224 (invited).

10. “Saving Character,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 9:4 (August 2006), 461-

491.

9. "Egoism and *Eudaimonia-*Maximization in the *Nicomachean Ethics*," *Oxford*

*Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 26 (Summer 2004), 277-295.

8. "A Morally Unsurpassable God Must Create the Best," *Religious Studies* 40:1

(March 2004), 43-62.

7. "Pleasure, Pain, and Moral Character and Development," *Pacific Philosophical*

*Quarterly* 83:3 (September 2002), 282-299.

6. "How to be an Alethically Rational Naturalist," *Synthese* 131:1 (April 2002),

81-98.

5. "The New Paradox of the Stone Revisited," *Faith and Philosophy* 18:2

(April 2001), 261-268.

4. "Pleasure as a Sign of Moral Virtue in the *Nicomachean Ethics*," *The Journal of*

*Value Inquiry* 34:4 (December 2000), 439-449.  
 3. "Many Are Culled But Few Are Chosen," *Religious Studies* 36:1 (March 2000),

81-93.  
 2. "Omnipotence Again," *Faith and Philosophy* 17:1 (January 2000), 26-47.

Russian translation in *Philosophy of Religion: An Almanac 2006-2007*, edited

by V.K Schokhin (Moscow: Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of

Sciences, 2007), 181-211.

1. "Goodness without Qualification," *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 32:1 (March

1998), 93-104.

Book Reviews  
 10. Review of *Debunking Arguments in Ethics*, by Hanno Sauer, *International*

*Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 10:2 (2020): 178-183 (invited).  
 9. “Metz’s Case against Supernaturalism” (review of *Meaning in Life*, by

Thaddeus Metz), *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 8:2 (2016)

(invited).

8. “Homosexual Sex and the One-Flesh Union” (review of *One Body*, by  
 Alexander Pruss), *Annals of Philosophy* 63:3 (2015), 107-117: (invited).  
 7. Review of *God, Value, and Nature*, by Fiona Ellis, *International Journal for  
 Philosophy of Religion* 78:1 (2015): 131-5 (invited).

6. Review of *Moral Tribes: Emotion, Reason, and the Gap between Us and Them*, by  
 Joshua Greene, *Ethics* 124:4 (2014): 910-6 (invited).

5. Review of *The Cambridge Companion to C.S. Lewis*, edited by Robert MacSwain  
 and Michael Ward, *English Studies* 95:2 (2014): 226-7 (invited).

4. Review of *Nature is Enough: Religious Naturalism and the Meaning of Life*, by  
 Loyal Rue, *Philosophy, Theology, and the Sciences* 1:1 (2014): 134-8 (invited).

3. Review of *On the Intrinsic Value of Everything*, by Scott A. Davison, *Ethics*

123:1 (October 2012): 141-6 (invited).

2. Review of *The Clarity of God’s Existence: The Ethics of Belief after the Enlightenment*, by Owen Anderson, *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 16:4

(2009), pp. 573-575 (invited).

1. Review of *Providence Lost*, by Genevieve Lloyd, *The Philosophers’ Magazine* 45:

2nd quarter, 2009, pp. 106-107 (invited).

Non-academic Publications5. “The Moral Argument for God’s Existence; or, How I Learned to Stop

Worrying and Love Godless Morality”, *The Philosophers’ Magazine* 86:3

(2019): 93-98 (invited).

4. “The problem with moral knowledge,” blog post at OUPblog, September 21,

2014.

3. Op-ed piece on objective morality without God in the *Shreveport Times*,

February 23, 2008.

2. "I Think, Therefore I Am Misunderstood" -- "My Turn" essay for *Newsweek*,

October 16, 2006.

1. “Aslan the Terrible: Painful Encounters with Absolute Goodness,” in *The*

*Chronicles of Narnia and Philosophy*, edited by Gregory Bassham and Jerry

Walls (Chicago: Open Court Press, 2005), 221-230.

**TALKS**

44. “Psychopaths in Robert Adams’s Theistic Framework for Ethics”,

University of Colorado, Boulder, January 24, 2020 (invited).

43. "Life's Meaning in a Godless Universe," Harvard Club, Indianapolis,

September 19, 2019 (invited).

42. "Three Sources of Human Dignity," Special Workshop on the Inherence of

Human Dignity, IVR 2019, University of Lucerne, Switzerland, July 8-9,

2019 (invited).

41. Co-discussant with Greg Ganssle at a Thompson Institute event titled "Are

You Free?", The Ohio State University, February 28, 2019 (invited).

40. Co-discussant with Sam Newlands at a Veritas Forum titled “Reckoning  
 with Evil: A Discussion on God, Philosophy, and Hope,” Indiana  
 University, February 28, 2018 (invited).  
 39. “Moral Disagreement, Relativism, and the Puzzle of Psychopathy,” God  
 and Morality Symposium, North Carolina State University, February 24,  
 2018 (invited).  
 38. Debate with William Lane Craig, “God and Morality: What is the Best

Account of Objective Moral Values and Duties?”, North Carolina State  
 University, February 23, 2018 (invited).

37. “Reply to Craig, Murphy, McNabb, and Johnson,” Evangelical

Philosophical Society session titled “Erik Wielenberg’s *Robust Ethics*:  
 Theistic Responses,” at the 2017 joint meeting of the American Academy  
 of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, November 20,

2017 (invited).

36. “Comments on *God’s Own Ethics* by Mark Murphy,” Eastern Division

meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Baltimore, January 4-

7, 2017 (invited).

35. “Comments on ‘Happiness, Suffering and Prudential Asymmetry’, by  
 Jennifer Hawkins,” Eastern Division meeting of the American  
 Philosophical Association, Baltimore, January 4-7, 2017 (invited).  
 34. “Plantingian Theism and the Free Will Defense,” Purdue University,

November 12, 2016 (invited).   
 33. “Rowe’s Evidential Argument and the Demise of Skeptical Theism,”

William L. Rowe Memorial Conference, Purdue University, July 26-27,

2016 (invited).

32. “Secular Humility,” (i) the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, the  
 University of Birmingham (U.K), May 13, 2015 (invited); (ii) DePauw

Faculty Forum, September 2, 2015 (invited); (iii) “Humility: Reflections on  
 Its Nature and Function” Conference, University of Oklahoma, October  
 20-21, 2016 (invited).  
 31. “Secular Humility?”, the C.S. Lewis Society, University of Oxford, February  
 24, 2015 (invited).

30. “The Absurdity of Life in a Christian Universe,” (i) 7th Philosophy of

Religion One-Day Workshop, the University of Birmingham (U.K.),

October 9, 2014 (invited); (ii) The Joseph Butler Society, University of Oxford, February 23, 2015 (invited); (iii) Workshop on “What Difference Would (or Does) God’s Existence Make?”, Ryerson University (Canada), September 11-12, 2015.

29. “Empirical Moral Psychology and Some Challenges to Moral Knowledge,”

Philosophy Club, University of St. Andrews (U.K.), October 1, 2014

(invited).

28. “Interview with an Atheist”, Panel Discussion with Trent Dougherty at the

C.S. Lewis 50th Memorial Conference, Baylor University, November 22,

2013 (invited).

27. “Comments on Sharon Street’s ‘If There is a God, Then Everything (That

Happens) is Permitted,” Challenges to Religious and Moral Belief:

Disagreement and Evolution, Purdue University, September 6-8, 2012

(invited).

26. “Three Ways the Moral Can Supervene,” (i) Fifth Annual Rocky Mountain

Ethics Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 9-12, 2012; (ii)

Syracuse Philosophy Annual Workshop and Network, Syracuse

University, August 14-16, 2012 (invited).

25. “Disgust and Moral Knowledge,” meeting of the Society for Philosophy and

Psychology, University of Colorado, Boulder, June 21-23, 2012.

24. “Objective Ethics in a Godless Universe,” Furman University, Greenville,

South Carolina, April 3, 2012 (invited).

23. “Qualia and the Banality of Queerness,” Naturalisms in Ethics conference,

University of Auckland, New Zealand, July 14-15, 2011 (invited).

22. “Divine Deception,” (i) 2011 Midwest Conference of the Society of Christian

Philosophers, Hope College, February 24-26, 2011 (invited);

(ii) Australasian Philosophy of Religion Association meeting, University

of Auckland, New Zealand, July 16-17, 2011 (invited); (iii) C.S. Lewis 50th

Memorial Conference at Baylor University, November 23, 2013 (invited).

21. “Can Sociopaths Make Moral Judgments?” meeting of the Southern Society

for Philosophy and Psychology, Atlanta, Georgia, April 15-17, 2010.

20. “On the Evolutionary Debunking of Morality,” (i) Second Annual

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder,

August 6-9, 2009; (ii) Pacific Division meeting of the American

Philosophical Association, San Francisco, March 31-April 4, 2010.

19. “Skeptical Theism and Divine Lies,” (i) DePauw Faculty Forum, October 11,

2007; (ii) Fourth Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference, Baylor

University, February 5-7, 2009; (iii) Pacific Division meeting of the

American Philosophical Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 8-12, 2009.

18. "Objective Ethics in a Godless Universe," (i) Center for Inquiry

Transnational, Amherst, New York, April 13, 2007 (invited); (ii) The

Jefferson Center, Ashland, Oregon, April 26, 2007 (invited); (iii) Lawrence

University, April 30, 2007 (invited); (iv) Centenary College, Shreveport,

Louisiana, February 25, 2008 (invited).

17. “God and Morality,” University School, Cleveland, Ohio, January 9, 2007

(invited).

16.  "Bertrand Russell and C.S. Lewis: Two Peas in a Pod?" Bertrand Russell

Society meeting at the Central Division meeting of the American

Philosophical Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 27, 2006.

15.  "Having Your Cake and Eating it Too: Objective Ethical Truth without

God," (i) Forum on Religious Issues, University of Wisconsin-Parkside,

March 6, 2006 (invited); (ii) West Virginia University, March 28, 2006

(invited); (iii) Florida Southern College, March 30, 2006 (invited); (iv)

Wabash College, April 6, 2006 (invited); (v) Hanover College, May 17,

2006 (invited).

14. “Author Meets Critics: *Value and Virtue in a Godless Universe*,” Eight Biennial

UMass Alumni Philosophy Conference, October 8, 2005 (invited).

13. “Aquinasizing the Impeded-Function Argument (Comments on Sullivan),”

meeting of the Indiana Philosophical Association, DePauw University,

May 1, 2004.

12. “Egoism and *Eudaimonia*-Maximization in the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” meeting

of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy at the Central Division

meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, Illinois,

April 22-25, 2004.

11. “Aristotelian Egoism and Richard Kraut’s Argument from Ostracism,” fall

meeting of the Indiana Philosophical Association, Ball State University,

November 1, 2003.

10. “Wielenberg and His Mass (Comments on Kaufman),” Seventh Biennial

UMass Alumni Philosophy Conference, October 11, 2003.

9. "A Morally Unsurpassable God Must Create the Best," (i) 2003 Hawaii

International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, Hawaii,

January 12-15, 2003; (ii) Central Division meeting of the American

Philosophical Association, Cleveland, Ohio, April 23-26, 2003.

8. “C.S. Lewis vs. the Atheists,” DePauw University Faculty Research

Colloquium, November 22, 2002.  
 7. "How to Be an Alethically Rational Naturalist," (i) Eastern Division meeting

of the American Philosophical Association, Atlanta, Georgia, December

27-30, 2001; (ii) Midwest Regional meeting of the Society of Christian

Philosophers at Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 7-9, 2002;

(iii) 2002 Atlantic Region Philosophy Conference, University of Prince

Edward Island, October 18-19, 2002.  
 6. "Comments on Edward Wierenga's 'Trinity and Polytheism'", Sixth Biennial

UMass Alumni Philosophy Conference, October 13, 2001.

5. "Aristotelian Love-Making," (i) Fifty-Second Annual Northwest Conference

on Philosophy, Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon, November 10-11,

2000; (ii) Society for the Philosophy of Sex and Love at the Eastern

Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in New York,

December 27-30, 2000.  
 4. "Pleasure, Pain, and Moral Character," fall meeting of the Indiana

Philosophical Association, Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana, November

4, 2000.

3. "Moral Perfection and the No Best World Defense," 1999 Midwest Regional

meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Marquette University,

March 25-27, 1999.  
 2. "A New Approach to Omnipotence," 1998 Eastern Regional meeting of the

Society of Christian Philosophers, University of Delaware, April 2-4, 1998.  
 1. "Comments on 'Why Species Extermination is Wrong', by Ben Bradley,"

UMass Philosophy Graduate Student Colloquium, October 31, 1997.