

SYDNEY PENNER

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT **Merton College**, Oxford, UK
Junior Research Fellow, 2010–present

EDUCATION **Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY, USA
Ph.D., Philosophy, May, 2011
Dissertation Title: 'Francisco Suárez on Practical Reason and Action'
Dissertation Committee: Scott MacDonald (chair), Andrew Chignell,
Terence Irwin, and Sukjae Lee
M.A., Philosophy, January 2009

University of Oxford, Oxford, Oxfordshire, UK
Visiting student, Hilary Term 2008

Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA
B.A., History and Philosophy (*magna cum laude*), June 2005
History thesis: 'Sixteenth-Century Anabaptists and the Miraculous'
Advisor: Carlos M. N. Eire
Philosophy thesis: 'Kant on the Emotions'
Advisor: Michael Weber

Acadia University, Wolfville, NS, Canada
History and Philosophy, 2001–03

Rosedale Bible College, Irwin, OH, USA
A.A. in Biblical Studies, May 2001

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION Medieval, History of Ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE Early Modern, Ancient, Ethics, Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Religion, Logic

PUBLICATIONS 'Free and Rational: Suárez on the Will', *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, forthcoming.

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- AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS
- Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy Founders Award, 2010
 - Cornell University Sage Fellowship, 2005–2006, Spr. 2008, and Spr. 2009
 - Andrew D. White Prize (for best senior essay in European history), 2005
 - Mellon Research Grant, 2004
 - Honours Summer Research Award, 2003
 - E. Blanche Thomas History Prize, 2002
 - Kirkconnell Scholarship, 2002
 - Traditio (Pew Younger Scholars), 2002
- PRESENTATIONS
- (Upcoming) ‘Suárez on Final Causation’, University of Copenhagen, February 2011
 - ‘Interpretative Intention in Suárez’, *The University of Toronto Colloquium in Mediaeval Philosophy*, September 2010
 - Commentary on Kurt Smith’s ‘Many Bodies or One’, *A Cartesian Colloquium*, Syracuse University, March 2010
 - ‘Termini and Final Causation’, Discussion Club, Cornell University, December 2009
 - ‘Free and Rational: Suárez on the Will’
 - *APA Eastern*, SMRP session, December 2010 (presented in my absence due to illness)
 - *Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy*, May 2009
 - Commentary on Stephen Zylstra’s ‘Ockham’s Teleology in Silhouette’, *Canadian Philosophical Association 53rd Annual Congress*, Carleton University, May 2009
 - ‘Suárez on Intellect and Will’, *Canadian Philosophical Association 53rd Annual Congress*, Carleton University, May 2009
 - ‘Scotus’s Two Affections of the Will in the Early Modern Period’
 - *North Sea Early Modern Philosophy Workshop*, Leiden, February 2009
 - Department Workshop, Cornell University, February 2009
 - Commentary on James Gordley’s ‘Suárez and Natural Law’, *Francisco Suárez, S.J. (1548-1617): Last Medieval or First Early Modern?*, University of Western Ontario, September 2008
 - ‘A Dualism of Theoretical Reason?’, Department Workshop, Cornell University, April 2008
 - ‘Disagreement, Reasonableness, and Epistemic Values’, Department Workshop, Cornell University, March 2007
 - Commentary on Andrew Bailey’s ‘Classical Theism and Supervenience’, *Rutgers Philosophy of Religion Conference*, January 2007
- FORMAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION
- Cornell/UMassAmherst/Vermont Augustine Lectio*
 - An annual one-day working seminar on a designated text by Augustine. Each participant is responsible for presenting part of the text. 2006 (*Confessiones XI*), 2007 (*De duabus animabus*), 2008 (*Contra Julianum 3*), 2009 (*De quantitate animae*), and 2010 (*De magistro*).

Bonn/Cornell Workshop on Augustine's Philosophy of Mind

A series of three-day seminars on *De Trinitate* bringing together German and American scholars. Spring 2009 (*De Trinitate* IX and X) and Fall 2009 (*De Trinitate* XI and XII).

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Cornell University

Instructor

Responsible for all aspects of course design and instruction
PHIL 1112 The Good Life, Fall 2009 & Spring 2010

Teaching Assistant

Responsible for leading weekly discussion sections and grading
PHIL 2200 Ancient Philosophy, Fall 2008
PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2007 & Fall 2007
PHIL 217 19th and 20th Century European Thought, Fall 2006

Grader

Responsible for grading papers
PHIL 264 Metaphysics, latter half of Spring 2008
PHIL 315 Medieval Philosophy, Fall 2007
PHIL 312 Modern Empiricism, Spring 2006

GRADUATE
COURSEWORK

(All courses taken at Cornell unless otherwise noted. * =_{df} audited course.)

Ancient Philosophy

*Plato's <i>Meno</i> and <i>Theætetus</i>	G. Fine
*Aristotle's <i>De Anima</i>	C. Shields
Aristotle and Stoicism	T. Irwin
History of Ethics (Ancient and Medieval)	T. Irwin

Medieval Philosophy

*Scotus and Ockham on Relations	C. Trifogli (Oxford)
*Augustine: Mind and Reality	S. MacDonald
*Latin Philosophical Texts (8 semesters)	S. MacDonald and C. Brittain
*Medieval Philosophy: Duns Scotus, Ockham	C. Trifogli (Oxford)
*Aquinas's Moral Philosophy	S. MacDonald

Early Modern Philosophy

*Early Modern Theories of Causation	M. Frankel and K. Richardson (Syracuse)
*Early Modern Metaphysics of Causation	S. Lee
*Suárez: Metaphysics, Moral and Political Ph.	C. Shields and T. Irwin (Oxford)
History of Ethics (Modern)	T. Irwin
Modern Empiricism	Z. Szabó

Value Theory

*Sexual Ethics: Virtues and Duties R. Adams (Oxford)
*Aesthetics A. McGonigal
Ethics and Value Theory N. Sturgeon

Other

Teaching Writing T. Carrick
Deductive Logic H. Hodes
Concepts A. McGonigal
Williamson's *Knowledge and Its Limits* C. Ginet
Realism and Truth M. Eklund
David Lewis B. Weatherson
*German Philosophical Texts (2 semesters) A. Chignell
*Emotions T. Bloser
Problem of Evil S. MacDonald and A. Chignell
Epistemology T. Gendler

**DISSERTATION
ABSTRACT**

In my dissertation I explore the ethical views of Francisco Suárez (1548–1617), a philosopher who, although widely seen as one of the primary conduits between medieval scholasticism and early modern philosophy and once highly-regarded, has been strangely ignored in recent scholarship. I argue that, contrary to some recent suggestions, Suárez fits into the tradition of Aristotelian eudaemonism, although he develops the view in response to challenges raised by his predecessors.

**NON-PHILOSOPHY
PUBLICATIONS**

'Swiss Anabaptists and the Miraculous', *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 80 (2006): 207–28

**OTHER ACADEMIC
EXPERIENCE AND
SERVICE**

Co-organizer of Suárez on relations reading seminar, 2011
Organizer of Malebranche reading group, 2009–2010
Graduate Student Representative, Fall 2008
Indexer for *The Oxford Handbook of Plato* (ed. Gail Fine), Spring 2008
Co-ordinator and co-founder of Cornell's Graduate Student Visiting Philosopher Series, 2007–2009
Job search committee member, Fall 2007
Discussion Club reception organizer, 2005–2006

LANGUAGES

Latin, German

REFERENCES

Scott MacDonald (Cornell): scm8@cornell.edu
Andrew Chignell (Cornell): chignell@cornell.edu
Terence Irwin (Oxford): terry.irwin@philosophy.ox.ac.uk
Sukjae Lee (Seoul National University): leesukjae@snu.ac.kr
Cecilia Trifogli (Oxford): cecilia.trifogli@philosophy.ox.ac.uk

**TEACHING
REFERENCE**

Tad Brennan (Cornell): tad.brennan@cornell.edu