

# SYDNEY PENNER

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

218 Goldwin Smith Hall  
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Cornell University  
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## EDUCATION

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY, USA

Ph.D., Philosophy, expected 2010

Dissertation Title: *Francisco Suárez on Practical Reason and Action*

Dissertation Committee: Scott MacDonald (chair), Andrew Chignell,  
Terence Irwin, and Sukjae Lee

M.A., Philosophy, August 2008

**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*), May 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

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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

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PRESENTATIONS

- 'Termini and Final Causation', Discussion Club, Cornell University, December 2009
- 'Free and Rational: Suárez on the Will', *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
- 'Scotus's Two Affections of the Will in the Early Modern Period', 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

*Teaching Assistant*

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

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*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 *Meno* and *Theætetus*

G. Fine

\*Aristotle's *De Anima*

C. Shields

Aristotle and Stoicism

T. Irwin

History of Ethics (Ancient and Medieval)

T. Irwin

**Medieval Philosophy**

\*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

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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’, <i>Mennonite Quarterly Review</i> 80 (2006): 207–28
OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE	Organizer of Malebranche reading group, 2009– Graduate Student Representative, Fall 2008 Indexer for <i>The Oxford Handbook of Plato</i> (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 (Ohio State University): lee2014@humanities.osu.edu
TEACHING REFERENCE	Tad Brennan (Cornell): tad.brennan@cornell.edu