

# SHAWN SIMPSON

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**Hometown:** Tempe, Arizona, USA.

**Personal:** Born: April 4<sup>th</sup> 1990. Unmarried.

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## EDUCATION

**PhD**, Philosophy, May 14, 2021

*The Graduate Center, the City University of New York*

Dissertation: *Essays on Communication*

Advisor: Noël Carroll

Committee: John Greenwood, Stephen Neale, Michael Devitt

**MPhil**, Philosophy, 2016

*The Graduate Center, the City University of New York*

**MA**, Philosophy, 2015

*The Graduate Center, the City University of New York*

**BA**, Philosophy, 2012

+ Certificate in History and Philosophy of Science

*summa cum laude*

*Arizona State University*

## RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization: aesthetics, ethics, philosophy of language & mind, philosophy of biology

Areas of Competence: Pragmatism, social & political, logic

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Visiting Lecturer – University of Pittsburgh, Department of Philosophy, *2022-present*

Lecturer – Mississippi State University, Department of Philosophy & Religions, *2021-2022*

Visiting scholar – Arché Research Centre, University of St. Andrews, UK, *Summer 2024*

Visiting scholar – University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, *Summer 2022*

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- *Art as Communication: Aesthetics, Evolution, and Signaling* [*in press* @ Lexington Books (an imprint of Bloomsbury)]. Scheduled release: September 2024.

### Edited works

- Co-editor of a Winter 2024 Special Issue on “Environmental Philosophy” in *Diálogos: Journal of the Department of Philosophy of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras*

### Articles

- Pinillos, A. & Simpson, S. (2014). Experimental Evidence in Support of Anti-intellectualism about Knowledge. In J. R. Beebe (Ed.), *Advances in Experimental Epistemology* (pp. 9-44). Bloomsbury Academic: Continuum Books. [Invited]
- James and Carnap on Philosophical Systems and the Role of Temperaments (2023) *Metaphilosophy*, 54(1), 134-144.
- Limits of Wilderness (2024), *Diálogos*, 55(114): 81-115.
- Introduction to *Diálogos: A Special Edition on Environmental Philosophy* (2024), *Diálogos*, 55(114): 9-16.
- William James’s ‘The Will to Believe’: A Decision-Theoretic Analysis (*revise and resubmit*)
- The Sender-receiver Model, Syntax, and Semantics (*under review*)
- Problems for the Pleasure Theory of Evil (*revise and resubmit*)
- The Mosquito Problem (*revising*)

## CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, & EVENTS

### "Logic and Inference in the Sender-receiver Model"

- Invited Speaker, Arché Research Centre, University of St. Andrews, UK, *June 26, 2024*

### "Revenge, Retribution, and the Law"

- Invited speaker, University of Pittsburgh, Undergraduate Philosophy Club, *Dec 2023*

### "The Mosquito Problem"

- International Society for Environmental Ethics, APA Central, *February 2023*

### "Logic and Inference in the Sender-receiver Model"

- NY Philosophical Logic Workshop - CUNY, *March 2023*

### "Re-generating Wilderness"

- Invited speaker, University of Puerto Rico (Rio Piedras), *March 2022*
- Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory Seminar series on Biology, 2020/2021/2022 on “Re-generation” 2022 (*cancelled due to Covid-19*)

### "Defining Life"

- Society for Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology, *March 2022*

#### “Concepts of Wilderness”

- Canadian Society for Environmental Philosophy/ Société Canadienne de Philosophie Environnementale, University of Victoria, *Nov 11-14, 2021*
- MSU Works in Progress Seminar, *Dec 3, 2021*
- Mississippi Academy of Sciences, *March 2022*.

#### “The Nature of Moral Evil”

- Mississippi State University Undergraduate Philosophy Club, *November 2021*

#### “Communication Between Groups and Collective Organisms”

- International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Université du Québec à Montréal, *July 2015*
- Invited talk, Information in Biology Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center, *2014*

#### "James and Carnap on Philosophical Systems and the Role of Temperaments"

- Southwestern Philosophy Graduate Conference, Arizona State University, *March 2013*

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Re-generating Wilderness (draft available)

Art and Group-level Selection (draft available)

The Threat of AI to Living Artists (draft available – short version printed in *Newsweek*)

Logic and Inference in the Sender-receiver Model (co-author – draft available)

A paper on a paradox about death

A book-length project on philosophical theories of evil (samples available)

### **POPULAR MEDIA**

#### **Interviews/Op Eds:**

- “APA Member Interview,” *American Philosophical Association Blog*. July 31, 2020
- “Artificial Intelligence Threatens Disaster for Artists,” *Newsweek*. June 6, 2024

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Pittsburgh – Visiting Lecturer

#### **Introduction to Ethics (writing intensive)**

Fall 2022 [1 lecture (180 students) + 2 rec sessions (15 students each) + 3 TAs]

#### **Concepts of Human Nature (writing intensive)**

Spring 2023 [1 lecture (121 students) + 1 rec session (16 students) + 3 TAs]

Fall 2023 [1 lecture (180 students) + 1 rec session (7 students) + 3 TAs]

#### **Topics in Ethics: The Nature of Evil (advanced seminar)**

Spring 2023 [1 lecture (21 students)]

#### **Philosophy & Public Issues (writing intensive)**

Fall 2023 [1 lecture (54 students) + 1 rec session (15 students) + 1 TA]

Spring 2024 [1 lecture (61 students) + 1 rec session (16 students) + 1 TA]

#### **Topics in Ethics: Theories of Resistance (advanced seminar)**

Spring 2024 [1 lecture (21 students)]

### Mississippi State University – Lecturer in Philosophy

#### **Introduction to Philosophy**

Fall 2021 [3 lectures (40 students each)]

Spring 2022 [2 lectures (40 students each)]

#### **Introduction to Ethics**

Fall 2021 [1 lecture (40 students each)]

Spring 2022 [2 lectures (40 students each)]

### Brooklyn College – Graduate Teaching Fellow

#### **Introduction to Philosophy**

Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2016 [2 lectures, (20 students each)],

#### **Business Ethics**

Spring 2014, Fall 2014 [1 lecture (20 students each)]

#### **History & Philosophy of Science**

Spring 2015 [1 lecture (20 students)]

### The City College of New York – Adjunct Instructor

#### **Bio-Ethics**

Spring 2017, Fall 2017 [1 lecture (20 students)]

#### **Introduction to Philosophy**

Fall 2017 [1 lecture (20 students)]

**John Jay College** – Adjunct Instructor

**Philosophy of Law**

Fall 2017 [1 lecture (20 students)]

**Arizona State University** – Teaching Assistant

**Introduction to Symbolic Logic**

(w/ Dr. Ángel Pinillos)

Fall 2010 [90 students]

**Philosophy of Science**

(w/ Dr. Richard Creath)

Spring 2011 [60 students]

**FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS**

Travel Grant	Mississippi State University	2021, 2022
Presidential Volunteer Service Award	Sierra National Forest	2019
Enhanced Chancellor's Fellowship	Graduate Center, CUNY	2012-2017
WAC Fellowship	CUNY Law School	2016-2017
Travel Grant	Graduate Center, CUNY	2014
Collaborative Incentives Research Grant	Graduate Center, CUNY	2013-2014
Kripke Center Fellowship	Saul Kripke Center, CUNY	2012-2013
Undergraduate Essay Contest, Winner	Arizona State University	2012
Provost Scholarship	Arizona State University	2008-2012
Pell Grant	Arizona State University	2008-2012
Dean's List	Arizona State University	2008-2012

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Research Assistant for Dr. Rohit Parikh (the Graduate Center, CUNY) – 2014  
Research Grant w/ Dr. Rohit Parikh (the Graduate Center, CUNY) – 2014  
Co-organizer - Workshop on Information and Biology (the Graduate Center, CUNY) – 2014  
Reviewer and commentor – CUNY Annual Graduate Student Philosophy Conference – 2015  
Peer Mentor (the Graduate Center, CUNY) – 2014-17  
Teaching Fellow Representative (Brooklyn College) – 2014-15  
Transcriber, Kripke Center (the Graduate Center, CUNY) – 2015  
Graduate Student Council (the Graduate Center, CUNY) – 2016-17  
Executive Committee, Philosophy (the Graduate Center, CUNY) – 2015-17  
Referee – *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy* – 2016-18  
Undergraduate Philosophy Club, co-organizer (Mississippi State University) – 2021-22  
Works in Progress Seminar, member (Mississippi State University) – 2021-22  
Invited Guest Editor – special issue on environmental ethics for *Diálogos* – 2023-2024  
New Undergraduate Syllabus Preparation (University of Pittsburgh) – 2024

## **NON-ACADEMIC CAREER INFORMATION**

### **Non-Academic Employment:**

Wilderness Ranger (intern), Sierra National Forest, California, 2018 (May 2018 – mid-October 2018). *Full-time, paid position, (GS-4 or GS-5 level work/position description)*

Wilderness Ranger (Forestry Technician (Wilderness/Trails); GS-4), Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, Alpine Ranger District, Arizona, 2019 (May 2019 – July 2019). *Full-time, paid position.*

Park Ranger (Wilderness; GS-5), Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, 2019 (Mid-June 2019 to Mid-October 2019). *Full-time, paid position.*

EMT and Search & Rescue Technician, Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, 2019 (Dec 2019 – April 2020). *Full-time, volunteer & AD hire position (GS-5 level work/position description).*

Horse and Mule Packer (WG-5), Inyo National Forest, California, 2020 (April 2020 – 2021). *Full-time, paid position.*

Instructor, Aerie Backcountry Medicine, *Missoula, Montana* (Dec 2019 – 2021). *Full-time, contract, paid position.*

Covid Volunteer, Mississippi State University, Longest Student Health Center (August 2021-March 2022)

### **Non-Academic Professional Certifications**

AHA certified CPR, AED

Wilderness First Responder (NOLS – 2016; re-certified by SOLO – 2018).

EMT. Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (Mesa Community College Fire Science Dept, Mesa, AZ; spring 2019 – end May 4<sup>th</sup>). Current Nationally Registered EMT-B.

SRT 3 certified. Operational Leadership certified. Aviation member certified: A100 (Basic Aviation Safety), A116, A110, A200. IS-100 Intro to ICS, IS-5.A HAZMAT, IS 700.b Intro to NIMS.

## **LANGUAGES**

Primary: English

Secondary: German (basic)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Philosophical Association, The Philosophy of Science Association, HOPOS, International Society for Environmental Ethics, American Association of Philosophy Teachers, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.

## REFERENCES

### **@ The Graduate Center, The City University of New York**

Noël Carroll – Dissertation supervisor  
Email: knollcarroll@gmail.com

John Greenwood – Committee member  
Email: jgreenwood@gc.cuny.edu

Stephen Neale – Committee member  
Email: sneale@gc.cuny.edu

### **@ Brooklyn College (CUNY)**

Samir Chopra – Teaching reference  
Email: schopra.philo@gmail.com

### **@ Mississippi State University**

J. Robert Thompson – Dept. Chair  
Email: jrt@philrel.msstate.edu

### **@ University of Pittsburgh**

James Shaw – Teaching reference  
Email: jrs164@pitt.edu

Tom Berry – Teaching reference  
Email: tberry@pitt.edu

*\*Additional references available upon request.*

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## DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

### ***Essays on Communication (2021)***

**Advisor: Noël Carroll. Committee: John Greenwood (Chair), Stephen Neale, Michael Devitt.**

One of the central issues of contemporary philosophy and biology is the nature of communication. Early accounts of communication tended to focus on just one side of the communicative divide – the speaker side or the receiver side – and took as their starting point the case of human language. Animal communication, historically, was largely treated as a special case. Now things are different. Now it appears we might have a model that makes sense of sign use in both the human and animal realms and brings together both sides of the signaling divide. It's still to be seen, however, how much the model actually captures, especially the farther down we go on the animal side, and it's still to be seen how well the model captures the human cases, especially those around the edges. The purpose of this thesis is to explore the foundations of the sender-receiver model and to show that it can cover more than was previously imagined. Topics discussed include the nature of communication and signaling, animal communication, the nature of meaning or content, the communicative nature of objects such as works of art, blueprints, and maps, and the possibility of communication between groups and collective agents.