

DAVID SOBEL

Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13244
davidsobel3 [at] gmail [dot] com
Fax: (315) 443-5675

EDUCATION:

University of Michigan, Ph.D., 1997.

Swarthmore College, B.A. with High Honors, 1987.

EMPLOYMENT:

Syracuse University

Irwin and Marjorie Gutttag Professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy, 2013-

The University of Nebraska

Robert R. Chambers Professor of Philosophy, 2007-2013

Bowling Green State University

Associate Professor, 2002-2007

Chair, 2003-2007

Assistant Professor, 1996-2002

Instructor, 1995-6

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

From Valuing to Value, forthcoming with Oxford University Press. This will be a collection of some of my previously published articles on subjectivism together with some new material.

Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy. I am co-founding editor of this series with Peter Vallentyne and Steven Wall. It will generate an annual conference beginning in 2013 and an annual volume published by Oxford University Press. The first volume was published in 2015.

Reasons for Action, Cambridge University Press, 2009. Co-Edited with Steven Wall.

Articles:

- 1) "Full Information Accounts of Well-Being" *Ethics* 104 (July 1994): 784-810. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*. A postscript to this paper will be added in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 2) "On the Subjectivity of Welfare" *Ethics* 107 (April 1997): 501-8. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 3) "Well-Being as the Object of Moral Consideration" *Economics and Philosophy* 14 (October 1998): 249-81. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 4) "Pleasure as a Mental State" *Utilitas* Vol. 11, no. 2 (July 1999): 230-35.
- 5) "Do the Desires of Rational Agents Converge?" *Analysis* Vol. 59, no. 3 (July 1999): 137-47. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 6) "Against Direction of Fit Accounts of Belief and Desire," *Analysis* Vol. 61, no. 1 (2001): 44-53. Co-authored with David Copp. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 7) "Subjective Accounts of Reasons for Action" *Ethics* 111 (April 2001): 461-92. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 8) "Explanation, Internalism, and Reasons for Action" *Social Philosophy and Policy* 18:2 (Summer 2001): 218-35. Also appears in *Moral Epistemology*, ed. by Ellen Frankel Paul, Fred D. Miller, Jr., and Jeffrey Paul, Cambridge University Press, 2001. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 9) "Varieties of Hedonism" *The Journal of Social Philosophy* Vol. 33, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 240-256. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 10) "The Moral Importance of the Capability to Achieve Elementary Functionings," in *Eudaimonia and Well-Being: Ancient and Modern Conceptions*, (ed.) Lawrence Jost and Roger Shiner, *Apeiron*, Vol. XXXV, no. 4 (December 2002): p. 163-82.
- 11) "Desires, Motives, and Reasons: Scanlon's Rationalistic Moral Psychology" *Social Theory and Practice* Vol. 28, no. 2 (April 2002): 243-76. Co-authored with David Copp. [With a reply from T. M. Scanlon in the same volume.]

- 12) "Reply to Robertson," *Philosophical Papers*, Vol. 32, no. 2 (July 2003): 185-91.
- 13) "Morality and Virtue," *Ethics* 114 (April 2004): 514-54. Co-authored with David Copp. Portions reprinted in *You Decide!: Current Debates in Ethics* edited by Bruce Waller, Pearson/A.B. Longman, 2006. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 14) "Pain for Objectivists: The Case of Matters of Mere Taste," *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (August 2005), 437-57. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 15) "Instrumental Rationality: Not Dead Yet," *The Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, December 2005.
- 16) "Practical Reasons and Mistakes of Practical Rationality," *Moral Psychology*, edited by Sergio Tenenbaum, 299-321, Poznan Studies in the Philosophy of the Sciences and Humanities, Rodopi, 2007.
- 17) "The Impotence of the Demandingness Objection," *Philosophers' Imprint*, September 2007. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 18) "Introduction," in *Reasons for Action*, eds. David Sobel and Steven Wall, Cambridge University Press, 2009, p. 1-13. Co-authored with Steven Wall.
- 19) "Subjectivism and Idealization," *Ethics* 119 (January 2009): 336-52. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 20) "Subjectivism and Blame," in *Reasons to be Moral Revisited*, eds. Sam Black and Evan Tiffany, *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Supplementary Volume 33, 2009, p. 149-170.
- 21) "The Limits of the Explanatory Power of Developmentalism," *The Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 7 (4), (2010), p. 517-27.
- 22) "Parfit's Case Against Subjectivism," *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, volume 6, edited by Russ Shafer-Landau, 2011, p. 52-78. To be published in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 23) "Backing Away from Self-Ownership," *Ethics* 123 (Oct. 2012): 32-60.
- 24) "Self-Ownership and the Conflation Problem," *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics*, Volume 3 (2013), p. 98-122.
- 25) "Disagreeing about How to Disagree," *Philosophical Studies* (2014) 168: 823-834. Co-authored with Kate Manne.

- 26) "Advice for Non-Analytical Naturalists," forthcoming in *Reading Parfit: On What Matters*, Routledge, edited by Simon Kirchen. Co-authored with Janice Dowell. Parfit is to provide replies to the papers.
- 27) "Subjectivism and Proportionalism," forthcoming in *From Valuing to Value*. An earlier version of this review of Mark Schroeder's *Slaves of the Passions* was posted online April 26, 2009 in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- 28) "The Point of Self-Ownership," forthcoming in David Schmidtz's *Oxford Handbook on Freedom*, Oxford University Press.
- 29) "Subjectivism and Reasons to be Moral," forthcoming in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 30) "Introduction," forthcoming in *From Valuing to Value*.
- 31) "Is Subjectivism Incoherent?" forthcoming in *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

Shorter Works and Book Reviews:

"Humean Theories of Motivation," forthcoming in Hugh LaFollette (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of Ethics*.

Review of T. M. Scanlon's *What We Owe to Each Other* (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1998), *Economics and Philosophy* Vol. 16, no. 2 (October 2000): 368-72. Co-authored with David Copp.

Review of Ruth Chang's (ed.) *Incommensurability, Incomparability, and Practical Reason* (Harvard University Press, 1997) *The Philosophical Quarterly* Vol. 49, no. 197 (Oct. 1999): 545-48.

Review of Michael Zimmerman's *The Concept of Moral Obligation* (Cambridge University Press, 1996) *Ethics* 109 (January 1999): 468-70.

"Sumner on Welfare" (Critical Notice of L. W. Sumner's *Welfare, Happiness, and Ethics*, Clarendon Press, 1996) *Dialogue*, Vol. XXXVII, no. 3 (Summer 1998): 571-77.

Review of David Copp's *Morality, Normativity, and Society* (Oxford University Press, 1995) *Economics and Philosophy* Vol. 14, no. 2 (October 1998): 349-57.

Review of James Griffin's *Value Judgment* (Clarendon Press, 1996) *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* Vol. 1, issue 4 (1998): 479-80.

"Reply to Hubin" Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted November 6, 2000, (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/bears/0011sobe.html>.)

"Comment on Anderson" Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted April 8, 1999, (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/bears/9904sobe.html>).

"Reply to Shaver" Brown Electronic Article Review Service (BEARS), Posted July 7, 1997, (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/bears/9707sobel.html>).

PRESENTATIONS:

"Subjectivism and Reasons to be Moral" presented at Rutgers University (2014), University of Konstanz, Germany (2014), LUISS, Italy (2014), The University of Pavia, Italy (2014), Arizona State University, UNC (2015), NYU (2015), Cornell University (2015), and Vermont (2015). To be presented at Noise, (Tulane University, 2016), and Duke University (2016).

"Subjectivism vs. Kantian Rationalism," presented at the Central APA, 2015, at an Author Meets Critics session on Julia Markovits's *Moral Reason*, Oxford University Press, 2014.

"The Point of Self-Ownership," presented at the University of Arizona (2014).

"Advice for Non-Analytical Naturalists," presented (with co-author Janice Dowell) at The Ohio State University (2012), and (with co-author Janice Dowell) at Noise (at Tulane University), 2013.

"Reply to Mack: Should we Back Away from Self-Ownership?" presented at Noise (at Tulane University, 2013).

"Disagreeing about How to Disagree," part of a symposium on David Enoch's *Taking Morality Seriously* presented in Atlanta at the Eastern Division of the APA, Dec. 2012 (with Kate Manne).

"Subjectivism and Idealization Again," comments on Valerie Tiberius' paper "Right in the Middle: Normativity and Idealized Subjective Theories of Well-Being" presented at the Henle Conference on Happiness and Well-Being in St. Louis, March, 2012.

"Backing Away from Self-Ownership," presented (2012) at a mini-conference on this paper organized by The Freedom Center at The University of Arizona with Jason Brennan, Dan Russell, and John Thrasher as commentators; at the Transitional Justice Group in the Political Science Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2011); at The Ohio State Conference *Reason and Right* in Dubrovnik, Croatia (2011); ISUS XI *The Ethics of Economic Development* in Lucca, Italy (2011); Syracuse University (2012); at the University of Copenhagen (2012); Swarthmore College (2012), Vermont (2015).

"Self-Ownership and the Conflation Problem," presented (2012) at the *Third Annual Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics*. Also presented at the 2012 NOISE Conference at Tulane University, the University of Lund (2012), and the University of Stockholm (2012).

“Is There a Conceptual Connection Between a Sense of Self-Worth and Autonomy? Comments on Rosati” presented at the 2011 NOISE Conference at Tulane University.

“Portmore’s Complaint Against Anti-Rationalism,” presented at the 2010 NOISE Conference at Tulane University.

“Parfit’s Case against Subjectivism,” presented at the University of Oxford (2009). Also presented at the Sydney, Australia conference *Emotion, Evolution, and Metaethics* (2009), the 6th Annual Madison Metaethics conference (2009), The University of Kansas (2009), and Southern Methodist University (2010).

“Is Proportionalism Optional for Humeans?” presented at the University of Amsterdam, 2009.

“The Limits of the Explanatory Power of Developmentalism,” presented at the *Richard Kraut and His Critics* Conference at Leiden University, 2009.

“Subjectivism and Idealization” presented at SPAWN (Syracuse Philosophical Annual Workshop and Network), 2007. Commentator: Michael Smith. Also presented at the symposium on *Subjective Accounts of Reasons for Action* at the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago in 2007 (with co-presenters Jamie Dreier and Peter Railton), at Stirling University (2008), The University of Leeds (2008), The University of St. Andrews (2008), The University of Birmingham (2009), the University of Leiden (2009), and the University of Utrecht (2009).

“Reply to Ruth Chang,” presented at the University of Missouri-Columbia Workshop *Practical Reason*, April, 2006.

“The Impotence of the Demandingness Objection,” presented at Dundee University, Scotland at the *Demandingness in Ethics and Philosophy* Conference, July 2006. Also presented at the British Society for Ethical Theory, Southampton, England, July 2006, and at The International Society for Utilitarian Studies Conference at Dartmouth College, August 2005.

“Subjectivism and Going Haywire” presented at the Central Division APA (Chicago), April, 2005.

“Reply to Raz,” presented at The University of Maryland (College Park) Conference *Practical Rationality*, April, 2005.

“Pain for Objectivists” presented at the Central Division APA, Chicago, April, 2004. Also presented at the British Society for Ethical Theory at Kent University in Canterbury, England, June, 2004.

“Morality and Virtue” presented at the Australian National University, Australia (2003). Also presented at the University of Sydney, Australia (2003).

"Practical Reasons and Mistakes of Practical Rationality" presented at the University of Pennsylvania Legal Theory Workshop, March 22, 2002. Also presented at Georgia State University (2002), The University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand (2003), The Australian National University, RSSS, Australia (2003), Macquarie University, Australia (2003), and Monash University, Australia (2003).

"Explanation, Internalism, and Reasons for Action," presented at the Social Philosophy and Policy Center *Moral Epistemology* conference in La Jolla, CA (2000). Also presented at The University of Cincinnati (2001), Bowling Green State University's *Reason and Deliberation* Conference (2001), and The University of Kansas (2002).

"Reply to Railton and Rosati" presented at the 1999 APA Central Division Symposium: *The Philosophical Legacy of Richard Brandt*, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Subjective Accounts of Reasons for Action" presented at Bowling Green State University's *Well-Being* Conference, Sept. 27, 1998. Also presented at Kenyon College (1999), Bowling Green State University's Department of Economics (2000), Swarthmore College (2000), The University of Cincinnati (2000), Rice University (2002), and The University of Arizona (2002).

"Well-Being as the Object of Moral Consideration" presented at the *Utilitarianism Reconsidered* Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, 1997. Also presented at Bowling Green State University (1997), The University of Michigan (1997), North Carolina State University (1997), The University of New Mexico (1998), and The University of Toronto (1998).

Panel discussion member at the Spontaneous Order and Government in Hayek's *Law, Legislation, and Liberty* 1998 Liberty Fund colloquium in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"The Moral Importance of the Capability to Achieve Elementary Functionings" presented at the *Eudaimonia and Well-Being* Conference at The University of Cincinnati, 1996.

"Decision Theory and Well-Being" presented to Bowling Green State University's Department of Economics, 1996.

"Reply to Professor Horowitz" presented at the University of Michigan *Rational Choice* Colloquium, 1994.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Senior Zukunftskolleg Fellowship, University of Konstanz, June-Aug, 2014.

Visiting Fellow, All Souls College, University of Oxford, April-July, 2009.

Visiting Fellow, Philosophy Department, University of Leiden, January-April, 2009.

Visiting Fellow, Centre for Ethics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs, University of St. Andrews, September-December, 2008.

Senior Research Fellow, Social Philosophy and Policy Center, 2002-2007.

Visiting Fellow, Australian National University, The Philosophy Program, Research School of Social Sciences, January-August 2003.

Taft Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Cincinnati, 2000-2001.

Brand Blanchard Essay Prize, 1987, for best submitted philosophical essay of the year, Swarthmore College.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Service to the Profession:

Co-founding editor of *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy* (with Peter Vallentyne and Steven Wall), 2013-present. Additionally we established and administer The Marc Sanders Prize in Political Philosophy (\$10,000 awarded bi-annually) for the best paper submitted by a young scholar working in political philosophy.

Co-editor of PEA-Soup (with David Shoemaker), 2013-

APA Central Division Program Committee member for the 2014 meeting.

Philosophy Compass Ethics section co-editor (with Valerie Tiberius), 2007-2009.

Program Committee Member for the *Metaethics* workshop at The University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2011, and 2012.

Program Committee Member for the *Normative Ethics* workshop at the University of Arizona, 2009 and 2010.

External Honors examiner, Swarthmore College, 2004 and 2010.

Assessor for the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 2010.

External Evaluation of the Oklahoma University Department of Philosophy's Outcomes and Assessment Program, 2002.

Guest editor for BEARS for a web colloquium on Elizabeth Anderson's "What is the Point of Equality?" (<http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/bears/symp-anderson.html>). Participants: Elizabeth Anderson, Richard Arneson, Thomas Christiano, David Sobel.

Occasional Referee for: *Ethics*, *The Philosophical Review*, *Nous*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Mind*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophers Imprint*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Ethics*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, *Dialogue*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophical Explorations*, Oxford University Press.