

Ethan Mills

Department of Philosophy and Religion
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN 37403-2598

423.425.5473

Ethan-Mills@utc.edu

<http://www.utc.edu/philosophy-religion/profiles/faculty/ctm565.php>

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION Buddhist Philosophy
 Indian Philosophy
 Ancient and Modern Skepticism

AREAS OF COMPETENCE Philosophy of Religion
 Ethics
 Contemporary Epistemology
 Early Modern European Philosophy
 Ancient Greek and Hellenistic Philosophy
 Chinese Philosophy

EDUCATION

PhD, Philosophy, University of New Mexico (2013)

Dissertation: *The Dependent Origination of Skepticism in Classical India: An Experiment in Cross-Cultural Philosophy*

Committee: John Taber (chair), Richard Hayes, Mary Domski, Kelly Becker, and Arindam Chakrabarti

MA, Philosophy, University of Hawaii at Mānoa (2003)

BA, Philosophy (Minor in Religion), Hamline University (1999)

Honors Thesis: *Buddhism and Science: A Comparison of Methods*

Student, Antioch College Buddhist Studies Program, Bodh Gaya, India (Fall 1997)

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor (tenure track), University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (Fall 2014 – present)

PUBLICATIONS

Articles Published

“External-World Skepticism in Classical India: The Case of Vasubandhu.” *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 6:4 (December 2016): 1-26.

“Nāgārjuna’s Pañcakoti, Agrippa’s Trilemma, and the Uses of Skepticism.” *Comparative Philosophy* 7:2 (2016): 44-66.

“On the Coherence of Dignāga’s Epistemology: Evaluating the Critiques of Candrakīrti and Jayarāsi.” *Asian Philosophy* 25:4 (November 2015): 339-357.

“Jayarāsi’s Delightful Destruction of Epistemology.” *Philosophy East and West* 65:2 (April 2015): 498-541.

“Epistemological Pacifism and Skepticism.” *The Hamline Review* (Special Issue in Honor of Duane Cady) 31 (2012): 87-109.

"From Comparative to Cross-Cultural Philosophy." *Comparative Philosophy Today and Tomorrow: Proceedings from the 2007 Uehiro CrossCurrents Philosophy Conference*. Eds. Sarah Mattice, Geoff Ashton, and Joshua Kimber. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press (2009): 120-128.

“Cultivation of Moral Concern in Theravāda Buddhism: Toward a Theory of the Relation

Between Tranquility and Insight.” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 11 (2004): 20-45.

Articles Forthcoming

“Whither the Matilal Strategy?” *APA Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies* (Forthcoming Fall 2017).

“Skepticism and Religious Practice in Sextus and Nāgārjuna.” *Ethics Without Self, Dharma Without Atman: Western and Buddhist Philosophical Traditions in Dialogue*. Ed. Gordon Davis. Springer Publishing (Forthcoming 2017).

“Engaged Buddhist Metaphysics: Buddhādāsa on Dependent Origination.” *Indian Ethics: Classical Traditions and Contemporary Challenges: Volume II*. Eds. Purushottama Bilimoria and Joseph Prabhu. Springer Publishing (Forthcoming).

Book Reviews

“Book Review of *The Philosophy of Lokāyata: A Review and Reconstruction* by Bijayananda Kar.” *Philosophy East and West* 66 (2016): 1366-1368.

“Book Review of *Brahman and Dao: Comparative Studies of Indian and Chinese Philosophy and Religion*, edited by Ithamar Theodor and Zhihua Yao. *Frontiers of Philosophy in China* 10: 3 (2015): 525-527.

“Book Review of *Warriors of the Cloisters: The Central Asian Origins of Science in the Medieval World* by Christopher I. Beckwith.” *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of the Philosophy of Science* 5 (2015): 201-204.

“Book Review of *Ancient Scepticism* by Harald Thorsrud.” *Ancient Philosophy* 31 (2011): 446-450.

“Book Review of *Pyrrhonism: How the Ancient Greeks Reinvented Buddhism* by Adrian Kuzminski.” *Ancient Philosophy* 31 (2011): 222-228.

“Book Review of *Buddhism, Knowledge and Liberation: A Philosophical Study* by David Burton.” *Philosophy East and West* 57 (2007): 593-595.

“Book Review of *Being Benevolence: The Social Ethics of Engaged Buddhism* by Sallie B. King.” *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 13 (2006).

WORK UNDER REVIEW AND IN PROGRESS

The Three Pillars of Skepticism in Classical India: Nāgārjuna, Jayarāśi, and Śrī Harṣa
(Under contract with Lexington Books)

“Whither the Matilal Strategy?” (Article in progress)

“*Prapañca* in Nāgārjuna and Gauḍapāda” (Article in progress)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Buddhist Philosophy and *Ghost in the Shell*,” Guest lecture for Honors 3590: Non-Western Cultures: Zen, Film, and Anime, Instructors: Dr. Talia Welsh and Bo Baker, MLIS, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (Feb. 23, 2017)

“Jayarāśi and His Place in Classical Indian Philosophy,” Invited online presentation for the Takshashila Institution (public policy think tank located in Bangalore, India) (May 3, 2016)

“Nāgārjuna’s Skepticism about Philosophy,” Invited lecture at Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC (Oct. 20, 2015)

“Nāgārjuna’s Pañcakōṭi and Agrippa’s Trilemma,” Invited guest lecture for Prof. Anand Vaidya’s Comparative Philosophy Seminar, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA (Oct. 1, 2015)

“Can Sceptics be Religious?: Two Ancient Sceptics on Spiritual Practice,” Invited Lecture for

- the Chattanooga Institute of Noetic Sciences Study Group, Chattanooga, TN (Aug. 8, 2015)
- “Only a Buddha Knows: Vasubandhu and External-World Skepticism,” Invited lecture for the Mike Ryan Lecture Series, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA (Oct. 22, 2014)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- “Skepticism in Early Indian Philosophy,” American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Kansas City, MO (March 1-4, 2017)
- “Popularizing Asian Philosophy: Why and How,” American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Kansas City, MO (March 1-4, 2017)
- “The Place of Classical Indian Logic: Reflections on the Ethics of Debate,” Tennessee Philosophical Association Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (Nov. 4-5, 2016)
- “The Meaning of Life Among the Stars: Nolan’s *Interstellar*, Robinson’s *Aurora*, and Butler’s *Earthseed*,” Academic Track at MidAmericaCon II (The 74th WorldCon), Kansas City, MO (Aug. 17-21, 2016)
- “*Prapañca* and *Vikalpa* and *Māyā*, Oh My!: The Dangers of Imagination in Nāgārjuna, Dignāga, and Gauḍapāda,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI (June 2-5, 2016)
- “The Place of Logic in Classical Indian Philosophy,” The Eleventh East West Philosophers’ Conference, Honolulu, HI (May 24-31, 2016)
- “Pain, Suffering, and Happiness in Buddhist Philosophy,” Interdisciplinary Humanities Colloquium on Pain, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN (Feb. 18, 2016)
- “*Pramāṇavāda*: One Tradition, Many Schools,” American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Washington, DC (Jan. 6-9, 2016)
- “Whither the Matilal Strategy?: On Indian/Analytic Comparisons,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference, Monterey, CA (Oct. 1-4, 2015)
- “*Interstellar* and the Meaning of Human Life,” Public Lecture to Promote the Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN (April 9, 2015)
- “Comments on ‘Do Teleological Arguments have Existential or Expressive Conclusions?: A Note on Hume’s *Dialogues*’ by Scott Aikin and Michael Hodges,” Tennessee Philosophical Association Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (Oct. 25, 2014)
- “Vasubandhu and the Nature of the Skeptical Problem,” University of Arizona Philosophy Department Colloquium, Tucson, AZ (Jan. 17, 2014)
- “Skepticism and Religious Practice in Sextus and Nāgārjuna,” Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress, Victoria, BC, Canada (June 2-5, 2013)
- “Vasubandhuan Phenomenalism as a Buddhist Ethical Practice,” American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, New Orleans, LA (Feb. 20-23, 2013)
- “Rejecting Epistemology: Nāgārjuna’s *Pañcakoti* and Agrippa’s Trilemma,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference, Carbondale, IL (October 11-14, 2012)
- “Religiosity Without Belief: Nāgārjuna’s Buddhist Skepticism,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI (May 26-28, 2011)
- “The Ethics of Skepticism: What We Can Learn from Nāgārjuna, Sextus, and Jayarāsi,” The Tenth East-West Philosophers’ Conference, Honolulu, HI (May 16-24, 2011)
- “Is Skepticism Inevitable?” American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Main Program, Minneapolis, MN (March 30- April 3, 2011)
- “Jayarāsi’s Skepticism: How to Stop Worrying and Love a Life without Philosophy,” American

- Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Boston, MA (December 27-30, 2010)
- “Materialism, Skepticism, and the Alleged Spirituality of Indian Philosophy,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference, Asilomar, CA (June 14-17, 2009)
- “The Ontology of Traditions,” Thinking about Traditions: The Seventh Annual Philosophy Student Conference at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM (April 25, 2009)
- “Nāgārjuna, Jayarāsi, and the Distinctive Character of Indian Skepticism,” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Group Program, Vancouver, BC, Canada (April 8-12, 2009)
- “Engaged Buddhist Metaphysics: Buddhadāsa on Dependent Origination,” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference, Asilomar, CA (June 8-11, 2008)
- “Is Epistemology Possible?: Jayarāsi and the Buddhist Logicians on the Very Idea of a Pramāṇa,” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Pasadena, CA (March 19-23, 2008)
- “From Comparative to Cross-Cultural Philosophy,” Uehiro Cross-Currents Philosophy Conference, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI (March 22-23, 2007)
- “Engaged Buddhist Metaphysics: Buddhadāsa on Dependent Origination,” Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of the West, Los Angeles, CA (October 13-15, 2006)
- “A Vindication of Cross-Cultural Philosophy for the 21st Century,” The End of Philosophy?, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM (April 8, 2006)
- “Guessing Ananda and Psychic Norman: Truth and Justification in Dharmakīrti’s *Pramāṇa* Theory and Alvin Goldman’s Virtue Reliabilism,” Cross-Currents: Navigating a Pluralistic World, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI (March 16, 2006)
- “Can Wittgenstein Take a Joke?: Jokes and Their Relation to the Language-Game,” University of Hawaii Philosophy Students’ Association Student Colloquium, Honolulu, HI (May 1, 2003)
- “Buddhism and Science: A Comparison of Methods,” National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY (April 1999)
- “No-Self Doctrines in Hume and Buddhism,” Minnesota Philosophy Association’s Student Conference, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN (April 1998)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor (tenure track)**, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (Fall 2014 – present)
- Philosophy 1200: World Philosophy (Fall 2017)
- Philosophy 3510: Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy (Fall 2017)
- Philosophy/Religion 3430: Philosophies of India (Spring 2017)
- Philosophy 3530: History of Modern Philosophy (Spring 2017)
- Philosophy 4910: Skepticism East and West (Spring 2016)
- Philosophy/Religion 2120: Introduction to Asian Philosophy (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016)
- Philosophy/Religion 4910: Philosophies of India: Knowledge, Reality, Self (Spring 2015)
- Philosophy 3510: History of Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016)
- Philosophy 1130: Western Humanities I (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer 2015)
- Lecturer**, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (Fall 2013-Summer 2014)
- Philosophy 220: Philosophy of Happiness (*Online* Summer 2014)
- Philosophy 112: Introduction to Philosophy Through Film (Spring 2014)
- Philosophy 160D2: Mind, Matter, and God (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)
- Philosophy/Religious Studies 233: Philosophy of Religion (Fall 2013, Spring 2014,

Online Summer 2014)
Philosophy/Classics 260: Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2013)

Adjunct Lecturer, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (Spring 2012-Spring 2013)
Instructor: Philosophy/Religious Studies 233: Philosophy of Religion (Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013)
Instructor: Philosophy 430B: Ethical Theory (Spring 2013)
Assistant Instructor: Professor J. Christopher Maloney's Philosophy 160D2: Mind, Matter, and God (Fall 2012, Spring 2013)
Discussion Section Leader: Professor Jonathan Weinberg's Philosophy 110: Logic and Critical Thinking (Fall 2012)
Discussion Section Leader: Professor Thomas Christiano's Philosophy 150C1: Philosophical Perspectives on Society (Spring 2012)

Instructor, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM (2006-2013)
Online version of Philosophy 156: Reasoning and Critical Thinking (Spring 2012, Summer 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Summer 2013)
Philosophy 201: Greek Thought (Summer 2011)
Philosophy 333/Religious Studies 334: Buddhist Philosophy (Spring 2011)
Philosophy 202: Descartes to Kant (Spring 2011)
Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy (Summer 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Summer 2010, Fall 2010)
Philosophy 156: Reasoning and Critical Thinking (Spring 2006, Summer 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Summer 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2009)

Teaching Assistant, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM (2005)
Teaching Assistant for Professor Brent Kalar's Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2005)

Instructor, College of Santa Fe, Albuquerque, NM (Spring 2008-Spring 2009)
Philosophy 203: Thinking About the Universe (Fall 2008)
Philosophy 202: Science and Sense (Spring 2008, Spring 2009)
Philosophy 301: Ethics (Spring 2008, Spring 2009)

LANGUAGES

Reading proficiency in Sanskrit and French; very basic reading ability in German, Pali, and Tibetan.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty Travel Grant, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (Spring 2016; Spring 2017)
Faculty Summer Fellowship, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (2016)
Barrett Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico (2011)
Office of Graduate Studies Dissertation Scholarship, University of New Mexico (2010-2011)
Office of Graduate Studies Teaching Scholarship, University of New Mexico (2009-2010, 2010-2011)
Career Services Student Conference Award Program Travel Grant, University of New Mexico (Fall 2010, Fall 2012)
Regents' Fellowship, University of New Mexico (2009)
Nominated by the Department of Philosophy for the College of Arts and Sciences Award for Teaching Excellence, University of New Mexico (Spring 2009)

Graduate and Professional Student Association Student Research Allocation Committee Grant, University of New Mexico (2009, 2011)
First Prize, Student Essay Contest, Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference, Asilomar, CA (June 2008)
Department of Philosophy Student Travel Grant, University of New Mexico (2007, 2009)
Office of Graduate Studies Research Project Travel Grant, University of New Mexico (2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012)
Bush Grant for Undergraduate Research, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN (Summer 1998)
Award for Excellence in Writing, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN (May 1998)

SERVICE AND OTHER EXPERIENCE

Guest editor, American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies (Fall 2017)
Chair, Organizational Committee for Interdisciplinary Colloquia Series, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (2016-2017)
Panel organizer, “Integrating Asian and Asian American Philosophy Into Pedagogy and Public Philosophy.” Panel for the American Philosophical Association Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies, American Philosophical Association Central Division Conference. Kansas City, MO. (March 1-4, 2017)
Reviewer, Comparative Philosophy (November 2016-present)
Comprehensive Exam Committee Member, Eric Watts’s English MA Comprehensive Exam, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (Spring – Summer 2016)
Reviewer, Philosophy East and West (May 2016- present)
Member, American Philosophical Association Committee on Asian and Asian-American Philosophers and Philosophies (Feb. 2016-July 2018)
Book Review Editor, The Indian Philosophy Blog (<http://indianphilosophyblog.org>) (Jan. 2015-present)
Reviewer, ASIANetwork Exchange: A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts (June 2015-present)
Faculty advisor, Philosophy Club, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (2015-2017)
Committee member, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Curriculum Committee (2015-2016)
Committee member, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Student Media Committee (2015-2016, 2016-2017)
Panel chair and organizer, “The Promise and Perils of Imagination.” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference. Honolulu, HI. (June 2-5, 2016)
Panel chair and organizer, “The Future of the Study of Indian Philosophy.” Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference. Monterey, CA. (Oct. 1-4, 2015)
Respondent and panel chair, “Self, Mind, and Agency in Indian Traditions,” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada (April 1-5, 2015)
Supervisor of undergraduate senior theses in philosophy, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (Spring 2015, Spring 2016)
Instructor and faculty advisor, Philosophy for Children Sessions for the Outreach College, University of Arizona (Spring 2014, Summer 2014)
Faculty advisor, The Hill Society (an informal philosophy and religion discussion group), University of Arizona (2013-2014)
Supervisor of graduate student graders for Philosophy 160D2: Mind, Matter, and God and Philosophy/Classics 260: Ancient Philosophy, University of Arizona (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)
Panel chair, “Life and Death,” New Directions in Critical Theory: Uncovering the Sublime, University of Arizona (April 5-6, 2013)

Supervisor of undergraduate preceptors for Philosophy/Religious Studies 233: Philosophy of Religion, University of Arizona (Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

Panel chair and organizer, “Intersections of Ethics and Epistemology in Classical Indian Philosophy.” American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Boston, MA (December 27-30, 2010)

Grant reader, Graduate and Professional Student Association, University of New Mexico (2009-2010)

Panel chair, “Ethics and Epistemology in Indian Buddhism.” American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada (April 8-12, 2009)

Officer, Philosophy Graduate Students’ Association, University of New Mexico (2006 – 2011)

Co-planner, University of New Mexico Student Conferences (February 2007 and April 2009)

Library Circulation Coordinator, Augsburg College Library, Minneapolis, MN (2003 – 2005)

Panel discussant and moderator, “Meeting on the Seas of Language: Interpretation Across Boundaries,” Cross-Currents Conference, University of Hawaii (March 6-7, 2003)

Planning committee member, Cross Currents Conference, University of Hawaii (Spring 2003)

Vice President, Philosophy Students’ Association, University of Hawaii (2002 – 2003)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association

Phi Sigma Tau

Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy

Tennessee Philosophical Association

REFERENCES

Professor John Taber, Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico

jataber@unm.edu

Professor Richard Hayes, Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico

rhayes@unm.edu

Professor Mary Domski, Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico

mdomski@unm.edu

Professor Kelly Becker, Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico

kbecker@unm.edu

Professor Arindam Chakrabarti, Department of Philosophy, University of Hawaii at Mānoa

arindam@hawaii.edu

Professor Jonathan Weinberg, Department of Philosophy, University of Arizona

jmweinberg@email.arizona.edu