

# Ted Poston

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## Experience

University of Alabama, Director, McCollough Institute for Pre-Medical Education, July 2018–present.  
University of Alabama, Professor, Department of Philosophy, July 2018–present.  
University of South Alabama, Department of Philosophy, Professor, August 2015–June 2018.  
University of South Alabama, Department of Philosophy, Associate Professor, August 2012–July 2015.  
Rutgers University, Department of Philosophy, Visiting Scholar, Fall 2013  
University of South Alabama, Department of Philosophy, Assistant Professor, August 2006–July 2012.  
University of Missouri, Research Fellow and Teaching Assistant, 2002–2006.  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Teaching Assistant, 2000–2002.

## Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2006.  
Dissertation: *The Sellarsian Dilemma*  
Committee: Jonathan Kvanvig, Matthew McGrath, Peter Markie, Andrew Melnyk, and Paul Weirich.  
M.A. Philosophy, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, 2002.  
Thesis: *Testimonial Justification*  
Committee: William Wainwright, John Koethe, and Mark Kaplan.  
M.A. Philosophy of Religion, Trinity International University, 2000.  
Thesis: *The Evidential Value of Enlightenment Experiences*  
Committee: Paul Feinberg, Harold Netland, and Keith Yandell.  
B.A. Theology, The Baptist College of Florida, 1997.

## Research & Teaching Interests

Traditional & formal epistemology  
Philosophy of science  
Philosophy of medicine  
Logic  
Game theory  
Philosophy of religion

## Research

### Books

2. T. Poston and J. Adam Carter. (2018) *A Critical Introduction to Knowledge How*. Bloomsbury.
1. T. Poston. (2014) *Reason & Explanation: A Defense of Explanatory Coherentism*. Palgrave.

### Edited Books

2. T. Poston and K. McCain, eds. (2018) *Best Explanations: New Essays on Inference to the Best Explanation*. Oxford University Press.
1. T. Poston and K. McCain, eds. (2018) *The Mystery of Skepticism*. Brill.

### Edited Journals

1. T. Poston. (2012) *New Perspectives on Coherentism*. *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 50:1. Guest editor

### Papers

34. T. Poston and Kevin McCain, (Forthcoming) "Explanation and Evidence." in *Routledge Handbook of Evidence*. eds. Maria Lasonen-Aarnio and Clayton Littlejohn.
33. T. Poston and Kevin McCain, (2019) "Dispelling the Disjunction Objection to Explanatory Inference." *Philosophers' Imprint*.
32. T. Poston, Olaf Dammann, and Paul Thagard. (2019) "How do medical researchers make causal inferences?" in *What is Scientific Knowledge? An Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology of Science* eds. Kevin McCain and Kostas Kampourakis. Routledge
31. T. Poston and Kevin McCain, (2018) "Two Strategies for Explaining Away Skepticism." in *The Mystery of Skepticism* eds. T. Poston and Kevin McCain. Brill.
30. T. Poston and Kevin McCain (2018) "Beliefs are Justified by Coherence." *Problems in Philosophy* ed. Steven B. Cowan. Bloomsbury.
29. T. Poston. (2018) 'The argument from so many arguments: A Bayesian perspective' in *Two dozen (or so) arguments for God* Oxford. eds. Trent Dougherty and Jerry Walls.
28. T. Poston (2018) 'Religious Conscience and the Private Market' in *Religious Exemptions* Oxford. eds. Kevin Vallier and Michael Weber., pp. 231-246.
27. T. Poston and Kevin McCain. (2017) 'The Evidential Impact of Explanatory Considerations.' in *Best Explanations: New Essays on Inference to the Best Explanation* eds. T. Poston and Kevin McCain. Oxford University Press. pp. 121-129.
26. T. Poston. (2017) 'Will there be skeptics in heaven?' in *Paradise Understood: New Philosophical Essays about Heaven* Oxford. eds. Ryan Bverly and Eric Silverman, pp. 51-61.
25. T. Poston. (2016) 'Know how to transmit knowledge' *Nous* 50:4, 865-878.
24. T. Poston. (2016) 'Coherence and conservation: A reply to Gardiner.' in *Syndicate Philosophy*.
23. T. Poston. (2016) 'Belief, evidence, and knowledge: A reply to Cling.' in *Syndicate Philosophy*.
22. T. Poston. (2016) 'Making conservatism great again: A reply to Schnee.' in *Syndicate Philosophy*.
21. T. Poston. (2016) 'Rival explanatory paradigms and justification: A reply to Dabay.' in *Syndicate Philosophy*.

20. T. Poston. (2016) 'Acquaintance and Skepticism about the past.' in *Intellectual Assurance: Essays in Traditional Epistemic Internalism* Oxford. eds. Michael Bergmann and Brett Coppenger.
19. T. Poston. and Kevin McCain. (2014) "Why explanatoriness is evidentially relevant." *Thought* 3:2, 145-153.
18. T. Poston. (2014) "Skeptical Theism within Reason." in *Skeptical Theism: New Essays* Oxford. eds. Trent Dougherty and Justin McBrayer.
17. T. Poston. (2014) "Finite Reasons without Foundations" *Metaphilosophy: Special Issues on the Regress Problem* 45:2, 182-191.
16. T. Poston. (2014) "Direct Phenomenal Beliefs, Cognitive Significance, and the Specious Present" *Philosophical Studies* 168: 483-489.
15. T. Poston. (2014) "Social Evil." *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion* 5: 209-233. \*Winning essay for the younger scholars prize in philosophical theology.
14. T. Poston. (2013) "Is foundational a priori justification indispensable?" *Episteme* 10:3, 317-331.
13. T. Poston. (2013) "BonJour and the myth of the given." *Res Philosophica* 90:2, 185-201.
12. T. Poston. (2012) "Editor's introduction for New Perspectives on Coherentism." *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 50:1, 1-4.
11. T. Poston. (2012) "Basic Reasons & First Philosophy: A Coherentist Account of Reasons" *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 50:1, 75-94.
10. T. Poston and Michael Horton. (2012) "Functionalism about truth and the metaphysics of reduction." *Acta Analytica* 27:1, 13-27.
9. T. Poston. (2011) "Explanatory Plasticity & The Problem of the Criterion." *Philosophical Papers* Special Issue on The Problem of the Criterion, ed. Mark Nelson 40:3, 395-419.
8. T. Poston and Kevin Meeker. (2010) "Skeptics without Borders." *American Philosophical Quarterly* 47:3, 223-237.
7. T. Poston. (2010) "Similarity & Acquaintance: A dilemma." *Philosophical Studies* 147, 369-378.
6. T. Poston. (2009) "Know-how to be Gettiered?" *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 79:3, 743-747.
5. T. Poston and Trent Dougherty. (2008) "Hell, Vagueness, and Justice: A Reply to Sider." *Faith and Philosophy* 25, 322-228.
4. T. Poston and Trent Dougherty. (2008) "A User's Guide to Design Arguments." *Religious Studies* 44, 99-110.
3. T. Poston. (2007) "Foundationalism, Evidentialism, and the Problem of Scatter." *Abstracta* 3:2, 89-106.
2. T. Poston and Trent Dougherty. (2007) "Divine Hiddenness and the Nature of Belief." *Religious Studies* 43, 183-198.
1. T. Poston. (2006) "Acquaintance and the Problem of the Speckled Hen." *Philosophical Studies* 132, 331-346.

### Reference works

2. T. Poston. (2008) "Foundationalism." *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
1. T. Poston. (2007) "Internalism & Externalism in Epistemology." *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

### Book Reviews

6. T. Poston (2016) "Review of Mind, Brain, and Free Will." *Journal of Analytic Theology*.
5. T. Poston. (2016) "Review of Evidence and Religious Belief." *The European Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*.
4. T. Poston. (2010) "Review of Liberal Faith: Essays in Honor of Philip Quinn" Paul J. Weithman (ed.) *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
3. T. Poston. (2009) "Review of Believing by Faith" by John Bishop, *Mind* 117, 151-155.
2. T. Poston. (2008) "Critical Notice of Justification without Awareness" by Michael Bergmann, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 77:2, 570-573.
1. T. Poston. (2007) "Review of Common-Sense: A New Look at an Old Philosophical Tradition" by Nicholas Rescher, *Faith and Philosophy* 24:3, 361-363.

### Professional Presentations

30. "The Intrinsic Probability of Theism"  
The Society for Philosophy of Religion. March 1, 2019.
29. "Comments on Page's 'Virtue Epistemology, Causal Deviance, and Manifestation'"  
American Philosophical Association. February 22, 2019.
28. "The Possibility of Coherence"  
Southeastern Epistemology Conference, October 27, 2018  
University of Alabama, November 14, 2018  
St. Louis University, December 7, 2018
27. "Borderline Arguments" (with Chris Dodsworth)  
Alabama Philosophical Society, September 29, 2018
26. "Dispelling the Disjunction Objection to Explanatory Inference" (with Kevin McCain)  
Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop, May 22, 2018  
Alabama Philosophical Society. September 30, 2017
25. "Simplicity & The Intrinsic Probability of Theism"  
Spring Hill College, April 19, 2018
24. "Epidemiology and Causal Inference" (with Olaf Dammann & Paul Thagard)  
Southeastern Epistemology Conference, October 27, 2017
23. "Book Symposium: Ted Poston, Reason and Explanation: A Defense of Explanatory Coherentism"  
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Meeting, Seattle. April 12, 2017
22. "Two strategies for explaining away skepticism" (with Kevin McCain)  
Alabama Philosophical Society, October 1, 2016.  
Southeastern Epistemology Conference, October 29, 2016.  
Auburn University, April 21, 2017.

21. "Faith, Reason, and the Prisoner's Dilemma"  
The Value of Faith, San Antonio, January 14-16, 2016.
20. "Evidence and Explanatoriness"  
The Southeastern Epistemology Conference, October 22, 2015
19. "Evidence, Explanation, and Bayes"  
Alabama Philosophical Society, October 2, 2015.
18. "Trust, games, and God"  
The Faith Project, University of Missouri, July 16, 2015.
17. "Will there be skeptics in heaven?"  
Society of Christian Philosophers, Spring Hill College, March 20, 2015.  
The Paradise Project, Christopher Newport University, April 25, 2015.
16. "Comments on Gardiner's 'A Problem for Intellectualism'"  
American Philosophical Association, Central Meeting, February 21, 2015.
15. "The argument from so many arguments"  
Baylor University, Plantingafest, November 8, 2014
14. "Know how & testimony"  
Alabama Philosophical Society, October 10, 2014
13. "Acquaintance and the Fleeting Present"  
Orange Beach Epistemology Workshop, Fumertonfest, May 19-20, 2014
12. "Reasons without First Philosophy"  
Vanderbilt University, Workshop on the Regress argument, October 18, 2013
11. "Locating Bayesianism within an Explanationist Framework"  
Rutgers University, Epistemology & Normativity Group, November 5, 2013.  
Southeastern Epistemology Conference, October 26, 2012.  
Alabama Philosophical Society, September 2012.
10. "Coherence, A Priority, and Logic"  
American Philosophical Association, Central Meeting 2013.  
Central States Philosophical Association, 2012.
9. "Explanationism"  
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Meeting 2012.  
Alabama Philosophical Society, September 23, 2011.
8. "Is foundational a priori justification indispensable?"  
Russell VII, Healdsburg, CA March 2012.  
University of Alabama, Birmingham February 2012.
7. "Social Evil"

Rutgers University, Philosophy of Religion Group, September 25, 2013.

Society of Christian Philosophers, March 18-19, 2011.

6th Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference, January 28-29, 2011.

6. "A Coherentist Account of Reasons"

The Southern Society for Philosophy & Psychology, March 10-12, 2011.

Central States Philosophical Association, September 25-26, 2010.

5. "Skeptics without Borders"

37th International Hume Conference, July 6-10, 2010.

4. "Is there an 'I' in epistemology?"

Northwestern University, February 17, 2010.

Alabama Philosophical Society, Presidential Address, October 2-3, 2009.

3. "Know-how to be Gettiered?"

American Philosophical Association, Central Meeting, April 17-19, 2008.

2. "Acquaintance & Similarity"

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, March 18-23, 2008.

1. "Internalism and the Problem of Scatter"

American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, April 26-29, 2006. *Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award*

## Public Presentations

6. "Justice and Healthcare," Bioethics meeting, College of Medicine, University of South Alabama, March, 28, 2018.

5. "John Hick's Pluralist Illusion: Lessons in metaphysics and tolerance," Interfaith Club, Satori Coffee-house, February, 28, 2016.

4. "Does faith have its reasons?" Mensa, Daphne, AL. November, 20, 2015.

3. "Does faith have its reasons?" Bienville Forum, Mobile, AL. October, 20, 2015.

2. "Justice and Healthcare," Odyssey, University of South Alabama, January 15, 2010.

1. "Design Arguments for Theism," Humanities & Sciences Colloquium, University of South Alabama, November 20, 2008.

## Professional Activities

Reviewer for *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Analysis*, *Episteme*, *Erkenntnis*, *Mind*, *Nous*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Synthese*, *Theoria*, *Journal for Philosophical Research*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Religious Studies*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Faith and Philosophy*, Routledge, Oxford University Press.

Departmental service: Library Liaison (2006-present), Curriculum Committee (2006-present), Evaluation Committee (2006-present), Chair, Job Search (Fall 2015).

University service: Full member of the graduate faculty (AY 16 - present), Associate member of the graduate faculty (AY 08-16), Summer Research Award Committee (AY 08-09), Academic Planning and Policies Committee (AY 09-10, AY 10-11), A&S Awards Committee (AY 12-13), Faculty Senate (April, 2014 to present), Faculty Grievance Committee (AY 14-15, AY 15-16, AY 16-17), Faculty liaison for adjuncts (AY 15-16), Career Services Committee (AY 15-16), Summer Professional Development Award Committee (AY 14-15), Faculty Senate Salary and Benefits Committee (AY 14-15, 15-16) A&S Tenure Committee (AY 15-16), A&S Promotion Committee (AY 15-16), Advising Policy Council (AY 16-17), Tenure and Promotion Committee (AY 16-17), Handbook & Policies Committee (AY 16-17) Summer Professional Development Award Committee, Chair (AY 16-17) A&S Caucus Leader (AY 16-17), Salary & Benefits, Chair (AY 17-18) Faculty Senate, Executive Committee (AY 17-18).

Service to the Profession: Tenure reviewer (Fall 2014, Fall 2015), President of the Alabama Philosophical Society (2008-2009), Epistemology Area Editor for the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2010-2013), Vice-President of the Alabama Philosophical Society (2007-2008), Secretary/Treasurer of the Alabama Philosophical Society (2006-2007).

## Conferences Organized

Creator and organizer for the Orange Beach Epistemology Workshops

11. May 2019 "Coherence"
10. May 2018 "Explanation"
9. May 2017 "Ancient Epistemology"
8. May 2016 "Skepticism"
7. May 2015 "Inference to the Best Explanation"
6. May 2014 "Fumerton-fest"
5. May 2013 "Early Analytic Epistemology"
4. May 2012 "Social Epistemology"
3. May 2011 "Can formal epistemology answer traditional questions?"
2. May 2010 "Pragmatic Encroachment & Philosophical Methodology"
1. May 2009 "Epistemic Coherentism"

5th Southeastern Epistemology Conference, University of South Alabama, October 28-29, 2016.

Society of Christian Philosophers, Spring Hill College

Theme: Practical Religion, March 20-21, 2015

October 2009 47th Annual Conference of the Alabama Philosophical Society, Gulf Shores

October 2009 "Perception, Action, and Consciousness," 2nd Interdisciplinary Conference on Philosophical Issues, USA

October 2008 46th Annual Conference of the Alabama Philosophical Society

October 2008 "Experimental Philosophy," 1st Interdisciplinary Conference on Philosophical Issues, USA  
Keynote: Joshua Knobe

October 2007 45th Annual Conference of the Alabama Philosophical Society

## Teaching

*University of South Alabama*

PHL 110 Introduction to Philosophy: Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018

PHL 120 Critical Thinking: Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2015

PHL 121 Introduction to Logic: Fall 2006, Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Summer 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018

PHL 290 Medical Reasoning: Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017

PHL 321 Symbolic Logic: Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2014, Fall 2017

PHL 333 Biomedical Ethics: Spring 2006, Summer 2008, Summer 2009, Summer 2010, Summer 2011, Summer 2012

PHL 351 Philosophy of Religion: Spring 2014, Spring 2018

PHL 361 Philosophy of Mind: Fall 2007, Fall 2009

PHL 367 Philosophy of Science: Spring 2008, Spring 2011, Spring 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2017

PHL 390 Philosophy of Math: Spring 2013

PHL 441 Epistemology: Fall 2008, Fall 2010, Fall 2012, Fall 2014, Fall 2016

MA / PHL 467 Mathematical Logic: Spring 2007, Spring 2009, Spring 2013

PHL 490 Philosophy & World Religions (honors): Fall 2015

PHL 490 Game Theory (honors): Spring 2012

PHL 490 Epistemology: Special Topics – Knowledge, Mind, and Nature, Spring 2010

### *University of Missouri*

Introduction to Philosophy: Fall 2004

Introduction to Ethics: Spring 2005

Biomedical Ethics: Spring 2006

### *Trinity International University*

Asian Philosophy: Fall 2002

## Honors, Awards, Grants, & Fellowships

2015 Mortar Board Senior Honor Society 'Top Professor' Award

2015 Funded Participant *The Nature and Value of Faith*, University of Missouri

2013 University of South Alabama Research Council Grant 'Explanation & Epistemology'

2012 Younger Scholars Prize in Philosophical Theology

2011 Junior Scholar of the Year, University of South Alabama

2010 Funded Participant, St. Thomas Summer Seminar in Philosophy of Religion & Philosophical Theology

2009 Mortar Board Senior Honor Society 'Top Professor' Award

2009 The Arts and Sciences Support and Development Award for the USA philosophy workshop on epistemic coherentism

2007 The Arts and Sciences Summer Professional Development Award.

2007 The Arts and Sciences Support and Development Award to attend the 2007 Pacific APA meeting.



2007 Special Faculty Development Fund travel grant to attend The Epistemology of Keith Lehrer conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

2002 to 2006 University of Missouri, G. Ellsworth Huggins Fellowship 5 year award.

2006 APA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award for my paper "Internalism and the Problem of Scatter."

2006 A.C. Benjamin Essay Award for my paper "Internalism and the Problem of Scatter" – University of Missouri Department of Philosophy Essay Award

2005 A.C. Benjamin Essay Award for my paper "Why Care about Justification? The Value of Internalist Justification" – University of Missouri Department of Philosophy Essay Award

2004 A.C. Benjamin Essay Award for my paper "A Defense of the Bayesian Fine-tuning Argument" – University of Missouri Department of Philosophy Essay Award

## References

Richard Fumerton, University of Iowa

Sandy Goldberg, Northwestern University

Peter Klein, Rutgers University

Jonathan Kvanvig, Washington University at St. Louis

Matthew McGrath, University of Missouri

Ram Neta, University of North Carolina

Ernest Sosa, Rutgers University

Jason Stanley, Yale University

Last updated: March 4, 2019