

# Sarah Robins

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Philosophy Dept.  
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St. Louis, MO 63130

## Education

### **Ph.D. Washington University in St. Louis, Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology (PNP), May 2012 (expected)**

Dissertation: *A Capacity View of Memory Traces*

Committee: Carl Craver (chair), John Heil, John Doris, Rebecca Treiman

[Dissertation Abstract Attached]

### **B.A. Hendrix College, Philosophy and Psychology, 2002**

*Magna cum Laude* with distinction in both philosophy and psychology, Phi Beta Kappa

### **AOS: Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of the Cognitive Sciences**

AOC: Biomedical Ethics, Moral Psychology, Developmental Psychology

## Honors and Awards

Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence, Washington University in St. Louis, 2009

Student Travel Award, *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences of Biology*, 2009 Meeting, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

National Science Foundation Science & Society grant recipient (co-written with Carl Craver and Don Goodman-Wilson) \$25,000 for *Future Directions in Genetic Studies* workshop, 2008

Student Travel Award, National Science Foundation, for US-China Joint Workshop *Memory and Language: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, Tsinghua University, Beijing China, 2007

## Publications

### ***In Philosophy***

Robins, S. K. & Craver, C. F. (2011). No Nonsense NeuroLaw, *Neuroethics*, 4, 195-203.

Robins, S. K., & Craver, C. F. (2009). Biological Clocks: Explaining with Models of Mechanisms. In J. Bickle (ed.) *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Neuroscience*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Doris, J., & Robins, S. (2007). Review of *Psychiatry in the Scientific Image* by Dominic Murphy. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.

### ***In Psychology***

Robins, S., Treiman, R., Rosales, N. (in preparation). Letter knowledge in parent–child conversations.

Robins, S., Treiman, R., Rosales, N., & Otake, S. (forthcoming). Parent–child conversations about letters and pictures. *Reading and Writing: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

Robins, S., & Treiman, R. (2009). How Parents Speak to Children About Writing: Clues to the nature of Print in Young Children’s Environments, *Applied Psycholinguistics*, 30, 463–484.

Robins, S., & Treiman, R. (2009). Early Informal Learning About Writing, in D. Aram & I. Korat (Eds.) *Literacy Development and Enhancement Across Orthographies and Cultures*. New York: Springer (pp. 17–30).

### **Conference Presentations**

#### ***In Philosophy***

Remembering the Dinosaur: The Role of Memory Traces in an Account of Constructive Memory  
*To be presented at the Pacific APA Meeting, Seattle, WA, 2012*

Comments on Robert Thompson’s, Picking Perner’s Puzzle to Pieces  
*Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology, Atlanta, GA, 2010*

Memory, Engrams, and the Personal/Subpersonal Distinction  
*Saint Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association, St. Louis, MO, 2010*

Two Ways to Break it Down: The Relation Between Functional and Constitutive Decomposition in the search for Neurocognitive Mechanisms  
*International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences of Biology, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, 2009*

Simulation and Tacit Knowledge: What’s Really at Issue in the Folk Psychology Debate  
*Society for Philosophy and Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 2008*

The Threat of Collapse and the Simulation Alternative  
Panel on Themes in Alvin Goldman’s Work  
Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of Alvin Goldman, University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada, 2007

Metalinguistic Awareness in Reading Development and Human Cognition  
 US-China joint workshop, *Memory and Language: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*,  
 Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, 2007.

Residual Normality and Cognitive Development: Why Developmental Disorders do not support  
 Massive Modularity  
*Works in Progress Series (WIPS)*, PNP Program, Washington University in St. Louis, 2007

Comments on Benedicte Veilet, The Child and the Scientist  
*Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology*, Atlanta, GA, 2007

Is There Such a Thing as Episodic Memory?  
 Interdisciplinary Meeting on Memory Research, University of Arkansas Little Rock, 2006

### ***In Psychology***

Parent-Child Conversations as a Source of Early Letter Knowledge  
*Society for the Scientific Study of Reading*, St. Pete Beach, Florida, 2011

Learning about Writing Begins Informally: How Parents and Children Talk about Letters  
*Society for the Scientific Study of Reading*, Berlin, Germany, 2010

How Parents Speak to Children About Writing: Clues to the Nature of Print in Children's  
 Environments  
*Society for the Scientific Study of Reading*, Prague, Czech Republic, 2007

Children's Understanding of the Concept of Print  
*Aging and Development Brown Bag Series*, Psychology Department, Washington  
 University in St. Louis, 2006

## **TEACHING**

### ***Washington University in St. Louis***

#### **Instructor (University College)**

Biomedical Ethics – Summer 2010

Logic (first order logic w/ identity) – Summer 2008 and Summer 2009

Intro to the Philosophy of Cognitive Science – Summer 2006

#### **Research Advisor**

Independent study in *Reading and Language Lab* (Junior level) – Fall 2009-Spring 2010

Independent study for *Mind-Brain-Behavior* (Sophomore level) – Fall 2011-Spring 2012

**Invited Lectures**

- “Language & Thought,” Introductory Course in Mind, Brain, and Behavior – 2007-2010
- “Fodor: Observation Reconsidered” Philosophical Writing – Fall 2008
- “Learning CHILDES” Psychology of Language – Spring 2007/Spring 2008

**Teaching Assistant**

- Philosophy of Science– Spring 2008
- Philosophy of Mind– Fall 2007
- Introduction to the Study of the Mind-Brain– Fall 2005/Fall 2006/Spring 2007
- Biomedical Ethics – Spring 2006
- Introduction to Logic (first order logic w/ identity) – Spring 2005
- Social and Political Philosophy – Fall 2004

***Webster University, Philosophy Department*****Instructor**

- Do Animals Think? – Spring 2010
- Introduction to Philosophy – Spring 2010/Spring 2011
- Informal Logic – Fall 2009/Fall 2007
- Critical Thinking – Spring 2008/Summer 2009

***Arkansas Governor’s School*****Instructor**

- Critical Thinking and Conceptual Development – Summer 2004, Summer 2005
- Arkansas Governor’s School is a six-week summer program for gifted and talented students who are rising seniors in the state of Arkansas. It offers a non-credit program curriculum meant to supplement high school coursework and prepare students for college. Taught three sections of Critical Thinking (required of all students).

**Instructional Development****American Philosophical Association’s Graduate Teaching Seminar, 2006**

- Attended four-day seminar on various topics related to the teaching of philosophy, including course design, text selection, and pedagogy.

**Teaching Citation, Washington University in St. Louis, 2010**

- Earned certificate offered to Washington University Ph.D. students as a means to acquiring teaching experience and expertise beyond the standard offerings of the University.
- Requirements for the citation include attending workshops, teaching for 3 semesters, and receiving written feedback on teaching.

## SERVICE

Graduate Student Assistant, *International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Sciences of Biology*, 2009 Meeting, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

One of three graduate students selected by the ISHPSSB conference committee to assist with conference set-up, registration, and logistics.

Secretary, *New Curriculum Review Committee*, Washington University, 2008-2009, *Writing Review Committee*, Washington University, 2009, and *Task Force on Undergraduate Education*, Washington University, 2009-2010

Served as note-taker for committees created to review to Arts & Sciences curriculum, Arts & Sciences Writing Requirement, and coherence of curriculum across undergraduate programs.

Co-Organizer, 2008 *Future Directions in Genetic Studies*, off-year workshop of the *International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Sciences of Biology*, Washington University

Created theme for 5-day graduate-training workshop, wrote and obtained \$25,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, contacted researchers for participation, advertised to students, handled logistics, and designed website:

[http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~pnp/Research/FDIGS\\_2008/Welcome.html](http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~pnp/Research/FDIGS_2008/Welcome.html)

US-China joint workshop *Memory and Language: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, Beijing, China, July 2007. Funded by the National Science Foundation

Co-creator of webpage for the conference, which includes compiling bibliographies on levels of explanation, the psychology of memory, and the psychology of language.

<http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~pnp/Research/MemLangWrkshp/index.html>

Co-creator and organizer of *The Cave Series*, Philosophy Department, WUSTL, 2006

Developed and organized a bi-weekly talk series for graduate students in the Philosophy Department at Washington University in St. Louis

## Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Southern Society for the Philosophy and Psychology

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

Society for the Scientific Study of Reading

Saint Louis Area Philosophy of Science Association

## References

Carl Craver  
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John M. Doris  
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Kit Wellman (teaching reference)  
Professor of Philosophy  
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(314) 935.7147  
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