

## ALAN NELSON

March 2022

### **Employment**

- 2006 - Professor of Philosophy; UNC at Chapel Hill
- 2014-2017 Harold J. Glass Distinguished Term Professor of Philosophy; UNC at Chapel Hill
- 1990-2006 Associate, Full Professor of Philosophy; UC, Irvine  
Department Chair, 1998-2002
- 1988-1990 Assistant Professor of Philosophy; UC, Irvine
- 1984-1988 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, UCLA
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- Fall 2004 Visiting Professor of Philosophy, UNC at Chapel Hill
- Winter 1994 Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy, Stanford University
- Fall 1992 Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
- Fall 1987 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern California

### **Education**

- Ph.D. 1984 University of Illinois at Chicago Circle
- M.S. 1982 University of Wisconsin--Madison (Economics)
- M.A. 1980 University of Illinois at Chicago Circle
- S.B. 1978 MIT

### **Area of Specialization**

History of Modern Philosophy

### **Publications**

- a) Articles and Edited Book

“The Epistemology of Early Modern Science” (tentative title), in progress for *The History and Philosophy of the Scientific Revolution*, M. Stan, et al., eds., London: Bloomsbury.

“The Rationalist Reception of Descartes” forthcoming in *The Cartesian Mind*, J. Secada and C. Wee, eds. New York: Routledge. (With Noa Shein)

“Port-Royal Logic” (2022), "in press" for *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, co-author, Jill Buroker.

“Berkeley and Descartes” (2022) in *The Oxford Handbook of Berkeley*, S. Rickless, ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

“Descartes on Modality,” (2021) in *The Routledge Handbook of Modality*, O. Bueno and S. Shalkowski, eds. Oxford: Routledge.

“Anti-Mathematicism,” (2020) in *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences*, D. Jalobeanu and C. Wolfe, eds. Springer Publishing: 447-51.

“Descartes on the Limited Usefulness of Mathematics,” *Synthese*, 2019 (DOI 2017): 3483-3504.

“The Cartesian Circle,” (2016) in *The Cambridge Descartes Lexicon*, edited by L. Nolan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 109-18.

“Idea,” (2016) *The Cambridge Descartes Lexicon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 387-95.

“Primitive Notions,” (2016) in *The Cambridge Descartes Lexicon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 607-13.

“Descartes’ Logic and the Paradox of Deduction,” (2015) in *The Battle of the Gods and Giants Redux*, edited by P. Easton and K. Smith. Leiden/Boston: Brill: 106-36. (with Brian Rogers).

“The Problem of True Ideas in Spinoza’s *Treatise*,” (2015) in *The Young Spinoza*, edited by Y. Melamed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

“Descartes’s Dualism and its Relation to Spinoza’s Metaphysics,” (2014) in *The Cambridge Companion to Descartes’ Meditations*, edited by D. Cunning. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

“Conceptual Distinction and the Concept of Substance in Descartes,” *Protosociology*. 2013: 194-207.

“Cowboy Rules: Mulholland Drive, Kafka, and Illusory Freedom,” (2013) in *Mulholland Drive*, edited by Z. Giannopoulou. New York: Routledge.

“Philosophical Systems and Their History,” (2013) in *Methodology in the History of Philosophy*, edited by M. Laerke, et al. New York: Oxford University Press.

“The Structure of Cartesian Sensations,” *Analytic Philosophy*. 2013:107-16.

“How Many Worlds?” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*. 2011:1201-1212.

“Qualities and Simple Ideas: Hume and his Debt to Berkeley,” (2011) in *Primary and Secondary Qualities*. Lawrence Nolan, ed. Oxford University Press. (with David Landy)

“Divisibility and Cartesian Extension,” *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy*. Vol 5, 2010: 1-24. (with Kurt Smith)

“Cartesian Innateness,” (2008) in *A Companion to Descartes*, edited by J. Broughton and J. Carriero. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

“Proofs for the Existence of God,” (2006) in *Descartes’ Meditations*, edited by S. Gaukroger. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. (with Lawrence Nolan).

*A Companion to Rationalism*. (edited volume). Blackwell: 2005. Including:

a) “Proust and the Rationalist Conception of the Self,” pp. 399- 407.

b) “The Rationalist Impulse,” pp. 3-11.

c) “Leibniz on Modality, Cognition, and Expression,” pp. 282-301.

“Two Concepts of Idealisation in Economics”, in *The Economic World View*, edited by U. Maki. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2001: 359-368.

“Cognition and Modality in Descartes,” *Acta Philosophica Fennica*, 1999: 137-153. (with David Cunning).

“Circumventing Cartesian Circles,” *Noûs*, 1999: 370-404. (with Lex Newman)

"Descartes' Ontology of Thought", *Topoi*, 1997: 163-178.

"Introduction: Descartes' Ontology", *Topoi*, 1997: 103-109.

"The Falsity in Sensory Ideas: Descartes and Arnauld", in *Interpreting Arnauld*, Kremer, ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 1996: 13-32.

[preprinted as Report Nr. 21/96, Zentrum fuer Interdisziplinaere Forschung der Universitaet Bielefeld]

"Micro-chaos and Idealization in Cartesian Physics", *Philosophical Studies*, 1995: 377-391.

- Critical Study of *Cognitive Economy*, by Nicholas Rescher, *Philosophia*, 1994: 323-31.
- "How *Could* Scientific Facts be Socially Constructed?" *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science*, 1994: 535-547.
- "Cartesian Actualism in the Leibniz-Arnould Correspondence," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 1993: 673-692.
- "Human Molecules", in *Post-Popperian Methodology of Economics*, de Marchi, N. (ed.). 1992: 113-133. Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- "Reply to Caldwell", in *Post-Popperian Methodology of Economics*, de Marchi, N. (ed.). 1992: 151-154. Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- "Social Science and the Mental," *Midwest Studies in Philosophy, Vol. XV*, 1990: 194-209.
- [REPRINTED in *Readings in the Philosophy of Social Science*, Martin, M. and Lee McIntyre, eds. 1994: 515-528. Cambridge: MIT Press.]
- "Are Economic Kinds Natural?" *Minnesota Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Vol. XIV*, 1990: 102-135.
- "Average Explanations," *Erkenntnis*, 1989: 23-42.
- [REPRINTED in *Philosophy of Economics 1989*, Balzer and Hamminga eds., Hingham, MA: Kluwer Academic Publishers.]
- "Economic Rationality and Morality," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 1988: 149-166.
- Critical Study of *Equilibrium and Macroeconomics*, by Frank Hahn, in *Economics and Philosophy*, 1986: 148-155.
- "New Individualistic Foundations for Economics," *Noûs*, 1986: 469-490.
- [REPRINTED in *The Philosophers' Annual*, Volume IX, 1986, Athay, P. et al. eds., Atascadero, CA: Ridgeview Publishing Co.]
- "Explanation and Justification in Political Philosophy," *Ethics*, 1986: 154-176.
- "Physical Properties," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 1985: 268-282.
- "Some Issues Surrounding the Reduction of Macroeconomics to Microeconomics," *Philosophy of Science*, 1984: 573-594.

b) Book Reviews

*Locke and Cartesianism* in progress for *Locke Studies*.

*Spinoza's Metaphysics* by Yitzhak Melamed. (In two parts with a reply)

<https://philosophymodsquad.wordpress.com/2014/04/28/alan-nelsons-comments-on-spinozas-metaphysics-substance-and-thought-part-1/> 2014

*Argument and Persuasion in Descartes' Meditations*, by David Cunning. *Mind*. 2012

*Made with Words...* by Philip Pettit. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. 2008 (with Matthew Priselac)

*The Correspondence between Descartes and Elisabeth*, ed. and trans. by Lisa Shapiro. *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. 2008: 642-3. (with Seth Bordner).

*Descartes Reinvented*, by Tom Sorrell. *International Philosophical Quarterly*. 2006. (With Cathay Liu)

*Leibniz: Nature and Freedom*, D. Rutherford and J. Cover (eds.). *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*. 2006: <http://ndpr.nd.edu/review.cfm?id=5442> (with John Whipple; 2,700 words)

*Meaning in Spinoza's Method*, by Aaron Garrett. *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. 2005: 138-9 (with Noa Shein)

*What am I?* by Joseph Almog. *Philosophical Books*. 2005: 261-2.

*Substance and Individuation in Leibniz* by Cover and Hawthorne, *The Philosophical Review*. 2004: 136-139.

"Methodology, Reality and Economic Orthodoxy." *The Journal of Economic Methodology* 2003: 420-424.

*Locke on Human Understanding*, by E.J. Lowe, *Philosophia*, 1999 (with Lawrence Nolan)

*The Construction of Social Reality*, by John Searle, *Ethics*, 1997: 208-210.

*The Great Arnould*, Elmar Kremer, ed., *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 1996.

*Economics....*, by Alexander Rosenberg. *Ethics*, 1994: 637-639.

*Varieties of Social Explanation*, by Daniel Little, *Ethics*, 1993: 404-406.

*Marx's Theory of Scientific Knowledge*, by Patrick Murray, *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie*, 1992: 347-349.

*Meaning and Method in the Social Sciences*, by Paul Roth, *The Philosophical Review*, 1992: 679-681.

*Philosophy of Economics*, by Subroto Roy, *Ethics*, 1991: 883-885.

*Economics and the Philosophy of Science*, by Deborah Redman, *Methodus*, 1991: 128-130.

*Rene Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy*, John Cottingham (trans.), in *Teaching Philosophy*, 1987: 353-355.

*Descartes* by Marjorie Grene, in *Ethics*, 1987: 489-491.

### c) Miscellaneous Publications

[1] "Booknotes" for *Ethics*:

*The Rules of the Game*, by Klant, J.

*The Boundaries of Economics*, ed. by G. Winston, et al.

*Essays on Descartes' Meditations*, ed. by A. Rorty.

*Value, Exploitation and Class*, by J. Roemer.

[2] Articles in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy* (3rd ed.) entitled:

"J.M. Keynes"

"Social Choice Theory"

"Perfect Competition"

"Ideal Market"

"Production Theory"

"James Mill"

"Arrow's Theorem"

[3] Articles in *The Handbook of Economic Methodology* entitled:

"Natural Kinds"

"Experimental Economics"