

# BRYAN BENHAM, Ph.D.

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Assistant Professor, Adjunct  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Utah  
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**AOS:** Applied Ethics (Research Ethics, Genethics, Neuroethics)

**AOC:** Philosophy of Science (Cognitive and Neurosciences), Biomedical Ethics  
Ancient (Greek & Indian) and Modern periods, and Logic & Critical Thinking

## APPOINTMENTS

- University of Utah, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Lecturer, 2001 – 2011
  - Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology
  - Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Pain Research Center
  - Honors College, Affiliated Faculty
  - Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities, Program Associate
  - University of Utah Brain Institute, Faculty
- Westminster College, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, 2010 – 2011
- James Madison University, Visiting Assistant Professor: 1999 – 2001
- Colorado Mountain College, Instructor (Chaffee County Center, Buena Vista): Summer 1993 and 1994
- University of New Mexico, Instructor and Graduate Teaching Assistant: 1992 – 1999

## EDUCATION

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|-------|---|------------|------|
| Ph.D. | University of New Mexico  | Philosophy | 2002 |
|       | Dissertation: <i>Reasons Explanations: Skepticism about Causal Theories</i> . Advisor: Barbara Hannan.  |            |      |
| M.A.  | University of New Mexico  | Philosophy | 1994 |
|       | Master's Thesis: <i>Psyche and Atman: A Comparative Study of the Concept of 'Self' in Early Indian and Early Greek Sources</i> . Advisor: John Taber. |            |      |
| B.A.  | Humboldt State University   | Philosophy | 1989 |

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, and AWARDS

- 2009/10 NSF Professional Development Fellowship – Science, Technology and Society Program (STS 08-533). Project Title: *Inter-Level Explanatory Reduction in Biology: Assessing Reductive Strategies in the Neurogenetic Explanation of Sexual Attraction in C. elegans*. (\$68,000.) Funded. (Award # 0924572).
- 2005 Committee on Applied Ethics and Human Values: Human Values in the Scientific Method. (\$5,950.) Funded. (with Charles Shimp, Psychology.)
- 1999 Larry Taylor Prize for Best Essay, New Mexico and West Texas Philosophical Society
- 1996-1997 Barrett Dissertation Fellowship
- 1992-1996 Teaching Assistantship, University of New Mexico, Department of Philosophy

## SUMMARY OF RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on questions at the intersection of science and human values. I am interested in how ethical problems arise in the context of scientific research. For example, can the use of deception as a research method be ethically justified, and how should oversight mechanisms regulate that method? How does the creation of part-human animals for research challenge moral and biological categories of species? More generally I am interested in how the biological and psychological sciences inform, constrain, and challenge concepts of agency and selfhood, and how these conceptualizations impact a host of social and ethical concerns. I have published in bioethics and research ethics, but in the last few years my attention has returned to topics about explanation and causation in the neurosciences. In 2009-2010 I was awarded a NSF grant that allowed me to work in a neuro-genetics lab at the University of Utah. This experience has motivated several research papers on the notion of mechanism and reductionism in the interpretation of neuroscience results. My research is also broadening to include popular presentations of scientific and technological advances – especially in genetics and neuroscience – in such genres as science fiction and horror literature and movies.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Benham, B. (Under contract). *A Casebook for Research Ethics*. Roman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Haber, M., & Benham, B. Forthcoming, 2012. Reframing the Ethical Issues in Part-Human Animal Research: The Unbearable Ontology of Inexorable Moral Confusion. *The American Journal of Bioethics*.
- Okifuji, A., & Benham, B. Forthcoming, 2011. Suicidal and Self-Harm Behaviors in Chronic Pain Patients. *Journal of Applied Biobehavioral Research*.
- Benham, B. 2009. Analogies and Other Minds. *Informal Logic* 29(2): 198-214.
- Benham, B., & Haber, M. 2008. Moral Confusion and Developmental Essentialism in Part-Human Hybrid Research. *The American Journal of Bioethics* 8(12): 42-44.
- Benham, B. 2008. Debriefing and Moral Accountability. *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 18(3): 253-273.
- Benham, B. 2008. What's in a Name? *The American Journal of Bioethics* 8(4): 47-49.
- Benham, B. 2008. The Ubiquity of Deception and the Ethics of Deceptive Research. *Bioethics* 22(3): 147-156.
- Benham, B., & Shimp, C. 2007. On the Communication of Values between Scientists and the Public. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology* 20: 20-24.
- Benham, B. 2006. Bioterrorism: Policy Considerations for the Research Institution. In *Research Administration and Management*. E. Kulakowski & L. Chronister (Eds.). Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers: 601-616.
- Benham, B., Clark, D., & Francis, L. 2006. Authorship: Credit and Responsibility. In *Research Administration and Management*. E. Kulakowski & L. Chronister (Eds.). Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers: 501-510.
- Benham, B., & Shimp, C. 2005. Falsification in Social Science Method and Theory. In *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement*, Vol. 2. Edited by Kimberly Kempf-Leonard. San Diego: Elsevier: 9-14.
- Benham, B. 2000. Ryle and the Para-mechanical. *Southwest Philosophical Studies* 22: 10-18.

### WORKS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

- Should We Be Responsible for What Neural Lie Detection Reveals? (Under review)
- Evaluating Risks and Benefits of Deception in Research. (Draft; invited conference panel)
- Inhabiting Bio-Social Futures in *Code 46: An Aesthetic for Philosophizing* (Draft)
- Pathways and Mechanism. (Draft)
- Reductionism and the Causal Determinants of Behavior: The Case of Sex Specific Behavior in *C. elegans*
- Self Without Memory. (Draft)

### REVIEWS AND LETTERS

- Benham, B. 2007. Review – *Bioethics and the Brain*. By Walter Glannon. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. In *Metapsychology Book Review*. Available at <http://mentalhelp.net/books>.
- Benham, B., & Shimp, C. 2006. Letter to the Editor – The Dividing Line Between Science and Religion. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 15. Available at <http://chronicle.com/weekly/v53/i17/17b01701.htm>. (With Charlie Shimp, Psychology).
- Benham, B., & Francis, L. 2006. Revisiting the Guiding Principles of Research Ethics. Review of *Belmont Revisited*. Edited by J. F. Childress, E. M. Meslin, & H. Shapiro. (Georgetown University Press, 2005.) In *The Lancet* 367, February 4: 387-88.
- Benham, B. 2002. The Descriptive and the Normative in Bioethics. Review of *Bioethics in Social Context*. By Barry Hoffmaster, ed. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2001.) In *Techné: Journal of the Society for Philosophy and Technology*. Fall.
- Benham, B. 2000. Review – *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind*. By E. J. Lowe (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.) In *Metapsychology Book Review*. Available at <http://mentalhelp.net/books>.
- Benham, B. 2000. Review – *Genetic Secrets: Protecting Privacy and Confidentiality in the Genetic Era*. Edited by Mark A. Rothstein (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1997). In *Metapsychology Book Review*. Available at <http://mentalhelp.net/books>.

### SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Evaluating Risks and Benefits of Deception in Research. Invited panel presentation at the *2011 PRIM&R Advancing Ethical Research Conference: Harmonizing Ethics, Regulations, & Research*, National Harbor, MD, December 2-4, 2011.
- Pathways and Mechanism. Presented at the 2010 *Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Atlanta, GA.
- Should We be Responsible for What Neuro-Lie Detection Reveals? Presented at *Moral Responsibility: Neuroscience, Organization, & Engineering*, Philosophy, TU Delft, The Netherlands, August 24-27, 2009.
- On the Varieties of Deception in Research. Presented at *Utah Valley Philosophy Conference*. Spring, 2008.
- The Self in Pain: Permeable and Unstable Boundaries. Presented at “Exploring the Boundaries of Experience and Self,” *Consciousness and Experiential Section of the British Psychological Society*, 10<sup>th</sup> annual Conference, Oxford, UK, September 15-17, 2006.
- Persisting Difficulties in Overcoming Dualism: Biopsychosocial Models of Pain. Presented at *Towards A Science of Consciousness 2006*, Tucson, Arizona, April 7, 2006. (With Yoshi Nakamura, Pain Research Center).

Deception in Social-Behavioral Research: How Much is Too Much? Presented at the 2004 ORI Research Conference on Research Integrity. San Diego, CA. November 12-14, 2004.

A Self without Memory. Presented to the *2003 Western Humanities Alliance*, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, October 16-18, 2003.

Ryle and the Para-mechanical: An Argument Against Interpreting Ryle as a Logical Behaviorist. Presented at the *New Mexico and West Texas Philosophical Society Conference*, Albuquerque, NM, April 1999.

#### **SELECTED INVITED TALKS**

On the Moral Complexity and Ethics of Deception. Presented to University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of Philosophy, February 11, 2011.

What's So Wrong about Deception, Anyway? Presented to *Weber State University*, Department of Political Science and Philosophy, February 20, 2009.

Is Neuroscience the New Philosophy? Presented to Department of Psychology, *Weber State University*, April 15, 2008.

Mind, Brain, and Values. Presented to Department of Psychology: CNS Brown Bag Series, University of Utah, April 6, 2007.

The Self in Pain. Presented to the *Pain Research Center*, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Utah, September 29, 2006.

Human Values in the Scientific Method: Progress Report. Presented to *The Human Values and Applied Ethics Symposium*, University of Utah, August 25, 2006. (with Charlie Shimp, Psychology).

Is the Self Necessarily a Unity? Presented to Department of Political Science and Philosophy, Weber State University, March 3, 2006.

On the Ethics of Cognitive & Neuroscience Research. Presented to Department of Psychology: CNS Brown Bag Series, University of Utah, February 10, 2006.

Research, Social Responsibility, and Not Getting Carried Away by the Frankenstein Effect<sup>2</sup>. Presented to *Case Studies in Research Ethics*, University of Utah, October 27, 2005.

Mind-Body Dualism and the Biopsychosocial Model of Pain: What Did Descartes Really Say? Paper Discussion presented with Yoshi Nakamura to the *Pain Research Center*, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Utah, February 20, 2004.

Is There an Evolutionary Principle of Psychological Continuity? Presented to *Philosophy Colloquium*, Department of Philosophy, University of Utah, November 15, 2002.

Consequences of Anomalism: Davidson and Ryle. Presented to the *Department of Philosophy Colloquia Series*, University of New Mexico, March 1999.

Interpreting Ryle: The Project of *The Concept of Mind*. Presented to the Department of Philosophy Colloquia Series, University of New Mexico, April 1997.

Behaviorism and Its Problems in Psychology and Philosophy. Presented to *Psychology Honors Seminar*, University of New Mexico, Department of Psychology, December 1996.

The Concept of 'Self' in Early Indian and Early Greek Sources. Presented to Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, University of New Mexico, April 1994

### **SUMMARY OF TEACHING PHILOSOPHY**

I have a wide range of teaching experience in philosophy, honors, and even science-related courses. My approach to teaching reflects my interdisciplinary approach in general. I feel deeply that in order to engage students with the core questions problems and methodologies of the humanities it must be demonstrated that these questions are not mere ivory tower curiosities, but instead are live concerns to the students themselves. The best way to demonstrate this, in my experience, is to show how the perennial questions in the humanities persist in every discipline, in current social issues, and even in more personal and everyday experiences. Regardless of the course, I always start with a current controversy or topic, and then examine how that controversy is presented in the popular media, academic literature, and other media outlets. This piques the interest of the students, providing a concrete starting point for further analysis and assessment of the broader philosophical and humanistic questions that underlay that topic or controversy. I prefer student-centered teaching that encourages cooperative learning by both students and teachers. Thus, I favor classroom dynamics that permit dialogue and foster direct student involvement in the course material. In all cases, I emphasize the problem solving and inquisitive nature of philosophy.

### **TEACHING RELATED AWARDS AND FUNDING**

- 2006 and 2007 Nominated for Early Career Teaching Award, University of Utah.
- 2006 Interdisciplinary Teaching Grant: Genetics and Society. University of Utah, College of Humanities.
- 2004 University of Utah Teaching Grant: Teaching Research Ethics Workshop at Poynter Institute, Indiana University.

### **SUMMARY OF COURSES TAUGHT** (Links to syllabi available at [hum.utah.edu/~bhenham](http://hum.utah.edu/~bhenham))

*University of Utah* (Assistant Professor, Lecturer: 2001 - 2011)

- Philosophy 1000: Introduction to Philosophy
- Philosophy 2500: Contemporary Moral Problems
- Philosophy 2510: Genetics and Society (cross-listed Biol 2510)
- Philosophy 3300: Theory of Knowledge
- Philosophy 3400: Mind, Language and Reality (Metaphysics)
- Philosophy 3440: Philosophy of Cognitive Science
- Philosophy 3510: Business & Professional Ethics
- Philosophy 3520: Bioethics
- Philosophy 6920: Teaching Practicum
- Philosophy 7570: Research Ethics (cross-listed Molecular Biol 7570 and Internal Med 7570)
- Honors 2101: World of Antiquity
- Honors 2102: Medieval Christianity and Renaissance Humanism
- Honors 2103: Making of the Modern Mind
- Honors 3215: Genetics and Society
- Honors 4474: Seminar on Animal Minds
- Honors 4474: Seminar on Constituting the Self
- Masters in Science and Technology 6500: Scientific Reasoning
- Internal Medicine 7560: Medical Ethics (discussion group facilitator)
- Osher 199: Minds and Morals (Continuing Education Course)

*Westminster College* (Adjunct Assistant Professor: 2010 – 2011)

- Philosophy 100: Introduction to Philosophy
- Philosophy 206: Introduction to Ethics

*James Madison University* (Visiting Assistant Professor: 1999 – 2001)

- Philosophy 120: Critical Thinking (12 sections)
- Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy

Bryan Benham

*Colorado Mountain College* (Instructor: Summers 1993 & 1994)

- Philosophy 111: Introduction to Philosophy
- Philosophy 112: Ethics
- Philosophy 115: Logic

*University of New Mexico* (Instructor and TA: 1992 – 1999)

- Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophical Problems (3 sections)
- Philosophy 102: Current Moral Problems
- Philosophy 107: World Religions
- Philosophy 156: Reasoning and Critical Thinking (10+ sections)
- Philosophy 356: Symbolic Logic

**SERVICE**

- Reviewer/Referee for MIT Press, Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal, British Medical Journal, Wadsworth Publishers, Cengage Learning, Longman Publishing
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (2007-2009, University of Utah)
- Director of Graduate Teaching (Department of Philosophy, University of Utah)
- Undergraduate Committee (Department of Philosophy, University of Utah)
- Teaching Committee (Department of Philosophy, University of Utah)
- Volunteer at *The Leonardo* (Salt Lake City, UT)

**LANGUAGES**

Reading knowledge of Sanskrit and Ancient Greek, quickly fading

**LIST OF REFERENCES**

*Available upon request.*