

# James F. DiGiovanna

Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
78 Butler St. ▪ Brooklyn, NY ▪ 11231

Phone: 917 705 2264 ▪ Email: jamesdig@gmail.com ▪ jdigiovanna@jjay.cuny.edu

---

## Education

B.A. in Religion, Wesleyan University, Connecticut, 1987.

M.A. in Philosophy, Stony Brook University, 1996.

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Stony Brook University, Jan 2002.

Thesis: *Ethics and Aesthetics of Self-Creation.*

## Areas of specialization:

Personal Identity/Metaphysics of the Person; Epistemology with a focus on understanding, self-knowledge, and epistemic virtue

## Areas of competence:

Critical Thinking, Philosophy of Art, Virtue Theory, History of Philosophy (Ancient, Renaissance, 19<sup>th</sup> century)

## Teaching Experience:

**Assistant Professor**, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, September 2009 to present

*Courses taught:* Senior Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology; Metaphysics; Epistemology; Utopian Thought; Logic; Critical Thinking; Introduction to Philosophy; Philosophy of Religion; Ethics and the Just Society; Introduction to Ethics; Honors Seminar: The Common Good.

*Courses created:* Senior Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology; Metaphysics, Ethics and the Just Society, Honors Seminar: The Common Good; 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy.

**Substitute Professor**, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, September 2007-August 2009

*Courses Taught:* Introduction to Philosophy, Critical Thinking, Ethics, Philosophy of Law, Logic

**Lecturer**, Stony Brook Masters Program in Philosophy of Art, 2005-2007

*Courses Taught:* (The following are all graduate courses open to Masters and PhD students): The Problem of Beauty; Ethics and Aesthetics of Self, The Problem of Style, History of Aesthetic Theory

**Adjunct Lecturer/Instructor**, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 1992-2003

*Courses Taught:* Metaphysics, Critical Thinking, Ancient Philosophy, 19th Century Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Existentialism, Introduction to Philosophy

### **Scholarly Publications:**

#### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

1. "Literally Like a Different Person: Context and Concern in Personal Identity" in *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 53, issue 4, (December, 2015) published by Wiley, a division of John Wiley and Sons, Hoboken.
2. "Knowledge, Understanding and Pedagogy", *Teaching Philosophy*, vol 37, no. 3, (September 2014) pp 321-342. Published quarterly on behalf of the Teaching Philosophy Association by the Philosophy Documentation Center, Charlottesville, VA.
3. "You Are And Are Not The Person I Once Knew: Eclecticism And Context In Continuity Of Identity" in *Appraisal: A Journal of Constructive and Post-Critical Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies*, vol. 9, no.1, (March, 2012), pp. 14-17. Published by R.T. Allen, Loughborough, England.
4. "Worldmaking as Art Form" in *International Journal of the Arts in Society*, vol. 2, no. 1, (Summer 2007), pp. 115-122.

#### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters:

1. "Regret as a Sufficient Condition of Personhood," forthcoming in *The Moral Psychology of Regret*, ed. Anna Gotlib and Mark Alfano, Roman & Littlefield International, Spring 2017
2. "Artificial Identity and Robot Ethics," forthcoming in *Robot Ethics 2.0*, ed. Patrick Lin, MIT Press, Spring 2017
3. "Understanding as a Component of Knowledge: Rethinking Pedagogical Implications of Epistemology," in *Conversations in Philosophy: Knowledge and Freedom*, ed. by Ochieng-Odhiambo, Frederick, In Press, Cambridge, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

4. "Identity: Difficulties, Discontinuities and Pluralities of Personhood" in *Handbook of Posthumanism in Film and Television*, Palgrave MacMillan, September 2, 2015.
5. "Dr. Manhattan I Presume," in *Watchmen and Philosophy*, January, 2009, pp 103-114, Published by Wiley, a division of John Wiley and Sons.
6. "Is It Right to Make a Robin?" in *Batman and Philosophy*, ed. Mark D. White, 2008, pp 17-27, Published by Wiley, a division of John Wiley and Sons.

#### Invited Chapters in Scholarly Books:

1. "Losing Your Voice on the Internet," in *High Noon on the Electronic Frontier*, ed. P. Ludlow, 1996, pp 445-458, M.I.T. press.

#### Newspaper features:

1. "Promises, Promises: The Promise Keepers Movement and Protest", *Tucson Weekly*, September 24, 1998.
2. "Fossil-Fueled Fine Art," *Tucson Weekly*, February 8, 1999.

#### **Scholarly presentations:**

##### Papers presented at refereed conferences:

1. "Memory Enhancement, Identity and Responsibility" at The Enhancing Responsibility Project Cognitive Enhancement Conference, a refereed conference and an NWO-funded collaborative project between Technical University Delft and Oxford University, at Technical University Delft, August 13-15, 2014.
2. "A Limited Veil of Ignorance: Local Applications for Rawls' Test" at Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference 2014, a refereed conference at St Anne's College, Oxford, June 27-29, 2014.
3. "Responsibility in the Discontinuous Self" at 8th Annual Felician Ethics Conference, a refereed conference at Felician College, Saturday, April 26, 2014.
4. "Eclecticism and Context in Continuity of Identity," (plenary session) International Conference on Persons, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, August 8-12, 2011.

5. "You Are Not The Man I Once Knew: Ethics of Continuity of Identity" (poster presentation) at Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, August 4-7, 2011.
6. "Applications in Epistemology: Knowledge, Understanding and Pedagogy," Society for Applied Philosophy, Oxford, July 2010.
7. "Understanding: The Epistemic Good," at Cave Hill Epistemology Conference, Barbados, November, 2009.
8. "Worldmaking As Art Form" at International Symposium on the Arts in Society, New York University, February 2007.
9. "Renaissance Perspective as Philosophical Perspectivism: On Alberti, Crivelli, Brunelleschi and Nietzsche" at University of Texas at Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference, March 1996.

Invited Presentations:

1. Panel discussant, "Publishing Pedagogical Research," at CUNY Pedagogical Research & Undergraduate Faculty Mentoring Workshop, at John Jay College, January 13, 2016.
2. "On Phillips and Strobl's 'Comic Book Crime,'" response presentation at book talk. John Jay College, November 8, 2013.
3. "Fused Into Tripupcables: Joyce's Philosophies of Continuity and Discontinuity of Identity," presented at XXIII International James Joyce Symposium, Trinity College, Dublin, June 13, 2012.
4. "Davidson's Language" Invited presentation at the conference "Listening to Language: Translation, Denotation, and Belief," at University at Stony Brook, April 26, 2012.
5. "Why Joyce Was Not A Great Writer," at Praharfest International Joyce Symposium, Prague, June 2010.
6. "Outcomes Based General Education: Processes," presented with Prof. Tara Pauliny at the CUNY General Education Conference, April, 2011.
7. "Technological Enhancement and Self Improvement: Ethics and Aesthetics of Neural Interface Technologies," St. Louis University, Madrid, April 21, 2008.
8. "The Human Argos Project: Ethics and Aesthetics of Neural Interface Technology" at California State College at Stanislaus, November 2003 and Stony Brook University, March 2003.

9. “*Starship Troopers* as a Philosophical Film” at Stony Brook University, opening lecture for Philosophy Film Series, November, 2002.
10. “On David Allison’s *Reading the New Nietzsche*” at Stony Brook University, in honor of the release of Dr. Allison’s text, 2001.
11. “Self-Creation as Philosophical History: Pico through Descartes” at Stony Brook University, Philosophy Colloquium Series, 1997.

#### Respondent/Chair:

1. Respondent: “Variantism, Responsibility, Persons and Applied Ethics,” by Mark Olsen, International Conference on Persons, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, August 8-12, 2011.
2. Respondent and Chair: *Historicity of Love’s Bonds* and *Plight of the Non-Virtuous* at Society for Applied Philosophy annual meeting at Leeds, June 2009.
3. Respondent and Chair of panel “Aesthetics and Photographic Vision,” *Veils* conference on Philosophy and Art, Stony Brook Manhattan, March 2008.
4. Respondent and Chair of panel “Memory and Desire” at Stony Brook Conference on Philosophy and Art, Stony Brook Manhattan, March 2009.

#### **Publications of Creative Works:**

##### Works in Peer-Reviewed Literary Journals:

1. “Epistemologist’s Love Poem,” in *Philosofict*, issue 3, March 2015, online, <http://elliefarnsworth1979.blog.com/philosofict-issue-3/>
2. “Kicks,” Fiction, in *Spork*, issue 9.1, June 2010, pgs. 1996-2020, print.
3. “When God Came Back I Became Alone,” Fiction, in *Sporkpress Online*, November 8, 2009.
4. “Crotcherust,” Fiction in *Sporkpress Online*, August 10, 2009.
5. “Your Girlfriend Three Ways,” Fiction, in *Sporkpress Online*, October 24, 2006.
6. “Cool,” Fiction, in *Sporkpress Online*, June 28, 2006
7. “The Secret Cool,” Fiction, in *Sporkpress Online*, May 18, 2006
8. “900 Foot Jesus Plus Death Rays,” Fiction, in *Sporkpress Online*, April 18, 2006
9. “Sole Survivor,” Fiction, in *Spork/The Safehouse Quarterly*, Summer 2004, pgs. 1080-1103, print.
10. “The Exam,” Fiction, in *Blue Moon Review* (online) Spring, 1999.

11. “Wired” and “Hook,” Fiction, in *20 X 18*, edited and selected by Walter Abish, Cooper Union Press, 1995, print.

### **Creative works, ebook format:**

1. “Meat 2” in *Slipstream City: Volume 1*, ebook through Spec Knot Publishing, NY, September, 2013. (available in/at all standard ebook formats and stores)
2. “Plants and Animals”, ebook published by Proconsul Editions, April, 2012. (available in Kindle and iBooks formats.)

### **Theatrical pieces, presented as winners of playwriting competitions:**

1. *Frankenstein vs. Frankenstein vs. Godzilla*, one act play, prize winner of Figment Theater’s 2009 playwriting competition. Performances Oct-Nov 2009.
2. *The Same Results Every Time*, one act play; received second place award in playwriting competition, performed at Urban Stages, New York, NY, for a two-week run in October of 2008.

### **Film and Video**

1. *Kant Attack Ad*, top-rated YouTube video with over 375,000 hits. Has been featured on The Atlantic’s blogs, Crooked Timber, and on Tucker Carlson’s show on MSNBC, as well as hundreds of other magazines and on-line forums.
2. *Four Short Films about Robots*, in the DVD Magazine *Capricious*, produced by Capricious Gallery, New York, NY, December, 2007.
3. *Forked World*, feature film, completed August 2004, shown in NY, Tucson, and Boston Underground (judge’s award), Philadelphia (judge’s award), and Arizona International Film Festivals.
4. *Desert of Swedes*, video documentary, shown on Access Tucson, September 1997.

### **Visual Art/Performance**

1. “My Favorite Words, Sentences and Phrases,” voice performer in staging for work by Victoria Miguel, May 4, 2012, presented by Proconsul Editions.

2. "Nobody is Famous in New York" 4 short video pieces in group show at Capricious Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, Feb. 2008
3. "Swelt," 2 pieces in group show, Kodak Gallery, Rochester, NY, Winter, 2006.
4. "Robot Art," solo show of watercolor paintings, Heathers, New York, NY, June 2006
5. "Lissajous Go Figure," live performance/installation of manually-controlled oscillating lasers and soundwaves at Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, NY, March 2003.
6. "Rank and Fur," Solo show of constructivist art, Bentley's Gallery, Tucson, AZ, March, 1998

## **Journalism**

### **Chief Film Critic**

1998-2010, *Tucson Weekly*, including weekly feature-length film reviews, film reporting and interviews with studio and independent film artists. At time of retirement, most awarded film critic in Arizona (4 first place, 2 second place, and 1 third place Arizona Press Club awards, 2 first place Arizona Newspaper Association Awards)

## **College Service:**

- 2014:** Gave a series of seminars for the Center for Advancement of Teaching on incorporating critical thinking across the curriculum. The three meetings included both professors and students, and covered argument analysis, critique and construction.
- 2013:** Presented a series of seminars at John Jay's Center for the Advancement of Teaching on incorporating critical thinking skills across the curriculum.
- 2013:** Gave seminar for the Africana studies department on incorporating critical thinking into their curriculum.
- 2013:** Recreated department's web repository of syllabi and exams, which had been damaged in a Blackboard System update. Developed new, off-campus web page, recovered and moved all files to new location.
- 2013:** Coordinator, First Year Seminar ethics program. Developed and helped implement course materials, including syllabi and course handouts. Advised faculty on outcomes and requirements for seminars. Worked with Student Academic Success Program on assessment. Liaised with faculty throughout the semester on questions pertaining to the program.

- 2012-2013:** Presented series of seminars for John Jay's Center for the Advancement of Teaching on incorporating critical thinking into the curriculum across departments.
- 2011-2014:** Adjunct liaison. In this capacity I arranged office space for adjuncts, advised adjuncts on syllabi and teaching, provided sample syllabi, built a web repository of exams and syllabi, explained teaching responsibilities, adjudicated disputes, helped adjuncts with college bureaucracy, prepared materials for adjuncts for coursework and for orientation, and wrote regular updates to adjuncts on departmental events and occurrences.
- 2010-2013:** Sole organizer, Speaker Series: brought in internationally renowned philosophers, including Jason Stanley (Rutgers), Stephen Stich (Rutgers) and Edward Casey (Stony Brook), and Peter Ludlow (Michigan) all of whom spoke to overflow audiences of 80-100 students and faculty. Arranged all promotions and accommodations.
- 2010-2011:** Member, General Education Steering Committee. Researched and wrote reports on general education curriculum. Presented results at general education conference.
- 2010-2011:** Member, College Council Executive Committee
- 2010-2011:** Vice-Chairman, College Senate Budget Committee. Reviewed college budget and made recommendations to president.
- 2010-2011:** Member, college-wide admissions appeals committee. Read and adjudicated requests from students seeking appeals on admission denial.
- 2009-2014:** Member, Grade Appeals Committee
- 2009-2012, 2014-2015:** Member, Faculty Senate
- 2009-2012, 2014-2015:** Member, College Council
- 2009:** Member, search committee for hiring of one junior and one senior faculty position
- 2009:** Member, Speaker Series committee: oversaw invitation of prominent philosophers, arranged speaking space, created and distributed promotional material. Speakers included Douglas Husak (Rutgers), on marijuana decriminalization.

### **Grants**

2015 PSC CUNY research grant, \$2,333, for investigation of folk attitudes about continuity of personhood after change and over time.

### **Fellowships**

2013 PSC FFPP Fellowship

### **Prizes/awards**

**2010 Arizona Press Club Award: Second Place: Criticism**

**2010 Arizona Newspaper Award: First Place: Criticism**

**2009 Arizona Press Club Award: Second Place: Criticism**



**2008, 2007, 2006 and 2003 Arizona Press Club Awards: First Place: Film, Video and Television Criticism**

**2004 Arizona Newspaper Award: First Place: Best Feature, Column or Critic**

**2004 Arizona Press Club Award: Third Place: Film, Video and Television Criticism**

**Morris Cohen Teaching Award**, for excellence in teaching in the field of Philosophy. Stony Brook University, May, 2001

**Award for Excellence in Teaching**, a university-wide award granted on the basis of student and peer review to 6 teachers from a field of 300. Stony Brook University, 1995

**Trench Award for Outstanding Work in the History of Religions**  
Wesleyan University, 1987

### **Other Positions**

#### **Pop Culture Editor**

Amazon.com, April 1996-August 1998.

Wrote monthly articles and interviews on American, European and Japanese popular culture and oversaw selections for pop culture book lists.

#### **Pop Culture Commentator for ABC Radio (Australia)**

August, 1997-August 1998

Weekly fifteen minute commentaries on American and Japanese pop culture heard on over fifty stations in every part of Australia.

#### **Assistant Editor**

Marvel Comics, New York. 1988-1990

Supervised production of a variety of comic books and magazines, including *Incredible Hulk*, *Sensational She-Hulk*, and *G.I. Joe*. Edited text and artwork. Liaison between artists and editors and between licensors and writers. Helped design characters, costumes, vehicles and locations. Oversaw plot direction.

### **Professional Affiliations**

APA, American Society for Aesthetics, Society for Applied Philosophy

### **Languages**

French, reading knowledge of Spanish and Ancient Greek