

NICOLAS BOMMARITO

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
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EMPLOYMENT

2014-present **SUNY University at Buffalo** Assistant Professor
Buffalo, NY
2014-2016 **New York University** Bersoff Assistant Professor
New York, NY

Areas of Specialization: Normative Ethics, Moral Psychology, Buddhist Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Asian Philosophy, Ancient Philosophy

EDUCATION

2007-2014 **Brown University** Ph.D.
Providence, RI
2005-2007 **Tibet University (西藏大学)** Tibetan language certification
Lhasa, Tibet
2001-2005 **University of Michigan** B.A. w/ High Honors in philosophy
Ann Arbor, MI

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Seeing Clearly: A Buddhist Guide to Life (July 2020) Oxford University Press

Abstract: This book presents the practical and theoretical claims of Buddhist thought in a clear and accessible way. It focuses on two strands in Buddhist theory: A philosophical view of the nature of reality and a collection of practical techniques aimed at coming to experience life in that way. These aspects are often discussed separately, especially in popular literature, with works on meditation ignoring the philosophical aspects of Buddhist thought and philosophical work ignoring the practical goals that motivate it.

Inner Virtue (2018) Oxford University Press

Abstract: What does it mean to be a morally good person? It can be tempting to think that it is simply a matter of performing certain actions and avoiding others. And yet, there is much more to moral character than our outward actions. We expect a good person to not only behave in certain ways, but also to experience the world in certain ways within. Pleasure, emotion, and attention are important parts of our moral character despite being involuntary inner states. *Inner Virtue* defends a theory of why and how such states are relevant to moral character: These states say something about what kind of person one is by manifesting our deepest cares and concerns.

Journal Articles

- “Virtuous and Vicious Anger” (2017)
Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy Vol.11 No.3, pp.1-28.
- “Imaginative Moral Development” (2017)
The Journal of Value Inquiry Vol.52 No. 2, pp.251-262.
- “*The Khache Phalu*: A Translation and Interpretation” (2017)
Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines Vol.39, pp.60-132.
- “Private Solidarity” (2016)
Ethical Theory and Moral Practice Vol. 19 No.2, pp.445-455.
- “Patience and Perspective” (2014)
Philosophy East and West Vol. 64 No. 2, pp. 269-286.
- “Modesty as a Virtue of Attention” (2013)
Philosophical Review Vol. 122 No. 1, pp. 93-117.
- “Bile & Bodhisattvas: Śāntideva on Justified Anger” (2011)
Journal of Buddhist Ethics Vol. 18, pp. 357-381.
- “Rationally Self-Ascribed Anti-Expertise” (2010)
Philosophical Studies Vol. 151 No. 3, pp. 413-419

Papers in Edited Volumes

- “Matilal’s Metaethics” with Alex King (forthcoming)
in *Comparative Metaethics* (Routledge)
- “Mixed Drinks and Mixed Motives” (2012)
in *The Catcher in the Rye and Philosophy* (Open Court)
- “Lucretius’ Symmetry Argument” (2011)
in *Just the Arguments* (Wiley-Blackwell)

Encyclopedia Articles

- “Modesty and Humility” (2018)
The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/modesty-humility/>
- “Tibetan Philosophy” (2010)
The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, <http://www.iep.utm.edu/tibetan/>

Book Reviews

- Review of Daniel Star’s *Knowing Better* (2016)
Australasian Journal of Philosophy
- Review of Robert Roberts’ *Emotions in the Moral Life* (2014)
International Journal of Philosophical Studies Vol. 22 No.5, pp. 780-783.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Matilal’s Metaethics” (2018)
Lost Voices at the Foundations of Ethics, University of Washington
- “*Lojong*, Gratitude, and Moral Development” (2018)
Kathmandu University Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute
- “Buddhism, Jainism, and the Ethics of Arguing”
Notre Dame University (11/16/2018)
Jawaharlal Nehru University (10/1/2018)
University of California Irvine (11/30/2017)
- “On Understanding Evil”
University of Pennsylvania (2/12/2019)
Kyoto University (11/28/2018)
University of Guelph (9/23/2016)
Australia National University (8/9/2016)
- “The Attention of Bodhisattvas” (2017)
Virtues of Attention: Global Philosophical Perspectives, NYU Abu Dhabi
- “Inner Virtue” (2017)
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- “Religious ambiguity in *The Khache Phalu*” (2016)
International Association of Tibetan Studies, Bergen
- “Life of a Paper: Patience and Perspective” (2016)
Minorities and Philosophy, Columbia University
- “Virtuous and Vicious Mindfulness” (2016)
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference
Group: International Society for Buddhist Philosophy
- “Virtuous and Vicious Anger” (2015)
National University of Singapore
- “Training Tigers and Playing Harps” (2015)
Australian Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Conference
- “Mindfulness as a Moral Virtue” (2015)
Five College Buddhist Studies Faculty Seminar
- “Private Solidarity” (2015)
NYU Lunchtime Talk
- “Patience and Perspective” (2012)
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference
Colloquium: Buddhism and Confucianism
- “Modesty as a Virtue of Attention” (2011)
American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Conference
Colloquium: Contingency, Reasons, and Modesty
- “Rationally Self-Ascribed Anti-Expertise” (2009)
American Philosophical Association Central Division Conference
Colloquium: Delusion, Anti-Expertise, and Transmission Failure

Comments

- On Anna Brinkerhoff’s “Good Friend: Bad Believer?”
American Philosophical Association Central Division Conference (2018)
- On Eric Hutton’s “On Trust, Politics, and Justice in Early Confucianism and Plato”
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference (2017)

- On Bronwyn Finnigan's "Should we be Pluralists about Buddhist Ethics?"
Columbia Society for Comparative Philosophy (2015)
- On Regina Rini's "Morality and Psychological Self-Understanding"
Naturalistic Approaches to Ethics and Meta-ethics, New York University (2014)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Seminars

- Moral Psychology (2019)
- Modesty and Humility (UB 2017)
- Virtue Ethics (UB 2017)
- Understanding Evil (NYU 2015)

Undergraduate Courses

- Eastern Philosophy (UB, 2017 & 2018)
- Buddhist Philosophy (UB 2018 & 2019)
- Living Well (UB 2016, 2017, 2019)
- Ethics (NYU, 2014 / UB, 2016)
- Life and Death (NYU, 2014 & 2015)

AWARDS

- Joukowsky Outstanding Dissertation Prize (2014)
The Joukowsky Family Foundation
- John Cargill MacMillan Graduate Fellowship (2013-2014)
Cogut Center for the Humanities
- Fulbright Institute of International Education Fellowship (2011)
Kathmandu, Nepal (for research on Tibetan philosophy)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Mind*, *Ethics*, *Ergo*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Philosophy East and West*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophers Imprint*, and *Oxford Bibliographies*.