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EDUCATION

State University of New York at Stony Brook, Ph.D., 1986
State University of New York at Stony Brook, M.A., 1983
Warwick University, England, B.A. (in Philosophy and Literature), 1978

TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS

Philosophy and Virtue
Philosophy of Love and Sex
Recent Continental Philosophy
Nineteenth Century Philosophy
Philosophy and Literature
Nietzsche
Multiculturalism
Philosophy and Spirituality

BOOKS



[*The Spiritual Guide: Four Steps on the Path of Enlightenment*](#) (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2017)

Many people ask: “How can I live a more spiritual life, a life that can ultimately lead to enlightenment?” And by way of an answer this book describes four of the most important steps that we can take along the spiritual path – staying open to suffering, living a generous life, cultivating mindfulness and wonder, and accepting death but affirming joy. *The Spiritual Guide* uses parables, philosophical ideas and stories from a variety of religious and philosophical traditions to illuminate what it means to live in a spiritual way, it is both practical and theoretical; it has something to say to all people, regardless of their religious affiliation or lack of it; and it speaks directly to readers as students of life.



[*The Heart of Wisdom: A Philosophy of Spiritual Life*](#) (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, November 2012)

The Heart of Wisdom gives an account of spirituality that draws primarily from ancient philosophy, recent continental thought, and the wisdom traditions of Asia. Each chapter examines a different spiritual theme: it starts with *suffering* and it continues with *compassion*, *generosity*, *forgiveness*, *reverence* and *joy*. In this way, *The Heart of Wisdom* describes a spiritual journey from suffering, which is the beginning of spiritual life, to joy, which is the ultimate affirmation of existence. This is the “way of philosophy” which has not been examined before; philosophy and spirituality are closely related to each other, and this book shows that the *spiritual* appeal of philosophy is basic.



[*Radical Virtues: Moral Wisdom and the Ethics of Contemporary Life*](#) (Lanham: MD: Rowman and Littlefield, March 2008)

Radical Virtues offers a sustained discussion of the four cardinal virtues – courage, temperance, justice and wisdom – as well as compassion, which can be viewed as the most basic aspects of moral goodness. The goal of this book is to rethink each of these virtues by considering philosophical, historical and cross-cultural perspectives. Taking an original viewpoint, *Radical Virtues* also explains how the virtues support and justify particular social movements, including environmentalism, pacifism, multiculturalism, social justice and animal rights. Its focus on exemplars such as Socrates, Buddha, Gandhi and Orwell, shows the lived reality of virtue in the context of an individual life.



[*Love's Philosophy*](#) (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, September, 2001)

Love comes in many forms and touches all our lives, and in spite of its changing history, it remains a constant in human experience. In this book I examine friendship, romance, parenthood and humanitarian love using classical and contemporary perspectives in philosophy and in literature. I argue that the philosophical neglect of love has been a mistake; and by illuminating the historical and contemporary formations of love, I propose alternative models to guide both our thinking and our experience of what love is. This book is an original discussion on the nature of love.



[Nietzsche and the Problem of Sovereignty](#) (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1997)

Nietzsche was inspired and directed by the question of personal "sovereignty" and in his writings he sought to provoke the very sovereignty that he described. In this book, I show how Nietzsche's philosophy allows us to go beyond the self-dispossession of mass society and its alternative of selfish individualism, to fully understand how one becomes what one is. In the course of this inquiry, I offer a close reading of all of Nietzsche's major texts, and I show how he contributes to a tradition whose focus is on the value of the individual life.

[Nietzsche: Critical Essays in the History of Philosophy](#) (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2002)

In this volume, part of an important series in the history of philosophy, I present the best recent writing on Nietzsche covering all of the main aspects of his philosophy. I provide an extensive critical introduction and bibliography, and I bring together more than 30 essays written on Nietzsche over the past 25 years.

SOME RECENT ESSAYS

- “Walter Benjamin: The Storyteller and the Possibility of Wisdom” in *Journal of Aesthetic Education* (vol. 51 no.1, 2017).
- “Nietzsche on Generosity and the Gift-Giving Virtue” in *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* (November, 2015).
- “Dialectics of Mourning” [death in Freud, Barthes and Derrida] in *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* (vol.20, no.4, (2015).
- “Foucault on the Care of the Self as an Ethical Possibility and a Spiritual Goal” in *Human Studies* (vol.37, no.4, 2014).
- “Walter Benjamin: the Storyteller and the Possibility of Wisdom” in *Journal of Aesthetic Education* forthcoming.
- “Dialectics of Mourning” [death in Freud, Barthes and Derrida] in *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* vol.20, no.4, (2015).
- “Foucault on the Care of the Self as an Ethical Possibility and a Spiritual Goal” in *Human Studies* vol.37, no.4 (2015).
- “Teaching World Philosophy” in *APA Newsletter for Teaching Philosophy*, vol.11, no.2 (spring, 2012).
- “Levinas, the Philosophy of Suffering and the Ethics of Compassion” in *The Heythrop Journal* vol. 53 no.1 (January 2012).
- “Schopenhauer and Indian Philosophy: on the Limits of Comparative Thought” in *International Philosophical Quarterly* (March, 2010)
- “Rousseau and the Education of Compassion” in *Journal of the Philosophy of Education* vol.42, no.1 (February, 2008).
- “Bataille on Lascaux and the Origins of Art” in *Janus Head: Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, vol.11 no.2, (2009).
- “George Orwell: Socialism and Utopia” in *Utopian Studies* 19:1 (April, 2008).
- “Lyotard and Posthuman Possibilities,” in *Philosophy Today* (vol.50 no.2, Summer 2006).
- “Herder on the Ethics of Nationalism,” in *Humanitas* (vol.XVIII no. 1-2, 2005).

- “Liberalism and Multiculturalism: the Case of Mill,” in *The Journal of Value Inquiry* (no. 37, 2003).
- “Reflections on the Scream: Francis Bacon, Lessing, and the Aesthetics of the Beautiful and the Sublime,” in *Philosophy Today* (vol.47:1, Spring 2003).
- “Thinking about Love: Teaching the Philosophy of Love (and Sex),” in *Teaching Philosophy* (vol.25 no. 2, June 2002).
- "Kaspar Hauser: Crossing the Boundaries of Humanity and History," in *International Studies in Philosophy* (vol.XXXV no.4, 2004).

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

- “[The Philosophy of Love](#)” in *Creighton University Magazine*, Spring 2003
- “[A Return to Virtues](#)” in *Creighton University Magazine*, Summer 2011