

# William Vincent

## Curriculum Vitae

### Address

641 University Way  
151 Dodd Hall  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306

### Email

[wbv24@fsu.edu](mailto:wbv24@fsu.edu)

## Employment

Florida State University  
Visiting Teaching Faculty  
August 2024 – Present

## Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, August 2024  
University of Virginia

Dissertation: *The Definitional Conception of Essence*

Committee: Ross P. Cameron, Trenton Merricks (advisor), Walter Ott

Abstract:

In this dissertation, I develop a theory of real definition. Real definitions state conditions on the identity of things and explain how they differ from other individuals or members of other kinds. My theory shows how we can know real definitions through both scientific and philosophical discovery. I then apply my theory in an argument contrary to reductionist accounts of essence and in a critical examination of Kit Fine's applications of the notion of essence to ontological dependence and the reduction of modality. Finally, I argue that the real definition of each human person accounts for their personal identity over time.

M.A. in Philosophy, 2018  
Western Michigan University

B.A. in Philosophy, 2016  
University of Kansas

## **Area of Specialization**

Metaphysics

## **Areas of Competence**

Epistemology  
Philosophy of Religion  
Applied Ethics

## **Publications**

The Monotonicity of Essence, *Philosophical Studies*, 2025,  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-024-02214-7>

## **Under Review**

There Are No Collective Essences, *The Philosophical Quarterly*

Another Failed Modal Collapse Argument, *Analysis*

## **In Progress**

Essence, Convention, and the Identity of Persons

An Argument for the Sufficiency of Origins

Explanation and Molinism (with Ethan Butt)

Can A Single Witness Establish a Miracle?

## **Presentations**

2025

Explanation and Molinism (Philosophy of Religion)

- 2025 Eastern Conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers: The Philosophical Legacy of Robert Merrihew Adams, October 2–4, 2025

How Low is the Prior for a Miracle? (Philosophy of Religion)

- CNU Philosophy of Religion Workshop, October 16–18, 2025

2024

Essential Dependence (Metaphysics)

- Symposium, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, February 21–24, 2024.

2023

Comments on Harriet Baber's *Monarchy and Mystery: The Father as Source of Divinity* (University of San Diego)

- Society of Christian Philosophers 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, September 28–30, 2023.

The Reduction of Essence to Modality (Metaphysics)

- Colloquium, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, February 21–25, 2023.

2022

The Normativity Argument (Philosophical Logic)

- Fifteenth Annual Cambridge Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic, University of Cambridge, St. John's College, January 22–23, 2022.

The Reduction of Essence to Modality (Metaphysics)

- Aquinas on the Soul: 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy Workshop, Dominican House of Studies, May 26–30, 2022

Deity and Double Effect (Ethics/Philosophy of Religion)

- Society of Christian Philosopher Midwest Conference, November 11–12, 2022

2017

Comments on Hien Bui's, Westmont College, Defending Motivations for the Growing Block: Responding to Merricks (Metaphysics)

- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, 2017.

A Puzzle of Bodily Assumption (Philosophy of Religion),

- Tyndale-Fellowship Study Group in Philosophy of Religion 2017, Cambridge, U.K., June 26–28, 2017.
- 2017 Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Asbury University, Wilmore, KY, Sep. 28–30, 2017.
- The Society of Christian Philosophers, Midwest Session, Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX, Oct.13–14, 2017.

2016

Comments on Ziming Song's, University of Oklahoma, A Defense of Decision Theory (Decision Theory/Formal Epistemology)

- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## **Awards & Honors**

Warner Morris Prize in Metaphysics and Epistemology  
University of Kansas Philosophy Department, 2016

Brownstein Young Award  
University of Kansas Philosophy Department, 2015

## **Teaching Experience**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Metaphysics	Spring 2026	Florida State University
Introduction to Philosophy	Spring 2026	Florida State University
Ethical Issues and Life Choices	Spring 2026	Florida State University
Ethical Issues and Life Choices	Fall 2025	Florida State University

Introduction to Philosophy (2 sections)	Fall 2025	Florida State University
Ethical Issues and Life Choices (2 sections)	Spring 2025	Florida State University
Introduction to Philosophy	Spring 2025	Florida State University
Ethical Issues and Life Choices	Fall 2024	Florida State University
Introduction to Philosophy (2 sections)	Fall 2024	Florida State University
Knowledge in Society	Spring 2024	University of Virginia
Critical Thinking (2 sections)	Fall 2023	James Madison University
Critical Reasoning	Spring 2018	Western Michigan University
Introduction to Philosophy	Spring 2018	Western Michigan University
Introduction to Philosophy	Fall 2017	Western Michigan University

## **Service**

*Graduate Student Fellow*  
 St. Anselm Institute for Catholic Thought  
 University of Virginia  
 Fall 2022 to Spring 2024

*Finance Committee Member*  
 Graduate Student Council  
 University of Virginia

Fall 2022 to Spring 2023

*Graduate Student Representative*  
Corcoran Dept. of Philosophy  
University of Virginia  
Fall 2022 to Spring 2023

*Graduate Student Social Chair*  
Corcoran Dept. of Philosophy  
University of Virginia  
Fall 2020 to Spring 2021

*President*  
Undergraduate Philosophy Club  
University of Kansas  
Fall 2015 to Spring 2016

## **References**

*Ross P. Cameron*  
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Corcoran Dept. of Philosophy  
University of Virginia  
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*Trenton Merricks*  
Commonwealth Professor & Director of Placement  
Corcoran Dept. of Philosophy  
University of Virginia  
(434) 924-4235  
[philosophy@virginia.edu](mailto:philosophy@virginia.edu)

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