

William Vincent

Curriculum *Vitae*

Address

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

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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

Areas of Specialization

Metaphysics
Philosophy of Religion

Areas of Competence

Epistemology
Applied Ethics

Publications

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

Another Failed Modal Collapse Argument, *Analysis*, 2026
<https://doi.org/10.1093/analys/anag013>

In Progress

There Are No Collective Essences

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 45th 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: 11th 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)

- 11th 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)

- 10th Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Nov. 5th, 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

Course	Term	Institution
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	Fall 2025	Florida State University

(2 sections)

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

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Professor & Director of Undergraduate Program
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Commonwealth Professor & Director of Placement
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(434) 924-4235
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