

## Samuel Gahan Ruhmkorff

Bard College at Simon's Rock  
Division of Social Studies  
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### Employment

Associate Professor of Philosophy, <i>Bard College at Simon's Rock</i>	2010–present
Visiting Assistant Professor, <i>Smith College</i>	2014–2016
Lecturer, <i>Smith College</i>	Fall 2012, 2013–2014
Dean of Academic Affairs, <i>Bard College at Simon's Rock</i>	2005–2010
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, <i>Bard College at Simon's Rock</i>	2001–2005
Visiting Assistant Professor, <i>University of Missouri-Columbia</i>	2000–2001

### Education

*University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI  
Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2001  
Dissertation: “The Reliability of Inference to the Best Explanation,” directed by  
James Joyce  
M.A. in Philosophy, 1996

*Washington University*, St. Louis, MO  
A.B. *summa cum laude* in Philosophy, 1993

**Areas of Research Specialization**    Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology

**Areas of Teaching Competence**    Logic, Metaphysics, Ethics

### Articles

Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2019. Evidence for intelligent extraterrestrials is evidence against the existence of God. *Think* 53, Vol. 18.

- Ruhmkorff, Samuel and Tingao Jiang. 2019. Copernican reasoning about intelligent extraterrestrials: A reply to Simpson. *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10838-019-09465-7>
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2019. The Copernican principle, intelligent extraterrestrials, and arguments from evil. *Religious Studies* 55: 297–317.
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2015. Unconceived alternatives and the cathedral problem. *Synthese*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-015-0947-2>
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2013. Global and local pessimistic meta-inductions. *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science* 27: 409–428.
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2013. The Equal Weight argument against religious exclusivism. In *Models of God and alternative ultimate realities*, edited by Jeanine Diller and Asa Kasher, 955–968. Springer.
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2013. The incompatibility problem and religious pluralism beyond Hick. *Philosophy Compass* 8: 510–522.
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2011. Some difficulties for the problem of unconceived alternatives. *Philosophy of Science* 78: 875–886.
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2011. Modeling Plato’s heaven and God’s green Earth. In *Educating Outside the Lines*, edited by Nancy Yanoshak, 65–87. New York: Peter Lang.
- Kierland, Brian, Bradley Monton, and Samuel Ruhmkorff. 2008. Avoiding certain frustration, reflection, and the cable guy paradox. *Philosophical Studies* 138: 317–333.
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2007. The descriptive criterion and models of God-modeling: Response to Hustwit’s ‘Can models of God compete?’ *Philosophia* 35: 441–444.
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2006. Reliabilism and inference to the best explanation. In *Mistakes of Reason*, edited by Kent A. Peacock and A. D. Irvine, 183–196. University of Toronto Press.

### Book Reviews

- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2019. Review of K. Brad Wray, *Resisting Scientific Realism*. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science Review of Books*. <http://www.thebsps.org/2019/07/ruhmkorff-on-wray/>
- Ruhmkorff, Samuel. 2017. Models and experiments: Review of Steven French, *Philosophy of Science: Key Concepts*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. *Metascience* 26: 83–86.

### Scholarly Presentations

“Copernican reasoning and our place in a noetic universe,” *Our Place in the Cosmos?: Humanity, Spirituality, and the Awesome Universe*, St. Thomas More College, 2018

“Our place in the universe/multiverse,” Boise State University, 2018

“Intelligent extraterrestrials and the existence of God,” Boise State University, 2018

“The Copernican Principle and arguments from evil,” *American Philosophical Association, Central Division*, 2016

“Gott and Evil,” *Central States Philosophical Association*, 2014

“Unconceived alternatives and the cathedral problem,” *Unconceived Alternatives and Scientific Realism*, Durham University, 2013

“Why the pessimistic induction begs the question,” Boise State University, 2010

“Responding rationally to religious disagreement,” Boise State University, 2010

“Some difficulties for the problem of unconceived alternatives,” *Philosophy of Science Association*, 2010

“The Equal Weight argument against religious exclusivism,” *Models of God Colloquium, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, 2010

“The descriptive criterion and models of God-modeling: response to Hustwit’s “Can models of God compete?,” *Mini-Conference on Models of God, American Philosophical Association*, 2007

“Accuracy and vague opinion,” *Philosophy of Science Association*, 2006

“Philosophy, moral imagination, and creativity,” on panel “Creativity, dissidence, and mental health,” Nawal El Saadawi, chair, *XIII World Congress of Psychiatry*, 2005

“Partial belief and the no-distinction problem,” *Central States Philosophical Association*, 2005

“Accuracy and vague opinion,” *British Society for the Philosophy of Science*, 2003

“Underdetermination and antirealism,” *Central States Philosophical Association*, 2002

“Reliabilism and inference to the best explanation,” *Mistakes of Reason: A Conference in Honour of John Woods*, 2002

“Comparative reliabilism and partial beliefs,” *Central States Philosophical Association*, 2001

“Reliability and inference,” University of Missouri, 2001

“Comments on Louise Antony’s ‘Naturalized epistemology, morality, and the real world’,”  
University of Michigan, 2000

“The problem of the bad lot,” University of Missouri, 1999

“Comments on William Alston’s ‘Religious belief and values’,” with Jeanine Diller, University of  
Michigan, 1999

“A challenge to contemporary claims of mind-dependence,” *Text and Tradition*, SUNY-Stony  
Brook, 1997

“Objectivity, objectification, and objecthood,” *National Graduate Student Conference*, Washington  
University, 1995

“Comments on Marcello Guarini,” *National Graduate Student Conference*, Washington University,  
1994

“Kant's deduction in Groundwork III,” *Undergraduate Philosophy and Religion Conference*, Truman  
State University, 1992

## Courses Taught

### *Bard College at Simon's Rock*

FS 100	Seminar I
FS 101	Seminar II
SOCS05A	Critical Reasoning
SOCS07A	Philosophical Puzzles
PHIL 105	Philosophical Problems
PHIL 148m	Informal Logic (half-term class)
PHIL 175	Ethics
PHIL 203	Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 211m	The Ethics of Warfare (half-term class)
PHIL 213	Formal Logic
PHIL 215	Epistemology
PHIL 219	Epistemic Injustice and Implicit Bias
PHIL 221	Philosophical Classics
PHIL 229	Introduction to the New Testament
PHIL 232	Philosophy of Astrobiology and Space Exploration
PHIL 248m	Formal Logic (half-term class)
PHIL 303	Existentialism
PHIL 311	Ancient Greek Philosophy and Its Medieval Legacy
PHIL 312	Philosophy of Science
PHIL 313	Metaphysics
BA Seminar	Politics, Paradox, and the Collective Good (with Bob Snyder, Math)
BA Seminar	Anthropic Cosmological Principle (with Eric Kramer, Physics)

*Smith College*

FYS 104	God and Evil
LOG 100	Valid and Invalid Reasoning
LOG 201	The Logic of Probability
PHI 100	Thinking About Thinking
PHI 210	Knowledge and Rationality
PHI 214	Religion and Contemporary Science
PHI 220	Incompleteness and Inconsistency
PHI 222	Ethics
PHI 232	Contemporary Metaphysics

*University of Missouri*

PHIL 51	Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 215	Contemporary Philosophy
PHIL 410	Advanced Epistemology

*University of Michigan*

PHIL 202	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 232	Problems and Principles (Teaching Assistant)
PHIL 365	Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 388	History of Ancient Philosophy (Teaching Assistant)
PHIL 389	History of 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy (Teaching Assistant)

**Other Teaching Experience**

*Bard College at Simon's Rock*

*Senior Thesis Committees*

Nasia Kayfetz-Vuong, 2019–2020  
Aung Sett Kyaw Min, 2019–2020  
Angel Mendez-Rivera, 2018–2019  
Elibba Dean, 2016–2017  
Caitlin Murphy, 2012–2013  
Noel Dominguez (chair), 2011–2012  
Sarita Rosenstock (chair), 2011–2012  
Aisha Bien-Amiee (chair), 2009–2010  
Darcy McCusker (chair), 2009–2010  
Emmanuel Stults, 2009–2010  
Matthew Burkes-Larranaga (chair), 2007–2008  
Nathan Anderson (chair), 2007–2008  
David Loeser (chair), 2007–2008  
Hannah Finley (chair), 2007–2008  
Jacqueline Jankowski, 2007–2008  
Brendan Leahy, 2007–2008

Mark Mizsei, 2006–2007  
Laura Conant, 2005–2006  
Maia Falconi-Sachs (chair), 2005–2006  
Michael Greenlee, 2004–2005  
Sara Harris (chair), 2004–2005  
John William Schiffbauer, 2004–2005  
Andrew Shelton (chair), 2004–2005  
Chris Cooney (chair), 2003–2004  
Nathaniel Smith (chair), 2003–2004  
Nik Soukonnikov (chair), 2003–2004  
Gabrielle Glemann (chair), 2002–2003  
Vasya Kondrashov, 2002–2003  
Nick Ballenger, 2002–2003  
Loren AliKhan, 2002–2003  
Katherine Welsh, 2001–2002  
Anna Cheadle, 2001–2002

*Tutorials*

PHIL 300T Metaethics, Spring 2011  
PHIL 300T Metaphysics, Spring 2008  
PHIL 213T Formal Logic, Winter 2007  
PHIL 312T Philosophy of Science, Fall 2007  
PHIL 215T Epistemology, Fall 2005  
PHIL 301T Metaethics, Spring 2005  
PHIL 302T Philosophy of Language, Spring 2005  
PHIL 313T Mathematical Logic, Spring 2005  
PHIL 300T Philosophy of Mind and Language, Fall 2004  
PHIL 148T Introduction to Logic, Spring 2004  
PHIL 300T Introduction to Non-Classical Logic, Fall 2003  
PHIL 304T Philosophy of Religion, Fall 2003  
HIST 390T The Historical Jesus, Fall 2002  
SOCS 311T Introduction to Mimetic Philosophy, Spring 2002

*Independent Studies*

HIST 390 IS: History of the Baha'i Faith in Teaneck, NJ, Fall 2004  
PHIL 390 IS: Philosophy and Metaethics, Fall 2003  
POLS 390 IS: International Justice-Theory of Just War, Fall 2002  
PHIL 390 IS: Philosophy of Mind, Spring 2002  
PHIL 390 IS: Contemporary Political Philosophy, Spring 2002

*Smith College*

*Honors Thesis Committees*

Gillian Tisdale (chair), 2015–2016  
Xiaozhou Wang, 2015–2016  
Marianna Mapes, 2015–2016  
Jana Chan, 2014–2015

Ellina Nektalova, 2013–2014

*Special Studies*

PHI 400 02 Logic and Theism, Spring 2014

**Chief Academic Officer, Bard College at Simon's Rock, 2005–2010**

*Selected Administrative Service*

Increased diversity and gender balance of faculty.

Full-time faculty demographics on July 1, 2010:

	% Female	% People of Color
Faculty hired before 2005	26	7
Faculty hired 2005-2010	73	45

Initiated and supported faculty-wide process for assessment and whole-scale revision of the General Education Seminars, a three-semester common curriculum course required for all students.

Supervised development of the Ba Win and Judith Win Student Resource Commons, including six new positions (Director of Multicultural Affairs, Director of Quantitative Literacy, Director of Academic and Career Resources, Academic Support Specialist, Coordinator of Transportation and Special Projects, Win Commons Coordinator) and expanded support for students with disabilities and international students with existing personnel.

Instituted and led annual two-day faculty retreats

General Education Seminars: Revision	2010
General Education Seminars: Assessment	2009
The BA Program and Diversity in Faculty Hiring	2008
Accreditation, the Science Initiative, and Student Support	2007
Strategic Planning for Bard College at Simon's Rock	2006

Awarded \$291,130 by the Davis Education Foundation for grant proposal "The science initiative," co-authored with Mary Marcy.

Secured membership for Bard College at Simon's Rock in the Consortium for Faculty Diversity, a group of liberal arts colleges committed to providing pre- and post-doctoral fellowships to increase ethnic and racial diversity and maximize the educational benefits of diversity.

Helped design strategic partnerships to support BA Program with Lincoln College, Oxford University; University of Manchester Centre for New Writing; International Center for Photography; Bard College Globalization and International Affairs Program; Bogazici University; Izmir University.

Initiated Book One program, required summer reading for incoming first-year students with lecture by the author, selected based on excellence and suitability for promoting interdisciplinary conversations about the intersection of cultures. Authors: Chinua Achebe (2005), Kwame Anthony Appiah (2006), Iptisam Barakat (2007), Saidiya Hartman (2008), Emmanuel Dongala (2009), Rita Dove (2010).

Increased authority and participation of academic division heads in college governance.

Strengthened faculty policies for parental leave, part-time faculty, international faculty, sabbatical leaves (including addition of junior sabbatical), contract evaluation timing.

Initiated whole-scale revision of Faculty Handbook, including Faculty Evaluation Criteria.

Reorganized Information Technology Services; supported college's conversion to SunGard Banner and upgrade of information technology infrastructure.

Increased oversight of Independent Studies and Tutorials.

Chaired the Acceleration to Excellence Program Committee, the college's major merit scholarship.

Supervised Library, Information Technology Services, Win Student Resource Commons, Office of the Registrar, Office of Academic Affairs, academic division heads.

Reorganized and supervised Daniel Arts Center staff. 2005–2007.

Staff, Campus Initiatives Committee, Board of Overseers. 2007–2010.

Staff, Academic Affairs Committee, Board of Overseers. 2005–2007.

NEASC Accreditation Steering Committee. 2005–2007.

### *Workshops and Presentations*

“The science initiative,” with Anne O’Dwyer and Michael Bergman. *American Association of Colleges and Universities: Engaging Science, Advancing Learning*, 2008.

Institute for New Chief Academic Officers, *American Council on Education*, 2007–2008.



“Interdisciplinary B.A. seminars: Capstone of a full liberal arts education,” with Anne O’Dwyer and Maryann Tebben. Presented by Hal Holladay. *American Association of Colleges and Universities*, 2007.

Transformation of the College Library Workshop, *Council of Independent Colleges*, 2007.

New Chief Academic Officer Workshop, *Council of Independent Colleges*, 2005.

## Awards and Fellowships

*Bard College at Simon’s Rock*

Newcomer’s Award, 2002

*University of Michigan*

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Rackham School of Graduate Studies, 1998

John Dewey Prize, for excellence in teaching, Department of Philosophy, 1998

Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship, 1998

Regents’ Fellowship, 1993–1997

Mellon Fellowship Semi-Finalist, 1993

*Washington University*

Graduated *summa cum laude*. Honors thesis entitled “A Rational Belief: Kant’s Moral Argument for the Existence of God,” directed by Claude Evans

Nishi Luthra Prize, for outstanding graduating philosophy major, 1993

Steven Schwarzschild Prize, for outstanding philosophy major, 1992

Bemis Traveling Scholarship, for travel and research in Europe, 1992

Phi Beta Kappa honorary society

Mortar Board honorary society (President)

Dean’s List, all semesters attended

## Professional Service

*Referee / Reviewer*

*Philosophy of Science*

*British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*

*International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*

*Journal for General Philosophy of Science*

*Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*

*Synthese*

*Erkenntnis*

*Sophia*

*Philosophia*

*Foundations of Science*

*Acta Analytica*

*Acta Biotheoretica*  
*Theoria*  
*European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*  
*Religions*  
Springer  
Oxford University Press  
Prentice Hall

*Consulting*

Consulting and editing services for faculty members undergoing contract evaluation  
Principal, *Secure Tenure* (securetenure.com), 2015–present  
“4 Strategies for Constructing a Powerful Tenure Case,” four-part presentation for  
*Academic Writing Club*, Fall 2015

*Bard College at Simon’s Rock*

*Faculty Committees*

Faculty Evaluation Committee, 2018–present  
Bias Response Committee, 2018–2019  
Chemistry Search Committee, 2017–2018  
Division Head, Social Studies, Fall 2017  
Faculty Representative to Staff Assembly, 2016–2018  
Mathematics Search Committee, 2016–2017  
History Search Committee, 2016–2017  
Sexual Misconduct Investigation Committee, 2011–2012  
Computer Science Search Committee, 2011–2012  
Divisional Evaluation Committee, Fall 2004, Fall 2011, Spring 2012  
General Education Reform Coordinating Committee, 2011  
Acceleration to Excellence Scholarship Committee, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2011, 2013  
Chair, Faculty Senate, 2004–2005  
Faculty Concerns Committee, 2004–2005  
First-Year Seminar Co-coordinator, 2004–2005  
Faculty Standard Accreditation Committee, 2004–2005  
Politics Search Committee, 2004–2005  
History Search Committee, 2002–2003  
Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Committee, 2002–2004  
Faculty Representative, Community Council, 2001–2002  
Appeals Committee, 2001–2003  
Copyright Policy Committee, 2002–2003

*Campus Lectures*

“The Copernican Principle, Intelligent Aliens, God, and the Multiverse,” 2015  
“Can we trust science?,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 2013 (six lectures)  
“Naming the animals (and everything else),” First-Year Seminar Lecture, 2009  
“Plato on death and immortality,” First-Year Seminar Lecture, 2008  
“Scientific realism, antirealism, and the underdetermination of theory by evidence,”  
Faculty Forum, 2007

- “Is race real?” with Bob Schmidt, Diversity Day 2005
- “Euthyphro and divine commands,” First-Year Seminar Lecture, 2005
- “Men and video games,” Women’s Center, 2005
- “God in Hell,” First-Year Seminar Lecture, 2004
- “God in Hell,” Bard High School Early College, 2004
- “Did Socrates commit state-assisted suicide?,” First-Year Seminar Lecture, 2003
- “When is war just?,” Christ Church Cathedral, 2003
- “Justice and war,” Christ Church Cathedral, 2003
- “Faith without belief,” Lecture for Interfaith Society, 2002
- “From Socratic definition to Plato’s Forms: Epistemology and metaphysics in the *Meno* and *Phaedo*,” First-Year Seminar Lecture, 2002
- “The impossibility of hell,” Lecture for Interfaith Society, 2002
- “Socrates and civil disobedience,” First-Year Seminar Lecture, 2001

*University of Michigan*, Department of Philosophy

- Lead Organizer for Colloquium on Analytic Feminism, 2000
- Graduate Employees Organization Department Representative, 1998–1999
- Representative to the Graduate Studies Committee, 1997–1998
- Representative to the Executive Committee, 1995–1996

### **References (contact information provided by request)**

James Joyce, Cooper Harold Langford Collegiate Professor of Philosophy, *University of Michigan*

Mary Marcy, President, *Dominican University of California*

Anne O’Dwyer, Professor of Psychology, *Bard College at Simon’s Rock*

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