

## Curriculum Vitae

LORRAINE BESSER-JONES

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### EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1997-2003): PhD., expected May 2003; M.A., 1999  
Claremont Graduate School (1995-1997): M.A. in Philosophy, 1997  
Tulane University (1991-1995): B.A. with honors in Philosophy, 1995

### DISSERTATION

*Title:* "Personal Integrity and the Sense of Duty: A Humean Theory of Justice and Moral Obligation"  
*Committee:* Gerald Postema (director), Don Garrett, Thomas Hill, Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, Susan Wolf.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: Contemporary Moral Theory, History of Ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Social & Political Philosophy, Moral Psychology, Applied Ethics, Bioethics, Feminism

### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

E. Maynard Adams Fellowship, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, 2002-2003  
Prize for Best Paper by a Graduate Student or Untenured Faculty Member, North Carolina Philosophical Society, 2002  
Graham Keene Dissertation Fellowship, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, 2001  
Horace Williams Fellowship, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, Sept. 1998-May 2002  
University of North Carolina Merit Assistantship, 1997-1998

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Paving the Ground for a More Competitive Virtue Theory: The Nature of Our Moral Reasons." *Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*. San Francisco, CA, March 2003.  
"A New Look at Hume's Circle Argument." *Southeastern Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy*. Chapel Hill, NC, November 2002.  
"Understanding Overridingness: Breaking Free from the Kantian Dichotomy of Reasons." *Joint Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society and the South Carolina Society for Philosophy*. Charleston, SC, January 2002.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill:

*Full Responsibility:* Bioethics, Introduction to Ethics, Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense

*Teaching Assistant:* Feminism, Introduction to Philosophy, Bioethics, Introduction to Ethics, Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense

## MASTER'S THESIS

*Title:* "The Moral Commitment to Public Reason"

*Committee:* Gerald J. Postema (director), Thomas Hill, Jr., Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

## DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

*Title:* "Personal Integrity and the Sense of Duty: A Humean Theory of Justice and Moral Obligation"

*Abstract:* Increasingly, contemporary moral philosophers are looking for alternatives to the traditional utilitarian and deontological moral theories. Motivated by the worry that these theories fail to develop a convincing account of an agent's moral psychology, many have turned to the area of virtue theory, which they see as a promising alternative. In this search for an alternative moral theory, Hume's virtue theory is most often overlooked despite his full and rich moral psychology. In an attempt to revitalize Hume's account of justice and moral obligation, and to show that his theory provides a promising foundation for a comprehensive, contemporary virtue-based theory, I explore his account of acting from duty and develop a new interpretation of his theory of moral motivation that fits most consistently with both his criticism of other theories and his more general claims about the virtue of justice. I argue that Hume offers an account of justice as being always valuable in virtue of being a necessary condition to the enjoyment of one's good character. I go on to suggest that pride in one's character, what we might now call personal integrity, commits each agent to acting with a sense of duty, and enables her to attain a level of social interaction that is necessary for her psychological development, yet not possible without a commitment to justice. After defending this interpretation of Hume, I extend this basic notion of personal integrity and demonstrate how this idea, combined with the workings of empathy and the psychological need for genuine social interaction, generates a comprehensive virtue theory that avoids many of the pitfalls of traditional virtue theories.

## DEPARTMENTAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Group Discussion Leader, Carolina Summer Reading Program, August 2002

Co-Coordinator, Graduate Student Work-in-Progress Lecture Series, 2002-2003

Graduate Committee, 1999-2002

Faculty Liaison, 2001

GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN (\*audited)

*Ethics:*

Kantian Ethics, Tom Hill  
Kant & Rousseau, Tom Hill and Bernard Boxill  
Contemporary Moral Theory, Geoff Sayre-McCord  
Recent Political Theory, Gerald Postema  
History of Ethics, Tom Hill  
Hume's Ethics, Geoff Sayre-McCord & Gerald Postema  
Kantian Constructivism, Tom Hill  
Scanlon\*, Tom Hill  
Evolution of Morality\*, Geoff Sayre-McCord & Phillip Kitcher  
Philosophy of Law\*, Gerald Postema  
Decision Theory\*, Mike Resnik  
Utilitarianism & Its Critics\*, Susan Wolf  
Metaethics, Thaddeus Metz (CGS)  
Empathy\*, Kurt Norlin (CGS)  
Aristotle's Ethics, Charles Young (CGS)  
Ethics & Religion, D.Z. Phillips (CGS)

*Metaphysics & Epistemology:*

Metaphysics, Simon Blackburn  
Philosophy of Language, Louise Antony  
Philosophy of Mind, Bill Lycan

*Logic & Philosophy of Science:*

Logic, Keith Simmons  
Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Dick Zaffron  
Philosophy of Science, John T. Roberts  
Logic, Joel Smith (CGS)

*History of Philosophy:*

Hegel\*, Gerald Postema  
Kant\*, Jay Rosenberg  
Wittgenstein & Religion\*, D.Z. Phillips (CGS)  
Descartes, Patricia Easton (CGS)  
Kant, Patricia Easton (CGS)  
Hume, Patricia Easton (CGS)  
Plato's Epistemology, Charles Young & James Bogen (CGS)

REFERENCES

Gerald J. Postema, *Cary C. Boshamer Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Law*, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill  
Don Garrett, *Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence*, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill  
Thomas Hill, Jr., *Kenan Professor of Philosophy*, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill  
Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, *Professor of Philosophy*, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill

Complete Dossier Available Upon Request From:

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