

George W. Stamets

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Philosophy of action (esp. free will and moral responsibility), metaphysics (esp. powers, causation, personhood), ethics (esp. meta-ethics), and epistemology

My PhD thesis defends the claim that free agency consists in (in the case of 'basic' free actions) or involves (in the case of 'non-basic free actions) the exercise of an irreducible, spontaneous, 'two-way' mental power to choose how to act. The view that emerges amounts to a non-causal libertarian account of free agency, is volitionist in character, and is built upon a neo-Aristotelian, substance-powers metaphysics. In many respects, this thesis develops and defends an overall framework advanced in recent years by E.J. Lowe.

EDUCATION

University of Leeds | Leeds, UK
PhD in Philosophy, October 2016 to September 2019 (expected)
Thesis Title (tentative): *Free Action and the Power of Will*
Supervisor: Helen Steward

Florida State University | Tallahassee, FL, USA
MA in Philosophy, April 2016
Committee: Randolph Clarke (Chair), Alfred Mele, David McNaughton

University of Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh, PA, USA
BA in Politics and Philosophy (University Honors College), April 2008

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

Hamburg Summer School on Metaphysical Dependence, University of Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), July 2017
Faculty: Jessica Wilson

Metaphysics of Science Summer School, University of Helsinki (Helsinki, Finland), July 2015
Faculty: David Braddon-Mitchell, Anjan Chakravartty, Marc Lange, Kristie Miller, Stephen Mumford, and Alastair Wilson

Durham Emergence Project Summer School, Durham University (Durham, UK), July 2015
Faculty: Robert Bishop, Gergely Kertesz, Tom Lancaster, Mark Pexton, Matthew Patterson, Wilson Poon, Michael Silberstein, Mariam Thalos and Iori Thomas

Moral Phenomenology Summer School, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary), June-July 2015
Faculty: Dorothea Debus, Terence Horgan, Uriah Kriegel, Mark Timmons, David Weberman, and Dan Zahavi

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- “Powers and Non-Powers: In Defense of a ‘Mixed View’ of Natural Properties”
- *Eighth Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy (SOPhiA 2017)*, University of Salzburg (Salzburg, Austria), September 2017
- “What Would Constitute Evidence Against Free Will?”
- *ARC Colloquium 2017: Free Will, Language, and Neurosciences*, Université catholique de Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), August 2017
- “A Non-Causal Libertarian Account of Intentional Action”
- *Agency and Causation: Formal and Conceptual Issues*, Ghent University (Ghent, Belgium), October 2016
- “Free Choice, Control, and Acting for a Reason”
- *Gothenburg Biennial Responsibility Conference*, University of Gothenburg (Gothenburg, Sweden), August 2016
 - *Agency, Causality, and Free Will Conference*, Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb, Croatia, January 2016
- “Free Choice and Control”
- *Saint Louis University Graduate Philosophy Conference on Free Will and Moral Responsibility*, Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO, USA), February 2016
- “The Priority of Internalist Justification”
- *Third Annual Philosophers’ Cocoon Philosophy Conference*, University of Tampa (Tampa, FL, USA), November 2015
- “Kropotkin’s Theory of Mutual Aid: Implications and Evidence”
- *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB 2015)*, Montreal, Canada, July 2015
- “On Zimmerman’s ‘Taking Luck Seriously’”
- *South Carolina Society for Philosophy*, Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC, USA), March 2015
 - *Southeast Graduate Philosophy Conference*, University of Florida (Gainesville, FL, USA), March 2015
 - *North Carolina Philosophical Society*, North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC, USA), February 2015
- “Vihvelin’s ‘Commonsense Compatibilism’ and the Ability to Do Otherwise”
- *Free Will Conference*, Center for Cognition and Neuroethics (Flint, MI, USA), October 2014

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- “Lowe’s ‘Replacement’ and ‘Unity’ Arguments for Non-Cartesian Substance Dualism”
- *Durham Emergence Project Summer School*, Durham University (Durham, UK), July 2015 (poster presentation)

INVITED COMMENTARIES

Commentary on Kyle Fritz's "Responsibility, Voluntary Control, and Intentional Action"

- *American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division*, San Francisco, CA, USA, March 2016

Commentary on Erik Nelson's "Explicating Epistemology: Methodology Within Naturalized Epistemology"

- *Third Annual Philosophers' Cocoon Philosophy Conference*, University of Tampa (Tampa, FL, USA), November 2015

Commentary on Michael Robinson's "Flickering the W-Defense"

- *Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium*, Washington and Jefferson University (Washington, PA, USA), September 2014

PRESENTATIONS TO GENERAL AUDIENCES

"A Very Brief Introduction to the Free Will Debate" (60 minute talk plus 45 minute Q&A)

- *U3A Leeds* (Leeds, UK), June 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Tutor

The Brilliant Club (Scholars Programme)

May 2017 – present

- Summer 2017: *Are My Actions Ever 'Up To' Me? An Introduction to Free Will* (self-designed course; Key Stage 4 level)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

August 2013 – August 2016

- Summer 2016: *Free Will* (Mirja Perez de Calleja)
- Spring 2016: *Introduction to Philosophy* (Nathanael Stein)
- Fall 2015: *World Without God?* (David McNaughton)
- Summer 2015: *Philosophy of Race, Class, and Gender* (Maria Morales)
- Spring 2015: *Ethical Theory* (David McNaughton)
- Fall 2014: *Environmental Ethics* (Angela Schwenkler)
- Summer 2014: *Reasoning and Critical Thinking* (Michael Bishop)
- Spring 2014: *Reasoning and Critical Thinking* (Michael Bishop)
- Fall 2013: *Introduction to Philosophy* (John Schwenkler)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Scholarships:

- *School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science PhD Scholarship*, University of Leeds, October 2016 – September 2019 (Home/EU and International tuition plus maintenance matching the Research Council UK rate)

Grants and awards:

- \$3,000 (to organize *Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference*), Congress of Graduate Students, Florida State University, September 2015
- \$500 (to organize *Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference*), Department of Philosophy, Florida State University, September 2015

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Organizer, *Free Will, Moral Responsibility, and Agency Conference*, Florida State University, September 2015 (Keynotes: Derk Pereboom and Angela Smith)

Judge, *2015 National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference and Bioethics Bowl Competition*, Florida State University, April 2015

MEMBERSHIPS

Aristotelian Society
American Philosophical Association
Society for the Philosophy of Agency
Society for the Metaphysics of Science

REFERENCES

Randolph Clarke, *Professor of Philosophy*
Florida State University
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Alfred Mele, *William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy*
Florida State University
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David McNaughton, *Professor of Philosophy*
Florida State University
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