

Erick Jose Ramirez

Department of Philosophy
Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053
ejramirez@scu.edu
<http://www.erickjramirez.com>

EDUCATION

- Ph. D. Philosophy, University of California, San Diego, 2012
- M.A. Philosophy, University of California, San Diego, 2007
- B.A. Philosophy, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, 2003
Major: Philosophy · *summa cum laude*

EMPLOYMENT

- 2014- Assistant Professor, Philosophy – Santa Clara University
- 2013-2014 Lecturer, Philosophy – Santa Clara University (3-Year Appointment)
- 2012-2013 Adjunct Lecturer, Philosophy – Santa Clara University
- 2011-2012 Lecturer, Philosophy – California State Polytechnic University Pomona
- 2008-2012 Associate Instructor, Philosophy – University of California San Diego

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Psychology (philosophy of emotion, moral psychology, mental illness), Applied Ethics (neuroethics, virtual reality)

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Normative Ethics, Metaphilosophy

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 Psychopathy, autism, and basic moral emotions: Evidence for sentimentalist constructivism. In Robyn Bluhm and Şerife Tekin (Eds.) *Bloomsbury Companion to the*

Philosophy of Psychiatry. New York; London: Bloomsbury

- 2018 Shame, embarrassment, and the subjectivity requirement. *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy*. *Invited contribution for a special issue on psychopathic responsibility*
- 2018 Ecological and ethical issues in virtual reality research: A call for increased scrutiny. *Philosophical Psychology* <https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2018.1532073>
- 2018 Real moral problems in the use of virtual reality. With Scott LaBarge. *Ethics and Information Technology*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10676-018-9473-5>
- 2017 Empathy and the limits of thought experiments. *Metaphilosophy*, 48 (4), 504-526
- 2017 A conditional defense of shame and shame punishment. *Symposium: Theoretical and Applied Inquiries in Philosophy and Social Sciences*, 4 (1), 77-95
- 2017 Can suicide in the elderly be rational? Lawrence J. Nelson and Erick Ramirez in Robert McCue and Meera Balasubramaniam (Eds.) *Rational suicide in the elderly: Clinical, ethical, and sociocultural aspects*. Springer, 1-21
- 2017 Neurosurgery for psychopaths? The problems of empathy and neurodiversity. *American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience*, 7 (3), 166-168
- 2015 Receptivity, reactivity, and the successful psychopath. *Philosophical Explorations*, 18 (3), 330-343. DOI: 10.1080/13869795.2014.1001426
- 2014 Philosophy of mental illness. In *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/mental-i/>
- 2013 Psychopathy, moral reasons, and responsibility. In Alexandra Perry and C.D. Herrera (Eds.) *Ethics and Neurodiversity*, 217-237. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- 2013 Critical review: The emotional construction of morals. *Philosophical Psychology*, 16 (3), 461-475

Under Review

How to (dis)solve the gamer's dilemma

Why it is virtually impossible to replicate the bridge problem in VR

In Preparation

What it's like to be a ____: Why it's unethical to use VR as an empathy nudging tool

Anti-anti empathy

Thought experiments, simulations, and empathy in philosophical teaching

How to Build Ethical Virtual Worlds [book proposal in preparation]

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

- Forthcoming Featured guest on the “[How Researchers Changed the World](#)” podcast, sponsored by Taylor & Francis
- 2019 [The Promises and Perils of Virtual Reality: Building ethical virtual worlds](#) [a public talk delivered to audiences at the Tech Museum of Innovation on 2/16/2019]
- 2019 Guest on Season 3 of “[Mind Fields](#)” dedicated to my research on [VR and moral dilemmas](#)
- 2018 Guest on “[The Green Room](#)” on Newstalk (Ireland National Public Radio) discussing empathy, sympathy, and virtual reality
- 2018 [It’s dangerous to think virtual reality is an empathy machine](#). “Ideas” essay for *Aeon.com*
- 2018 [Experiments in virtual philosophy](#). Guest post on the blog *Daily Nous*

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2018 Bernard Hubbard, S.J., Creative Collaboration Award
- 2017 Oculus Education Research Grant
- 2017 Collaborative Teaching and Research Grant (with Scott LaBarge)
- 2016 Hackworth Teaching and Research Grant
- 2014 Markkula Center Teaching and Travel Grant
- 2014 Hackworth Teaching and Research Grant
- 2013 Markkula Center Ethics Bowl Grant

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Talks and Paper Presentations

- 2019 The Promises and Perils of Virtual Reality: Building ethical virtual worlds. *The Tech Museum of Innovation*. [Invited]
- 2019 How to (dis)solve the gamer’s dilemma. American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division, Vancouver Canada

- 2018 Panelist - “The ethics of virtual reality” held at Santa Clara University
- 2018 The experience machine: VR experiments for teaching and research. *Google tech talk*. Google Campus - Mountain View, CA.
- 2018 Ecological and ethical issues in virtual reality research: A call for increased scrutiny. Latinx Philosophy Conference. Rutgers, New Brunswick
- 2018 Beyond thought experiments: VR and the limits of empathy. UC San Diego Colloquium (invited)
- 2018 The limits of thought experiments: VR’s potential in reflective equilibrium. Methods in Applied Ethics Conference - Trondheim, Norway [peer reviewed - declined acceptance]
- 2018 Ecological and ethical issues in VR research: A call for increased scrutiny. William J. Prior Conference. (invited)
- 2017 Power of Minds Workshop - invited participant - Stanford Campus. Palo Alto, CA
- 2016 Empathy and the limits of thoughts experiments. Keynote address: Cal Poly Pomona World Philosophy Day conference (invited)
- 2016 Empathy and the limits of thought experiments. Northwest Philosophical Conference, Spokane, WA
- 2016 Empathy and the limits of thought experiments. American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division, San Francisco
- 2015 Shame, embarrassment, and moral reasons: Holding psychopaths reactively accountable. American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division, Vancouver Canada
- 2014 Shame, embarrassment, and moral reasons: Holding psychopaths reactively accountable. Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society, Chapel Hill North Carolina
- 2014 An argument against basic emotions. William J. Prior Mini-Conference, Santa Clara University (invited)
- 2013 Phenomenology, subjectivism, and psychological constructivism: A cognitivist/non-cognitivist solution. *Emotions: Nature, Recognition and Culture Conference* Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany – invitation declined
- 2013 How to hold psychopaths responsible, William J. Prior Mini-Conference, Santa Clara University (invited)
- 2012 The construction of universal emotions: Emotions and the meaning of emotive judgments. *Meaning, Morality, & Culture Conference*, Leeward Community College Campus

(University of Hawaii System)

- 2012 Receptivity, reactivity, and the successful psychopath, American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division, Seattle
- 2011 Receptivity, reactivity, and the successful psychopath, Indiana Philosophical Association, Hanover College, Indiana
- 2011 Receptivity, reactivity, and the successful psychopath, 4th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder

TEACHING

Santa Clara University (2012-Current)

Philosophy 1A/2A	Critical Thinking and Writing
Philosophy 2	Introduction to Ethics
Philosophy 11/12	A Cross-Cultural History of Emotion
Philosophy 32	Neuroethics
Philosophy 120	Moral-Theory: Meta-Ethics
Philosophy 144B	Philosophy of Emotion
Philosophy 160	Philosophy of Mental Illness
Philosophy 165	Philosophical Issues in Virtual Reality
Philosophy 185	Ethics Bowl

California State Polytechnic University Pomona (2011-2012)

Philosophy 201:	Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 202:	Critical Thinking

Philosophy, University of California, San Diego (2008-2011)

Philosophy 13:	Introduction to Moral Theory
Philosophy 27:	Ethics and Society
Philosophy 162:	Contemporary Moral Issues

Muir College Writing Program (MCWP), University of California, San Diego (2005-2008)

MCWP 40:	Critical Writing
MCWP 50:	The Social Construction of Emotion: Romantic Love
MCWP 50:	Death, Undeath, and the Meaning of Life

SERVICE

To the University

- 2018- Chair - 2020 Fagothey Conference Planning Committee. Theme: Identity, Politics, and Justice

2018- Senior Honors Thesis Adviser – Mason Seely (Biology/Public Health) Topic: Mental Illness and Rationality

2017-2018 Fagothey Conference Planning Committee Member

2016-2017 Senior Honors Thesis Adviser – Alaina Boyle (Psychology/Biology) Topic: Healthcare and Mental Illness

2016- Member— SCU Neuroscience Program Advisory Council

2015-2016 Senior Honors Thesis Adviser – Leah Emery (Psychology) Topic: Horror Viewing Motivations in Adults

2014- Chair – Committee for Improving the Climate for Women and Underrepresented Minority students in Philosophy

2014-2016 Philosophy Department Assessment Committee Member

2013- Ethics Bowl Coach – Santa Clara University

2013-2017 OXFAM-America Club, Santa Clara University, Faculty Adviser

2013-2016 Philosophy Club Faculty Adviser – Santa Clara University

2014-2015 Conference Organizer: 2015 Austin J. Fagothey Philosophy Conference, Santa Clara University; Topic: “The Promise of Experimental Philosophy”

2015, 2017 Featured Presenter: College of Arts and Sciences Showcase

2015 Department Representative: SCU Preview Days (4/11)

2014-2015 Senior Honors Thesis Adviser – Courtney Maher (Psychology) Topic: Autism, Empathy, and Moral Agency

To the Profession

Peer Reviewer for:

2018- *Analysis*

2017- *Ethics and Information Technology*

2015- *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*

2014- *Acta Analytica*

2014- *American Philosophical Quarterly*

2012-

Philosophical Psychology

REFERENCES

Available on request