

THOMAS ANAND HOLDEN

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CURRICULUM VITAE

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2011-present: Professor, Philosophy, University of California Santa Barbara
2019-2023: Vice Chair of Department, Philosophy, University of California Santa Barbara
2014-2019: Chair of Department, Philosophy, University of California Santa Barbara
2007-11: Associate Professor, Philosophy, University of California Santa Barbara
2004-07: Assistant Professor, Philosophy, University of California Santa Barbara
2001-04: Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Syracuse University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Philosophy, 2001
B.A., Hon. Oxford University, Philosophy, Politics & Economics, 1993

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Hobbes's Philosophy of Religion (Oxford University Press, 2023)
(Honorable Mention in the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 2024 Book Prize)

Spectres of False Divinity: Hume's Moral Atheism (Oxford University Press, 2010)

The Architecture of Matter: Galileo to Kant (Oxford University Press, 2004)

Papers

"What Hume said to the Tortoise," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (forthcoming)

"Hobbes on Motion, Time, and the Structure of the Present Moment," *Journal of Modern Philosophy*
(forthcoming)

"The Song of the Skeptic," *Philosophy & Rhetoric* (forthcoming)

"Bagehot on Belief," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 64 (2026), 263-84

"Hume and Strato's Ghost: Matter, Order, and Explanation in the *Dialogues*," in Paul Russell, ed.,
The Cambridge Critical Guide to Hume's Dialogues (Cambridge University Press, 2026), 46-
62

"Hume on Chance, Probability, and Necessity," *Hume Studies* 50 (2025), 131-161

- “Consider the Oyster: The Bivalve Shellfish in Early Modern Metaphysics,” *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 41 (2025), 291-303
- “Hume on Modal Discourse,” in Sam Newlands and Yitzhak Melamed, ed., *Modality: A History* (Oxford University Press, 2024), 148-170
- “The Meaning of Philo’s Reversal,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 61 (2023), 215-235
- “Religion and the Perversion of Philosophy in Hume’s *Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*,” in Jacqueline Taylor, ed., *Reading Hume on the Principles of Morals* (Oxford University Press, 2020), 238-54
- “Hobbes on Love and Fear of God”, in Robin Douglass and Johan Olsthoorn, ed., *The Cambridge Critical Guide to Hobbes’s On the Citizen* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), 161-79
- “Berkeley on Inconceivability and Impossibility,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 98 (2019), 107-22
- “Hume on Religious Language and the Attributes of God,” in Angela Coventry and Alex Sager, ed., *The Humean Mind* (Routledge, 2019), 182-92
- “Hobbes on the Authority of Scripture,” *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 8 (2018), 68-95
- “Hobbes on the Function of Evaluative Speech,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 46 (2016), 123-44
- “Hobbes’s First Cause,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 53 (2015), 647-67
- “Hume’s Absolute Necessity,” *Mind* 123 (2014), 377-413
- “‘The Modern Disciple of the Academy’: Hume, Shelley, and Sir William Drummond,” *Journal of Scottish Philosophy* 9 (2011), 161-88
- “Hume on Religious Affect,” *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 89 (2007), 283-306
- “Robert Boyle on Things above Reason,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 15 (2007), 283-312
- “Religion and Moral Prohibition in Hume’s ‘Of Suicide’,” *Hume Studies* 31 (2005), 189-210
- “Bayle and the Case for Actual Parts,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 42 (2004), 145-64
- “Infinite Divisibility and Actual Parts in Hume’s *Treatise*,” *Hume Studies* 28 (2002), 3-25
- Invited papers for anthologies, pending final review**
- “Hume on Natural Religion from the *Treatise* to the *Enquiries* and *Dialogues*,” in Peter Millican, ed., *Recasting the Treatise: The Development of Hume’s Philosophy*, under contract with Oxford University Press
- Reviews and reference articles**
- Review of Stewart Duncan, *Materialism from Hobbes to Locke* (Oxford University Press, 2022), appearing in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 62 (2024), 508-9

“Philosophy” in *Europe 1450-1789: An Encyclopedia of the Early Modern Era*, ed. Jonathan Dewald (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2003), vol. iv, 463-7

Interviews and occasional pieces

Interview with International Hobbes Society site (September 2023):

<http://www.europeanhobbessociety.org/general/awe-and-wonder-for-this-majestic-creation-interview-with-thomas-holden/>

Interview with UCSB’s *The Current* news site about *Hobbes’s Philosophy of Religion* (April 2023):

<https://www.news.ucsb.edu/2023/020881/comprehending-incomprehensible>

“Morality and the War on Terror,” in Syracuse University’s magazine *Connections* (Spring 2002), 18

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures

“Hume on Language, Meaning, and Import,” University of California Los Angeles, Fall 2026 (forthcoming)

“Hume on Natural Religion from the *Treatise* to the *Enquiries* and *Dialogues*,” Indiana University Bloomington, May 2025

“What Hume said to the Tortoise,” University of California Santa Barbara, February 2024

“Hume’s *Sensus Probabilitatis*,” Conference in Honor of Don Garrett, New York University, May 2023

“The Meaning of Philo’s Reversal,” keynote address at University of Texas Austin’s 1st Annual Graduate Conference in Early Modern Philosophy, September 2022

--- Also presented at Santa Barbara City College, January 2023

--- Also presented at ‘Hume and his Milieu’ Workshop, University of San Francisco, February 2020

“Hume on the Function of Modal Discourse,” at State University of New York at Buffalo, April 2019

--- Also presented at California State University Los Angeles, March 2019

--- Also presented at conference on ‘Necessity: A History,’ Johns Hopkins University, October 2018

“Hobbes on Love and Fear of God,” at presented at the Second Biennial Conference of the European Hobbes Society, University of Amsterdam, May 2018

--- Also presented at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, February 2018

“Stargazing: Fate, Fortuna, and Philosophy,” at Generating the Future, University of Southern California 2017 Student Retreat, Santa Catalina Island, March 2017

“Berkeley on Inconceivability and Impossibility,” at 7th Biennial Margaret Dauler Wilson Memorial Conference, Northern Arizona University, June 2016

“Hobbes’s First Cause,” presented at the University of Mississippi, October 2015

“Hume on Religion and the Perversion of Moral Philosophy,” keynote address at conference on Religion and Morality: Hume and His Context, University of Antwerp, April 2015

“Hobbes’s First Cause,” at West Coast Hume Scholars Workshop, University of San Francisco, September 2014

“Hume, Ancient and Modern Religion, and the Autonomy of Philosophy,” for panel discussion on “Hume and the Ancients and Moderns,” at the 40th Annual Hume Society Conference, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, July 2013

“Hobbes on the Function of Evaluative Speech,” at conference on Modern Influences in Contemporary Philosophy, American University of Beirut, May 2013

“Machiavelli’s Morality,” panel discussion on Oliver Mayer’s play *Fortune is a Woman*, University of Southern California, February 2012

“Hume on Projection and Necessity,” presented at Université du Québec à Montréal, October 2011

---- Also presented at the University of Amsterdam, May 2011
 ---- Also presented at Portland State University, May 2011
 “Religion and the Perversion of Philosophy in Hume’s Second *Enquiry*” in workshop session for the anthology *Reading Hume on the Principles of Morals*, University of San Francisco, April 2011
 “Author’s Response to Baillie and Traiger” in Author Meets Critics session on *Spectres of False Divinity*, presented at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego, April 2011
 “Hume’s Absolute Necessity”, presented at New York University, February 2011
 ---- Also presented at the University of California at Irvine, February 2010
 “Author’s Response to Bell and Harris” in Author Meets Critics session on *Spectres of False Divinity*, presented at the 37th Annual Hume Society Conference, Antwerp, Belgium, July 2010
 “Religion and Morality in Hume’s ‘Of Suicide’,” presented at Claremont Graduate School, November 2006
 ---- Also presented at the University of Colorado, Boulder, September 2006
 “Hume on Religious Affect,” presented at the University of Western Ontario, October 2006
 ---- Also presented at the 3rd Biennial Margaret D. Wilson Conference, San Diego, June 2006
 “‘Circumscrib’d Omnipresency’: More and Boscovich on Occupying Space,” presented at the Second Annual UCLA Conference in History and Philosophy of Science, November 2005
 “Boyle’s ‘Unsociable Truths,’” presented at the University of California, Irvine, January 2005
 “Response to Karen Dunlop’s ‘Berkeley’s Metaphysical Criticisms of the Calculus’”, American Philosophical Association Meeting, Pasadena, March 2004
 “Bayle on Actual and Potential Parts,” presented at the University of California at Santa Barbara, January 2004
 ---- Also presented at the University of California at San Diego, January, 2004
 “Parts and Wholes in Early Modern Metaphysics,” keynote address to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Graduate Student Seminar, Cranberry Lake NY, August 2003
 “Bayle and the Case for Actual Parts,” presented at the 1st Biennial Margaret D. Wilson Conference, Flagstaff Arizona, June 2002
 “Kant and Boscovich on Atoms and Fields,” presented to the Royster Society of Fellows, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 2001
 “Hume, Infinite Divisibility and the Actual Parts Metaphysic,” presented at the University of Texas, Austin, March 2001
 ---- Also presented at the University of Cambridge, March 2001
 ---- Also presented at Syracuse University, February 2001
 ---- Also presented at the University of Pennsylvania, February 2001
 ---- Also presented at Purdue University January 2001
 ---- Also presented at the University of Florida at Gainesville, January 2001
 ---- Also presented at Cornell University, January 2001

Refereed conference presentations

“The Song of the Sceptics,” 52nd Hume Society Conference, Charles University and Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague (forthcoming, July 2026)
 “What Hume said to the Tortoise,” 50th Hume Society Conference, Oxford University (July 2024)
 ---- Also presented at TEMPO Traveling Early Modern Philosophy Organization Conference, Denver Metropolitan University (April 2024)
 “Hume on Probability and Necessity,” Brigham Young University, Provo (July 2023)
 “Hume and Strato’s Ghost,” 48th Hume Society Conference, Charles University, Prague (July 2022)
 “The Meaning of Philo’s Reversal,” at the Institute for the Study of Scottish Philosophy conference on Naturalizing Religion in the Scottish Enlightenment, University of Antwerp (September 2021)
 ---- Also presented at the Canadian Atlantic Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Dalhousie University (July 2021)

“Philo’s Divine Attributes,” 44th Hume Society Conference, Brown University, July 2017
 “Berkeley’s Modal Epistemology,” South West Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Nevada-Reno, February 2017
 “Hobbes on the Function of Evaluative Speech,” South Central Seminar in the History of Early Modern Philosophy, Texas A&M University, November 2012
 “Hume’s Absolute Necessity,” presented at the 38th Annual Hume Society Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 2011
 “Mitigated Skepticism and Hume’s Liminal Natural Theology”, presented at the 36th Annual Hume Society Conference, Halifax, Canada, August 2009
 “Hume on Religious Affect,” presented at the 34th Annual Hume Society Conference, Boston University, August 2007
 “Hume on Determinism and the Theological Objection to Suicide,” presented at the 32nd Annual Hume Society Conference, University of Toronto, July 2005
 ---- Also presented at the Southern California Philosophy Conference, University of California, Irvine, October 2004
 “Bayle on Matter,” presented at the Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, November 2003
 “More and Boscovich on Extended Simples,” presented at the Mid-Atlantic Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, November 2003
 ---- Also presented at the South Central Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Loyola University, April 2002
 “Hume on Matter,” presented at the Midsouth Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, February 2002
 “Hume, Infinite Divisibility and the Actual Parts Metaphysic,” presented at the 28th Annual Hume Society Conference, University of Victoria, British Columbia, July 2001
 ---- Also presented at the Southeast Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Wake Forest University, North Carolina, November 2000

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023 and 2022, Hume Society mentor for young scholars program
 2014, Co-Director for 41st Annual Hume Society Conference, Portland, Oregon
 2009-2014, Executive Committee, Hume Society (elected for two terms)
 2007-9, Program coordinator for Hume Society, Pacific APA Conferences

Refereeing for journals

Area editor (early modern philosophy) for *Ergo* (2024-)

Referee for *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Hume Studies*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Society*, *Ergo*, *Philosophy*, *Hobbes Studies*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, *Journal of Modern Philosophy*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Modern Schoolman*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Intellectual History Review*, *Res Philosophica*, *Essays in Philosophy*, *Religious Studies*, *European Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*, *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, *Belgrade Philosophy Annual*, *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*,

Refereeing for presses

Oxford University Press (Philosophy), Oxford University Press (Religion), Cambridge University Press, Blackwell Publishing, Broadview Press, Routledge Press, Bloomsbury Press, University of Toronto Press, Lever Press

Refereeing for grant agencies and conferences

European Science Foundation (2020), The Social Science and Humanities Council of Canada, Research Foundation Flanders (2020, 2015), University of Amsterdam Graduate Conference, Hume Society Conferences (2024, 2023, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2006, 2005), Royal Society of Edinburgh

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2023-present, Library Officer
2023-present, Education Abroad Program Representative, Philosophy, UCSB
2019-2023, Vice-Chair of Philosophy Department, UCSB
2019-2023, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Philosophy, UCSB
2014-2019, Chair of Philosophy Department, UCSB
2014-2019, Faculty Website Coordinator, UCSB
2016-17, Humanities and Fine Arts, UCSB, Dean Search Advisory Committee
2006-13, Teaching Assistant & Teaching Associate Coordinator, UCSB Philosophy
2007-8, Colloquium Officer, UCSB Philosophy
2006-7, 2008-9, 2011-13, Library Officer, UCSB Philosophy
2002-4, Colloquium Officer, Syracuse Philosophy

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

2022 University of California Santa Barbara Academic Senate travel grant (\$1,500), and previous UCSB Travel Grants (worth \$680-\$900) in 2018, 2017, 2016, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2005
2018-19 University of California Humanities Research Institute 'Engaging Humanities' grant (\$15,000) and Supplemental Graduate Student Research Funds grant (\$15,000) for 'Ethics Bowl as a Platform for Educational Advancement', Principal Investigator (\$30,000 total)
2015-16, 2016-17 University of California Humanities Research Institute, Multi-Campus Graduate Working Group Award for "Philosophy and Inclusive Pedagogy," Principle Investigator, (\$10,000 total)
2015, University of California Santa Barbara Office of Student Life Faculty Involvement Award
2011, Dean's award for research funds \$25,000, University of California Santa Barbara
2011, Dean's award for programming funds \$25,000, University of California Santa Barbara
2004, Dean's award for research funds \$8,000, University of California Santa Barbara
2001, University of North Carolina Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars (University wide award)
2000-2001, Royster and Henry Dissertation Fellowship, University of North Carolina, 2000-2001 (then UNC's highest award for graduate study, \$17,000)

ADVISING AND MENTORING

Chair, 4 PhD dissertation committees (UCSB)
Member, 12 PhD dissertation committees (UCSB, Syracuse University, University of Colorado, University of Western Ontario)
Chair, 10 MA committees (UCSB)
Member, 11 MA committees (UCSB, Syracuse University)

Ph.D. committees

Patrick Norton (chair, ongoing); Damien Barnes (chair, ongoing); Charles Perkins, Ph.D. 2024 (member); Sam Zahn, Ph.D. 2021 (chair); Michael Augustin, UCSB, 2018 (member); Nicholas Nash,

Ph.D. University of Western Ontario 2017 (external member); Robert McIntyre, Ph.D., UCSB, 2015 (chair); C. Daniel Dolson, Ph.D., 2014, UCSB (member); Albert Shin, Ph.D., UCSB, 2014 (member); Justin Clark, Ph.D., UCSB, 2013 (member); Eric Yang, Ph.D., UCSB, 2013 (member); Steven Huizenga, Ph.D., UCSB 2011 (member); Jacob Blair, Ph.D., UCSB 2009 (member); Jonathan Peeters, Ph.D., University of Colorado at Boulder 2009 (external member); David Corner, Ph.D., UCSB 2006 (member); John-Michael Kuczynski, Ph.D., UCSB, 2006 (member); Carol Quinn, Ph.D., Syracuse, 2002 (member)

M.A. committees

Colton Heiberg, M.A. 2022 (chair); Patrick Norton, M.A. 2020 (chair); Blake Kyler, M.A., 2019 (member); Sam Zahn, M.A., UCSB, 2016 (chair); Damien Barnes, M.A., UCSB, 2016 (chair); Jason Collins, M.A., UCSB, 2016 (chair); Zachary Rentz, M.A., UCSB, 2015 (chair); Robert McIntyre, M.A., UCSB, 2011 (chair); John Plimpton, M.A., UCSB, 2010 (member); Albert Shin, M.A., UCSB, 2010 (chair); Thomas Curtin, M.A., UCSB, 2010 (chair), Alex Leibowitz, M.A., UCSB, 2010 (chair); Eric Yang, M.A., UCSB, 2010 (member); Daniel Dolson, M.A., UCSB, 2010 (member); Justin Clark, M.A., UCSB, 2010 (member); Brian Thomasson, M.A., UCSB History Department, 2010 (member); Steven Huizenga, M.A., UCSB, 2007 (member); Jacob Blair, M.A., UCSB, 2006 (member); Jennifer Scott, M.A., UCSB, 2005 (member); Michael Hannen, M.A., UCSB, 2005 (member); Matthew Sauffley, M.A., Syracuse, 2004 (member)