

Curriculum Vitae

Grant Ramsey

Department of Philosophy
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Area of Specialization: Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Science

Area of Competence: Philosophical Anthropology, Environmental Ethics, Logic

Other Areas of Interest: History of Biology Since Darwin

Present Position

Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department, Notre Dame University

Education

Duke University, August 2000 – May 2007

Ph.D. in Philosophy

The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington, August 1992 – June 1997

B.S. in Biology

B.A. in Philosophy

Dissertation Topic

Culture from Infrahumans to Humans: An Essay in the Philosophy of Biology

It has become increasingly common to explain the behavior of animals—from sperm whales to songbirds—in terms of culture. But what is animal culture, what is its relationship to other biological concepts and to human culture, and what impact does culture have on a species' evolution and ecology? My dissertation is an attempt to answer these questions.

Dissertation Committee

Robert Brandon and Alexander Rosenberg (co-advisors)

Owen Flanagan, Güven Güzeldere, and Daniel McShea

Publications

Ramsey, G. (2007) "The Fundamental Constraint on the evolution of culture" *Biology and Philosophy* 22: 401-414.

Ramsey, G., Bastian, M. L., and van Schaik, C. (2007) "Animal innovation defined and operationalized" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 30: 393-437.

Brandon, R. and Ramsey, G. (2007) "What's Wrong with the Emergentist Statistical Interpretation of Natural Selection and Random Drift?" in D. Hull and M. Ruse (eds.) *Cambridge Companion to the Philosophy of Biology*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Ramsey, G. (2006) "Block fitness" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 37: 484-498.

Cobb, A., Nadkarni, N., Ramsey, G., and Svoboda, A. J. (2001) "Recolonization of bigleaf maple branches by epiphytic bryophytes following experimental disturbance" *The Canadian Journal of Botany* 79: 1-8.

Ramsey, G., Longino, J., and Kugler, C. (1998) Formicidae: *Rogeria crieghtoni* www.evergreen.edu/user/serv_res/research/arthropod/GENERA/Rogeria/SPECIES/crieghtoni/crieghtoni.html. (One of 13 published web pages on the ant genus *Rogeria*.)

Lombardi, Angel. (1998) *Respecting the Knowledge: Ethnobotany of Western Washington*. Olympia: Washington State Capital Museum.
(Illustrated by Grant Ramsey)

Presentations

"You Can't Get Teleology From Development Alone: A Reply to Dennis Walsh" Meeting of the Four University Consortium on the Philosophy of Biology, Montreal, Quebec, 2006.

"Why is it Good to be Cultured?" International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Biannual Meeting, Guelph, Ontario, 2005.

"Conceptual Foundations of Dual-Inheritance Theory: An Introduction to the Work of Peter Richerson" The Evolution of Cognition: Niche Construction, Culture, and Environmental Complexity (Fourth Annual Conference on Recent Work in Biology and Philosophy), Durham, North Carolina, 2005.

"Fitness and the Fitness Environment" International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Biannual Meeting, Vienna, Austria, 2003.

"Recolonization of Big-leaf Maple Branches by Epiphytic Bryophytes Following Experimental Disturbance: Evidence for Autogenic Factors in Early Succession" 2nd International Forest Canopy Conference "Forest Canopies '98: Global Perspectives." Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida, 1998.

Awards and Fellowships

Bass Instructorship 2006

Duke University Conference Travel Grant 2006

Duke University Graduate Fellowship 2000 – present

Duke University Summer Research Fellowship 2005

Duke University Conference Travel Grant 2005

Vienna International Summer University Travel Grant and Tuition 2003

Vienna International Summer University Travel Grant and Tuition 2001

Teaching Experience

At Notre Dame:

Philosophy of Biology (200 level), Fall 2007

Philosophy of Biology (graduate level), Spring 2008

At Duke University:

Philosophy of Human Nature, Spring 2007

Philosophy of Biology, Summer 2006

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2005

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2004

Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2004

Philosophy of Law, Fall 2003, *Teaching assistant for professor Martin Golding.*

Aristotle, Spring 2003, *Teaching assistant for professor Michael Ferejohn.*

Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2002, *Teaching assistant for professor Owen Flanagan.*

Modern Philosophy, Fall 2001, *Teaching assistant for professor Tad Schmaltz.*

Professional Activities

Co-organizer: “Chance and Evolution” Sixth Annual Conference on Recent Work in Biology and Philosophy, Spring 2007, supported by the Duke University Center for the Philosophy of Biology, <http://www.duke.edu/philosophy/bio/conference>.

Co-organizer: “The Evolution of Cognition: Niche Construction, Culture, and Environmental Complexity” Fourth Annual Conference on Recent Work in Biology and Philosophy, April 2005, supported by the Duke University Center for the Philosophy of Biology, <http://www.duke.edu/philosophy/bio/conference>.

Graduate Student Representative: Duke University Philosophy Department, August 2004 – August 2005.

Reviewer for the journals *American Naturalist* and *Biology & Philosophy*.

Employment and Research

Biology Researcher: Fieldworker and data analyst. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Biology, Robert Peet Lab, May-December 1999.

Biology Researcher: Designed and implemented study of herbivore deterrence in the *Pseudomyrmex* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) – *Triplaris* (Polygonaceae) ant-plant symbiosis in lowland Amazonian rain forest. Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru, March-June 1998

Biology Researcher: Fieldworker and data analyst. Designed and implemented ecological study of epiphyte recolonization in big-leaf maple canopies. This research was published in *The Canadian Journal of Botany* (see citation above). International Canopy Network, Olympia, Washington, August 1997 - March 1998.

Editor: Layout Editor and Assistant Copy Editor. “What’s Up: Newsletter of the International Canopy Network.” International Canopy Network, Olympia, Washington, August 1997 - March 1998.

Biology Researcher: Designed and implemented study of the *Myrmelachista – Ocotea* cloud forest ant-plant mutualism. Monteverde, Costa Rica, December 1995-March 1996.

Professional Associations

American Academy for the Advancement of Science
American Philosophical Association
American Society of Naturalists
International Society for the History, Philosophy, & Social Studies of Biology
Philosophy of Science Association

References

- Dr. Robert Brandon
Philosophy Department, Duke University
919-660-3076, rbrandon@duke.edu
- Dr. Alexander Rosenberg
Philosophy Department, Duke University
919-660-3047, alexrose@duke.edu
- Dr. Owen Flanagan
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- Dr. Güven Güzeldere
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- Dr. Daniel McShea
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- Dr. Carel van Schaik
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- Dr. Marshall Abrams
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- Dr. Susan Alberts
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