

ROBERT ALAN SKIPPER, JR.

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University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0374 USA

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EDUCATION

PhD, Philosophy, 2000, University of Maryland, College Park
Committee on the History and Philosophy of Science, with minor in
Behavior, Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics

Thesis: "The R. A. Fisher-Sewall Wright Controversy in Philosophical
Focus: Theory Evaluation in Population Genetics"

Committee: L. Darden (chair), M. R. Dietrich, K. F. Schaffner, F. Suppe,
G. Wilkinson (Biology)

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant No.
9818095, "Theory Evaluation in Population Genetics"

MA, Philosophy, 1994, Texas Tech University
with minor in Computer Science

BA, Philosophy, 1990, Texas Tech University
with minor in English Literature

**AREAS OF
SPECIALIZATION**

History and Philosophy of Biology; Philosophy of Science

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Evolutionary Theory; Epistemology; Environmental History;
Environmental Ethics; History of Philosophy (Ancient); Philosophy of
Cognitive Ethology

LANGUAGE

Ancient Greek

**PROFESSIONAL
APPOINTMENTS**

Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Durham, UK
Fellow, Spring 2007
Charles P. Taft Research Center, University of Cincinnati, OH
Fellow, 2005-2006
Department of Philosophy, University of Cincinnati, OH
Head of Department, 2009-present
Associate Professor, 2007-present
Assistant Professor, 2001-2006
Department of Philosophy, Oregon State University, OR
Visiting Assistant Professor, 2000-2001

PUBLICATIONS (22)

Book (1)

forthcoming, *Philosophy Across the Life Sciences*, lead editor with Colin Allen, Rachel Ankeny, Carl F. Craver, Lindley Darden, Gregory Mikkelsen, and Robert C. Richardson. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Essays (10)

in press, with R. Millstein and M. Dietrich, "(Mis)interpreting Mathematical Models: Drift as a Physical Process", *Philosophy & Theory in Biology*.

2009, "Revisiting the R. A. Fisher–Sewall Wright Controversy", in J. Cain and M. Ruse (ed.), *Descended From Darwin: Insights into American Evolutionary Studies, 1925-1950*, Philadelphia, PA: American Philosophical Association Press: 299-322.

2007, with M. Dietrich, "Underdetermination Strategies in Scientific Controversy: The Case of the Molecular Clock", with M. R. Dietrich, *Perspectives on Science* 15: 295-326.

2006, "Stochastic Evolutionary Dynamics: Drift vs. Draft", *Philosophy of Science* 73: 655-665.

2005, with R. L. Millstein, "Thinking About Evolutionary Mechanisms: Natural Selection", with Roberta L. Millstein, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 36C: 327-347.

2004, "The Heuristic Role of Sewall Wright's 1932 Adaptive Landscape Diagram", *Philosophy of Science* 71: 1176-1188.

-----, "Calibration of Laboratory Models in Population Genetics", *Perspectives on Science* 12: 369-393.

-----, "Perspectives on the Animal Mind", *Biology and Philosophy* 19: 483-487.

2002, "The Persistence of the R.A. Fisher-Sewall Wright Controversy", *Biology and Philosophy* 17: 341-367.

2001, "The Causal Crux of Selection", *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 24: 556.

1999, "Selection and the Extent of Explanatory Unification", *Philosophy of Science* 66: S196-S209.

Commissions (9)

2008, "R. A. Fisher", in M. Ruse and J. Travis (ed.), *Harvard Companion to Evolution*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

-----, "R.A. Fisher's *The Genetical Theory of Natural Selection*", in M. Ruse and J. Travis (ed.), *Harvard Companion to Evolution*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

-----, "J. B. S. Haldane", in M. Ruse and J. Travis (ed.), *Harvard Companion to Evolution*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

-----, "J. B. S. Haldane's *The Causes of Evolution*", in M. Ruse and J. Travis (ed.), *Harvard Companion to Evolution*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

-----, "Sewall Wright", in M. Ruse and J. Travis (ed.), *Harvard Companion to Evolution*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

2007, "Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher", in M. Matthen and C. Stephens (ed.), *Philosophy of Biology*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Elsevier: 37-48.

-----, "R. A. Fisher", in N. Koertge and D. Hull (ed.), *New Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, Charles Scribner's Sons, Farmington Hills, MI.

-----, "Sewall Wright", in N. Koertge and D. Hull (ed.), *New Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, Charles Scribner's Sons, Farmington Hills, MI.

-----, with R. L. Millstein, "Population Genetics", in D. Hull and M. Ruse (ed.), *Cambridge Companion to the Philosophy of Biology*,

- Cambridge University Press, UK: 22-43.
- Book Reviews (1)** 2002, "Review of Rama Singh et al. (ed.) (2001) *Thinking About Evolution: Historical, Philosophical, and Political Perspectives*", *Philosophy of Science* 69: 412-413.
- Journal Editorships (1)** 2004, with C. Allen, *Biology and Philosophy*, special issue on cognitive ethology, including sole-author introduction, "Perspectives on the Animal Mind", volume 19 (4): 483-653.
- IN PROGRESS (2)** *for review*, "Coyne vs. Wade on Wright's Shifting Balance Theory: Localizing Influence in Scientific Controversies", with F. Cartieri, L. Craig, V. Gorley, C. Loo.
commissioned, "Beyond 'Beanbag Genetics': Reconsidering the History of Population Genetics", with M. Dietrich.
- ADDRESSES (40)** 2009, "Coyne vs. Wade on Wright's Shifting Balance Theory: Localizing Influence in Scientific Controversies", Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, OH.
2008, "(Mis)interpreting Mathematical Models of Drift: Drift as a Physical Process", Symposium, "(Mis)Representing Mathematical Models in Biology", with Frédéric Bouchard, James R. Griesemer, the team of Michael R. Dietrich and Roberta L. Millstein, and Joan Roughgarden, *Philosophy of Science Association*, Pittsburgh, PA.
2007, "The End of the Evolutionary Synthesis?", Public Lecture Series, Institute of Advanced Study, University of Durham, UK.
-----, "Understanding R. A. Fisher's Argument for Neo-Darwinism", Seminar, Institute of Advanced Study, University of Durham, UK.
-----, "What's Fundamental About Fisher's 'Fundamental Theorem of Natural Selection'", Department of Philosophy, University of Durham, UK.
-----, Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College, London, UK.
-----, "Genetic Drift vs. Genetic Draft", "Chance and Evolution" Conference, Center for Philosophy of Biology, Duke University, Durham, NC.
2006, "Explanation in Population Genetics: All Dependency, All the Time", Symposium, "Causation, Explanation, and Natural Selection", with Frédéric Bouchard, Bruce Glymour, and the team of Michael R. Dietrich and Roberta L. Millstein, *Philosophy of Science Association*, Vancouver, BC.
-----, "Simplicity and Inference to the Best Explanation", *Charles P. Taft Symposium*, University of Cincinnati, OH.
-----, *Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology*, Charleston, NC.
-----, "Commentary on Mathew Haug's 'Natural Selection as a Realized Causal Process'", *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, Chicago, IL.
-----, "Manipulating Underdetermination in Scientific Controversy: A Case From Evolutionary Genetics", Department of Philosophy, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
2005, "R. A. Fisher and the Origins of Genetic Drift", Symposium, "Revisiting Genetic Drift in the Development of Population Genetics:

- 1920s-1960s", with M. J. S. Hodge, Roberta L. Millstein, and Anya Plutynski, *History of Science Society*, Minneapolis, MN.
- , "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Paradox of Variation", Symposium, "The Molecular–Morphological Divide", with Michael R. Dietrich, Roberta L. Millstein, Anya Plutynski, *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
- , "Naturalism, Explanation, and Identity", with T. Polger, including response to commentary by Janice Dowell, *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Winston-Salem, NC.
- , including response to commentary by Tad Zawidzki, *Ohio Philosophical Association*, Cincinnati, OH.
- , including response to commentary by Natika Newton, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Durham, NC.
- 2004, "Chancy Dynamics and Genetic Draft: The Elimination of Drift?", Symposium, "The Role of Chance in Evolution: Four Case Studies", with John Beatty, Lindley Darden (chair), Michael R. Dietrich, Roberta L. Millstein (commentator), Robert C. Richardson, *Philosophy of Science Association*, Austin, TX.
- , "Parsimony in Modeling Evolution", Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego, CA
- , "Revisiting the R. A. Fisher–Sewall Wright Controversy", Descended from Darwin: Insights into American Evolutionary Studies: 1925-1950, *American Philosophical Society*, Philadelphia, PA.
- , "Unparsimonious Parsimony in the Units of Selection Debates", including responses to commentaries by André Ariew and Anya Plutynski, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, New Orleans, LA.
- , "Selection, Drift, or What? Evolution of the Scarlet Tiger Moth, *Panaxia dominula*, 1947-2000". Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- , 2003, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, OH.
- , 2001, Committee on Philosophy and the Sciences and Department of Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
- 2003, "Interpreting Evolutionary Theory: The Role of Experimental Models", Symposium, "Interpreting Evolutionary Theory", with Thomas Kane and Robert C. Richardson, *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*, Vienna, Austria.
- , "Commentary on the Statistical Roots of Biology", Commentator in Symposium, "The Statistical Roots of Biology", with Nancy Hall and Eileen Magnello, *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*, Vienna, Austria.
- , "Commentary on Bates', 'The Old Problem of Induction and the New Reflective Equilibrium'", *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, Cleveland, OH.
- 2002, "The Heuristic Role of Sewall Wright's 1932 Adaptive Landscape Diagram", Symposium, "The Making of the Genetical Theory of Evolution", with John Beatty (chair), Anya Plutynski, Margaret Morrison, Sahotra Sarkar, *Philosophy of Science Association*, Milwaukee, WI --Awarded Travel Grant.

- , *Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition*, Altenberg, Austria.
- 2001, "From Fisher–Wright to Coyne–Wade: A Persistent Controversy in Evolutionary Biology", History and Philosophy of Science Program, University of Texas, Austin, TX.
- , "Towards an Anthropocentric Environmental Ethic That's Not So Anthropocentric", Symposium, "Understanding Environment: Biology, Values, Policy", with participants Heather Douglas, Mark Madison, Gregory Mikkelson, Roberta L. Millstein, Esther Turnhout, *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*, Hamden, CT.
- , "Valuing the Environment", Department of Fish and Wildlife Seminar Series, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
- , "How Fundamental is the Fundamental Theorem of Natural Selection?", Oregon State University Keynote Address to the Biology Graduate Student Symposium, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, OR.
- , "Are Dolphins Just Whistling 'Gavagai'? Methodology in Cognitive Ethology", Ideas Matter Lecture Series, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
- , "Artificial Life and Evolutionary Theory", Ideas Matter Lecture Series, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
- 2000, "Strategies for Hypothesis Assessment in Evolutionary Biology", Symposium, "Experimentation and the Evaluation of Evolutionary Theories", with participants Robert N. Brandon, Richard Creath (chair), David W. Rudge, Michael J. Wade (commentator), *Philosophy of Science Association*, Vancouver, B.C. --*Awarded Travel Grant*.
- , "Understanding the Adaptive Landscape", including response to commentary by Michael R. Dietrich, *American Philosophical Association*, Central Division, Chicago, IL --*Awarded Graduate Student Travel Stipend*.
- 1999, "Whatever Happened to the R. A. Fisher–Sewall Wright Controversy?", *History of Science Society*, Pittsburgh, PA.
- , *Joint Atlantic Seminar in the History of Biology*, Philadelphia, PA, Spring 1999.
- 1998, "Selection and the Extent of Explanatory Unification", *Philosophy of Science Association*, Kansas City, MO --*Awarded Travel Grant*.
- 1997, "Explanatory Models of Natural Selection", *International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology*, Seattle, WA --*Awarded Travel Grant*.

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

- 2005, Dibner Institute Seminar in the History of Biology: Cosmic Evolution and Astrobiology, participant, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.
- 2004, ISHPSSB Future Directions Workshop, Led roundtable on marketing skills for philosophy of biology job seekers, with Steve Downes, Anya Plutynski, Kelly Smith, San Francisco, CA.
- , ISHPSSB Future Directions Workshop, Roundtable on models in biology, with Lindley Darden, Steve Downes, Roberta L. Millstein, Jay Odenbaugh (chair), San Francisco, CA.
- , Dibner Institute Seminar in the History of Biology: Perspectives

on Molecular Evolution, participant, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA.

2002, University Research Council Grant Writer's Workshop (selected participant), University of Cincinnati, OH.

2001, NCEAS Workshop: From Environmental Science to Public Policy, participant Santa Barbara, CA.

AWARDS

2007, Charles P. Taft Memorial Fund, University of Cincinnati, Research Fellowship Award (\$6500), "R. A. Fisher's 'One Long Argument' for Neo-Darwinism",

-----, Fellowship, Institute of Advanced Study, University of Durham, UK.

2006, Charles P. Taft Memorial Fund, University of Cincinnati, Domestic Travel Award, 2006 (\$350), "Simplicity and Inference to the Best Explanation."

2005-2006, Charles P. Taft Research Center Fellowship.

2004, Charles P. Taft Memorial Fund, University of Cincinnati, Domestic Travel Award, 2004 (\$455), "Chancy Dynamics and Genetic Draft: The Elimination of Drift?"

-----, Charles P. Taft Memorial Fund, University of Cincinnati, Research Travel Award (\$1150), Dibner Institute Seminar in the History of Biology: Perspectives on Molecular Evolution.

-----, Charles P. Taft Memorial Fund, University of Cincinnati, Domestic Travel Award (\$375), "Unparsimonious Parsimony in the Units of Selection Debates."

2003, Charles P. Taft Memorial Fund, University of Cincinnati, Research Fellowship Award (\$5700), "Selection, Drift, or What? Evolution in Natural Populations."

-----, Charles P. Taft Memorial Fund, University of Cincinnati, International Travel Award (\$1900), "Interpreting Evolutionary Theory: The Role of Experimental Models."

2002, University Research Council Grant Writer's Workshop (selected participant), University of Cincinnati, supplemented by a Charles P. Taft Memorial Fund Cost-Sharing Award (\$5000).

-----, *Philosophy of Science Association* Travel Grant (\$250), "The Heuristic Role of Sewall Wright's 1932 Adaptive Landscape Diagram."

2001, Oregon State University Mortar Board Senior Honor Society "Top Prof" Award.

2000, *Philosophy of Science Association* Travel Grant (\$250), "Strategies for Hypothesis Assessment in Evolutionary Biology."

-----, *American Philosophical Association* Travel Grant (\$250), "Understanding the Adaptive Landscape."

1999, *National Science Foundation*, Science and Technology Studies Program, Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant #9818095 (\$8000) "Theory Evaluation in Population Genetics."

1998, *Philosophy of Science Association* Travel Grant (\$250), "Selection and the Extent of Explanatory Unification."

1997, *International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*, Travel Grant (\$200), "Explanatory Models of Natural Selection."

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Cincinnati,
Assistant Professor

Graduate

"Classics in Evolution and Ecology" (biology/philosophy, 1)
"Contemporary Epistemology" (2)
"Environmental Law and Policy" (env. studies/philosophy, 1)
"History and Philosophy of Biology" (1)
"History and Philosophy of Science" (1)
"Philosophy and Evolutionary Biology" (1)
"Philosophy of Science: Theories" (1)
"Philosophy of Science: Explanation" (1)
"Philosophy of Science: Experiment" (1)
"Philosophy of Science: Causal Modeling" (1)
"Topics in Logic & Epistemology: Simplicity" (1)

Undergraduate

"Animal Minds" (honors, 3)
"Environmental Ethics" (3)
"Epistemology" (2)
"Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge" (6)
"Moral and Political Ideas" (3)
"Philosophy of Biological Science" (1)
"Philosophy and Cognitive Ethology" (2)
"Philosophy of Science" (1)
"Secrets of Life" (honors, 1)
"The Possibility of Human Altruism" (honors, 2)

Oregon State University,
Visiting Assistant Professor

Graduate

"Philosophy of Biology" (1)
"Philosophy of Science" (1)

Undergraduate

"Reasoning and Writing" (3)
"Scientific Reasoning" (1)
"Environmental Philosophy" (1)
"Philosophy of Science" (1)
"Contemporary Moral Issues" (1)
"Introduction to Logic" (1)
"Introduction to Philosophy" (1)
"Philosophy of Biology I" (2)
"Philosophy of Science I" (1)

Georgetown University,
Lecturer

University of Maryland,
College Park, Teaching
Assistant

Texas Tech University,
Instructor/Teaching Assistant

"Beginning Philosophy" (1)
"Introduction to Ethics and Moral Issues" (1)
"Introduction to Logic" (2)
"Reasoning" (2)

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEES

in progress, PhD, Clement K. Loo, "Toward a Conception Ecosystem Health" (committee chair)

in progress, PhD, Lindsay Craig, "Defending Evo-Devo" (committee chair)

2008, thesis MA, Stephen Brown, "The Reasonable Score"

2007, PhD, Viorel Păslaru, "What is an Ecosystem?" (committee co-chair with Robert C. Richardson)

2006, non-thesis MA, Bradley Gabbard (committee chair)

-----, PhD, Michael Parker, "Sex and the Soul: Plato's Equality

Argument in the *Republic*"
2005, PhD, Arthur Morton, "Making it Intelligible"
-----, PhD Biology, Sergejs Berdnikovs, "Evolution of Sexual
Dimorphism in Mustelids"
2004, non-thesis MA, Jeffrey Orlando
2002, MA, Fred Harrington, "The Prospects for Foundationalism in
Epistemology"
-----, MA, Matthew Woodruff, Thesis, "The Role of Memory in
Justification"

SERVICE

*University/Departmental
Committees (University of
Cincinnati)*

2009-present, Department Head
2007-2009, Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy
2007-2009, Charles P. Taft Research Center Faculty Executive Board
2006-2007, Member, Cincinnati Children's Hospital IRB
2004-2005, Member, Philosophy Headship Review Committee
2003-2004, Acting Director of Graduate Studies
2002-2004, Member, University Research Council
2002-2005, Organizer, Philosophy and the Sciences Reading Group
2002-2009, Webmaster, Department of Philosophy
2002-2003, Chair, Department of Philosophy Search Committee
-----, Member, A&S Tech Committee
2001-2002, Organizer, Philosophy Reading Group
-----, Assessor, Cincinnati Scholarship Competition
-----, Member, Department of Philosophy Graduate Program
Curriculum Committee

*Conference/Colloquium/Panel
Organizing*

2006-2007, Organizer, University of Cincinnati Department of
Philosopher Speaker Series, Cincinnati, OH
2005, Organizer, Symposium, "Revisiting Genetic Drift in the
Development of Population Genetics: 1920s-1960s", with M. J. S.
Hodge, Roberta L. Millstein, Anya Plutynski, History of Science
Society, Minneapolis, MN
2003, Program Chair, *International Society for the History, Philosophy
and Social Studies of Biology*, Vienna, Austria
-----, Organizer, 39th Annual University of Cincinnati, Department of
Philosophy Colloquium, "Perspectives on the Animal Mind", with
participants Frans de Waal (Plenary), Colin Allen, Marc Bekoff, Paul
Griffiths, Brian Keeley, Elisabeth Lloyd, Sue Savage-Rumbaugh,
Cincinnati, OH, (with co-sponsorship from the Charles P. Taft
Memorial Fund and the Department of Biology)
2002-2004, Co-organizer (with T. Polger), University of Cincinnati
Department of Philosophy Speaker Series, Cincinnati, OH
2001, Organizer, Symposium, "Understanding Environment: Biology,
Values, Policy", with Heather Douglas, Mark Madison, Gregory
Mikkelsen, Roberta L. Millstein, Esther Turnhout, *International
Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*,
Hamden, CT
2000, Organizer, Symposium, "Experimentation and the Evaluation of
Evolutionary Theories", with participants Robert N. Brandon, Richard
Creath, David W. Rudge, Michael J. Wade, *Philosophy of Science
Association*, Vancouver, B.C.

Refereeing

Member, Editorial Board in Philosophy of Science, *Philosophy Compass*, Blackwell Publishing

Journal Manuscript Reviewer: *Biology and Philosophy*; *Cognitive Science*; *Journal of Theoretical Biology*; *Philosophy of Science*; *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*

Book Manuscript Reviewer: *Blackwell Publishing*; *Cambridge University Press*

Professional Organizations

2006, External Reviewer, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*

2004, External Reviewer, *Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology*

2002, External Reviewer, *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*

-----, Session Chair, *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*

2001-2003, Webmaster, *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*

2001, Session Chair, *International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology*

-----, Session Chair, *American Philosophical Association Pacific Division*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Philosophical Association

History of Science Society

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology

Philosophy of Science Association

Society for Philosophy and Psychology

Society for the Study of Evolution

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

REFERENCES

Available upon request.