

# George W. Stamets

School of Philosophy, Religion, and History of Science | University of Leeds  
Woodhouse Lane | Leeds, LS2 9JT, United Kingdom  
g.w.stamets@leeds.ac.uk | www.georgestamets.com

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Philosophy of action (free will and moral responsibility), metaphysics (powers, causality, laws, personhood), ethics (meta-ethics, social and political), and epistemology

My PhD thesis, which is about the metaphysics of (i) agency in the most general sense and (ii) 'free' agency in particular, combines these. In Part I, I carefully formulate and defend a theory of powers - going on to explain the sense in which agency and causality, correctly understood, consist in the exercise, by individual substances, of their distinctive powers. I then consider whether and how we might understand modality and laws of nature in virtue of this theory of powers. Part II is concerned with the question of what it would take, given the truth of this broadly 'Aristotelian' picture of reality, for an agent to exercise free and intentional agency.

## EDUCATION

University of Leeds | Leeds, UK  
PhD in Philosophy, October 2016 to September 2020 (expected)  
Thesis Title (tentative): *The Metaphysics of Free Agency*  
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

“Free Agency and the Power of Will”

- *Agent Causation, Powers and Sourcehood Conference*, Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb, Croatia, May 2018

“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
- *Saint Louis University Graduate Philosophy Conference on Free Will and Moral Responsibility*, Saint Louis University (Saint Louis, MO, USA), February 2016
- *Agency, Causality, and Free Will Conference*, Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb, Croatia, January 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

“Qualities and Powers: In Defense of a ‘Mixed View’ of Natural Properties”

- *Centre for Metaphysics and Mind*, University of Leeds (Leeds, UK), November 2017

- “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”
- *The Brilliant Club Summer 2017 Graduation Ceremony*, University of Leeds (Leeds, UK), September 2017 (30 minute talk)
  - *U3A Leeds* (Leeds, UK), June 2017 (60 minute talk plus 45 minute Q&A)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Graduate Teaching Assistant*  
University of Leeds, Leeds, UK  
October 2017 – present

- Spring 2018: *The Mind* (Simon Hewitt)
- Autumn 2017: *How to Think Clearly and Argue Well* (Scott Shalkowski)

*Ph.D. Tutor*  
The Brilliant Club (Scholars Programme)  
May 2017 – present

- Are My Actions Ever ‘Up To’ Me? An Introduction to Free Will (self-designed course)
  - Autumn 2018: Bingley Grammar School, Bingley, UK (Key Stage 5 level) and Titus Salt School, Shipley, UK (Key Stage 5 level)
  - Spring 2018: Ryedale School, Nawton, UK (Key Stage 4 level) and Shelley College, Huddersfield, UK (Key Stage 5 level)
  - Autumn 2017: Priesthorpe School, Leeds, UK (Key Stage 4 level) and Bridlington School, Bridlington, UK (Key Stage 4 level)
  - Summer 2017: University Academy Keighley, Keighley, UK (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 (not including travel grants):

- \$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  
rkclarke@fsu.edu | 850-644-1483

Alfred Mele, *William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy*  
Florida State University  
amele@fsu.edu | 850-644-1483

David McNaughton, *Professor of Philosophy*  
Florida State University  
dmcnaughton@fsu.edu | 850-644-1483

*Last updated: 23 August 2018*