

Steven Gimbel

101 Weidensall Hall
Department of Philosophy, Box 404
Gettysburg College
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

sgimbel@gettysburg.edu
(717) 337-6575

Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Humor

Areas of Competence

Logic, Analytic Philosophy, Ethics, History of Philosophy

Education

- Ph.D. Philosophy Johns Hopkins University, 2000
 Dissertation: *The Plane Truth: On Reichenbach's Conventionality of Geometry*
 Primary Readers: Robert Rynasiewicz, Peter Achinstein
- M.A. Philosophy Johns Hopkins University, 1994
- B.A. Physics/Philosophy University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1991

Academic Positions

2013-present	Professor	Gettysburg College
2009-2015	Department Chair	Gettysburg College
2005-2012	Associate Professor	Gettysburg College
2000-2005	Assistant Professor	Gettysburg College
1999-2000	Visiting Assistant Professor	Gettysburg College
1999	Adjunct Instructor	Western Maryland College
1998-1999	Adjunct Instructor	United States Naval Academy
1997-1998	Visiting Instructor	Mount Saint Mary's College
1996-1997	Adjunct Instructor	University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1995-1997	Adjunct Instructor	Johns Hopkins University, Continuing Studies
1996-1998	Adjunct Instructor	Gettysburg College
1994	Adjunct Instructor	Towson State University
1993-1997	Adjunct Instructor	Anne Arundel Community College

Courses Taught

History and Philosophy of Science/Mathematics

1. Philosophy of Science
2. Philosophy of Space (taught solo, team-taught with Larry Marschall)
3. Wrong Science, Bad Science, Pseudoscience (taught solo, team-taught with Dan Drury)
4. Philosophy of Number (team-taught with Eric Egge)
5. Philosophy of Geometry (team-taught with Eric Egge)
6. Philosophy of Cosmology (team-taught with Larry Marschall)
7. Philosophy of Chemistry (team-taught with Michael Wedlock)
8. Reading Durkheim and Weber (team-taught with Craig Lair)
9. Reading Darwin
10. History of Science: From Archimedes to Einstein

Logic

11. Symbolic Logic
12. Critical Thinking

History of Philosophy

13. History of Ancient Philosophy
14. History of Early Modern Philosophy
15. Analytic Philosophy
16. The Analytic/Continental Divide (team-taught with Jennifer Hanson)

Ethics

17. Ethical Theory
18. Contemporary Moral Issues
19. Environmental Ethics
20. Stand-Up Philosophy: Humor Ethics and Aesthetics

First-Year Seminars

21. Einstein in Wonderland: Physics, Philosophy, and Other Nonsense
22. Logic, Brain, and Society: Critical Thinking and How to Stop It
23. Horton Hears a “Why”: Dr. Seuss and the Liberal Arts

Other Courses

24. Introduction to Philosophy
25. Einstein and the Big Ideas
26. Assholes and Bullshit: An Introduction to Philosophy
27. Philosophy of Humor
28. Language, Truth, and Reality
29. From Tevye to Seinfeld: Jewish Comedy in the 20th Century
30. Philosophy of Religion

Scholarship

Books

1. *Isn't That Clever: A Philosophy of Humor and Comedy*. Routledge, 2017.
2. *Albert Einstein: His Space and Times*. Yale University Press, 2015.
3. *Einstein's Jewish Science: Physics at the Intersection of Politics and Religion*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012.
 - a. איינשטיין של היהודי המדע (Hebrew translation) Keter Publishing, 2014.
4. *René Descartes*. Morgan-Reynolds Publishing, 2008.

Edited Volumes, Published

1. *Exploring the Scientific Method: Cases and Questions*. Univeristy of Chicago Press, 2011.
 - a. *Bilimsel Yöntemin İzinde: Bilim Felsefesinin Öğretilmesinde Yeni Bir Yaklaşım* (Turkish translation). Dipnot Yayinlari, 2014.
2. *The Grateful Dead and Philosophy: Getting High-Minded About Love and Haight*. Open Court Press, 2007.
3. *Defending Einstein: Hans Reichenbach's Early Writings on Space, Time, and Motion, 1920-1926*. with Anke Walz. Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Edited Volumes, Open Access

1. *It's Funny Cause It's True: An Introduction to Philosophy through Humor*. with Jennifer Henrigillis. Lighthearted Open Access. Forthcoming.
2. *Praxis, Poems, and Punchlines: Essays in Honor of Richard C. Richards*. Lighthearted Open Access, 2020.

Journal Issues Edited

1. *The Israeli Journal of Humor Studies*. Volume 7, Issue 1. August 2018. Special issue on the Ethics and Aesthetics of Stand-Up Comedy.

Video Lecture Series with Companion Volumes

1. *The Great Questions of Philosophy and Physics*. The Great Courses/The Teaching Company. April 2020.
2. *Take My Course...Please: The Philosophy of Humor*. The Great Courses/The Teaching Company. December 2018.
3. *An Introduction to Formal Logic*. The Great Courses/The Teaching Company. May 2016.
4. *Redefining Reality: Intellectual Implications of Modern Science*. The Great Courses/The Teaching Company. June 2015.

Journal Articles

1. "The Ontology of Team: A Teleo-Structural Account" with William Rasmussen and Stephen Stern. *Journal for the Philosophy of Sport*. Forthcoming.
2. "Owed to a Gricean Earn: Live Comedy and the Ethics of the Appropriately Appreciative Audience." *Israeli Journal of Humor Research*. 2020. Forthcoming.
3. "Woke Comedy vs. Pride Comedy: Kondabolu, Peters, and the Ethics of Performed Indian Accents." with Rushil Chandra and Jingwei Zhan. *Yearbook for Philosophy of Humor*. 2020. Volume 1.
4. "It's about Time: Film, Video Games, and the Advancement of an Artform." with Joseph Roman. *Philosophies*. 2019. Volume 4, Number 4.
5. "Heckler Ethics." *Florida Philosophical Review*. 2016. Volume 15, Number 1.
6. "Opportunities for Inquiry Science in Montessori Classrooms: Learning from a Culture of Interest, Communication, and Explanation." with Carol Rinke and Sophia Haskell. *Research in Science Education*. 2013. Volume 43.
7. "Einstein's Jewish Science." with Stephen Stern. *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory*. 2010. Volume 10, Number 3.
8. "Evolution and the Second Law of Thermodynamics: Effectively Communicating to Non-Technicians." with Alexander Schreiber. *Evolution: Education and Outreach*. 2010. Volume 3, Number 1.
9. "Retroaductive Analogy: How to and How Not to Make Claims of Good Reason to Believe in Evolutionary and Anti-Evolutionary Arguments." with Charles Ward. *Argumentation*. 2010. Volume 24, Number 1.
10. "Montessori and the Uncited Influence of Hegel." with Anne Emerson. *Communication*. 2009. Volume 1.
11. "Invariance: A Tale of Intellectual Migration." *Convergence Quarterly*. 2008. Volume 1, Number 1.
12. "Hershey, Stakeholders, and Aristotle." *Philosophy of Management*. 2006. Volume 5, Number 3.
13. "Report on an Interdisciplinary Seminar in the Philosophy of Chemistry." with Michael Wedlock. *The Journal of Chemical Education*. 2006. Volume 83, Number 6.
14. "Unconventional Wisdom: Theory-Specificity in Reichenbach's Geometric Conventionalism." *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*. 2005. Volume 35, Number 3.
15. "Restoring Ambiguity to Achinstein's Account of Evidence." *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*. 2004. Volume 55, Number 2.
16. "A Tautology is a Tautology: Or Is It?" with Johannes Bulhof. *The Journal of Pragmatics*, 2004. Volume 36, Number 5.
17. "The Greening of White Pride." with Randall K. Wilson. *Philosophy and Geography*: 2004. Volume 7, Number 1.

18. "Sylvester: Ushering in the Modern Era of Research on Odd Perfect Numbers." with John Jaroma. *Integers: Electronic Journal of Combinatorial Number Theory*. 2003. Volume 3.
19. "Avoiding the Super-Naturalistic Fallacy: Practical Reasoning and the Insightful Undergraduate." *The Journal of Thought*. 2002. Volume 37, Number 3.
20. "Deep Tautologies." with Johannes Bulhof. *Pragmatics and Cognition*. 2002. Volume 10, Number 1.
21. "If I Had a Hammer: Why Logical Positivism Better Accounts for the Need for Gender and Cultural Studies." *Studies in Practical Philosophy*. 2000. Volume 2, Number 2.
22. "Peirce Snatching: Towards a More Pragmatic View of Evidence." *Erkenntnis*. 1999. Volume 51, Number 2/3.
23. "Get with the Program: Kasparov, Deep Blue, and Accusations of Unsportsmanlike Conduct." *Journal of Applied Philosophy*. 1998. Volume 15, Number 2.
24. "An Intervening Cause Counterexample to Railton's DNP Model of Explanation." with Stuart Gluck. *Philosophy of Science*. 1997. Volume 64, Number 4.

Book Chapters

1. "My, That's Clever: Cleverness Theory" and "Form and Funny: A Formalist Account of Humor Aesthetics." *It's Funny Cause It's True*. Jennifer Marra and Steven Gimbel (eds.). Lighthearted Open Access. Forthcoming.
2. "Intelligence and Humor: The Old and New Problems." *The Handbook of Philosophy of Humor*. Lydia Amir (ed.), Walter de Gruyter: Forthcoming.
3. "Jerry Seinfeld as Philosopher: The Assimilated Sage of New Chelm." with Stephen Stern. *The Palgrave Handbook of Popular Culture as Philosophy*, Ruth Lefevre and David Kyle Johnson (eds.), Palgrave. 2020.
4. "Richard Richards, Robert Roberts, and Aristotelian Aristotelianism." *Praxis, Poems, and Punchlines*. Steven Gimbel (ed.), Lighthearted Open Access. 2020.
5. "Concepts and Evidence in *The Concept of Evidence: Ordinary Language and the Unordinary Philosophy of Peter Achinstein*." with Jeffrey Maynes. Gregory Morgan (ed.), *Philosophy of Science Matters*. Oxford University Press: 2011.
6. "The Other and the Other One." *The Grateful Dead in Concert: Essays on Live Improvisation*. Stanley Spector and James Tuedio (eds.), MacFarlane: 2010.
7. "Formidable Opponent and the Necessity of Moral Doubt." *Stephen Colbert and Philosophy*. Aaron Schiller (ed.), Open Court Press: 2009.
8. "Let the Son Beat Down." *Led Zeppelin and Philosophy*. Scott Calef (ed.), Open Court: 2009.
9. "They Play Guitars All Night and All Day." *Bruce Springsteen and Philosophy*. Randall Auxier and Doug Anderson (eds.), Open Court Press: 2008.
10. "Living Pink." *Pink Floyd and Philosophy*. George Reich (ed.), Open Court Press: 2007.

11. "Keep Your Day Job: Adam Smith in the Parking Lot." with Brendan Cushing-Daniels. *The Grateful Dead and Philosophy*. Steven Gimbel (ed.), Open Court Press: 2007.
12. "Restoring Ambiguity to Achinstein's Theory of Evidence." *Scientific Evidence: Philosophical Theories and Applications*. Peter Achinstein (ed.), Johns Hopkins University Press: 2005.
13. "Politics and the *Wissenschaftliche Weltanschauung*: Neurath and Reichenbach on Science and Socialism." *Siblings under the Skin: Feminism, Social Justice and Analytic Philosophy*. Sharyn Clough (ed.), Davies Press: 2002.

Conference Proceedings

1. "How a Math Class Can Be In Two Places at Once: A Mathematical/Philosophical Collaboration." with Eric Egge. *Bridges: Mathematical Connections in Art, Music and Science: The Fifth Annual Conference Proceedings, 2002*. Southwestern College Press.
2. "Flatland, Curved Space: How M.C. Escher Illustrated the History of Geometry." *Bridges: Mathematical Connections in Art, Music and Science: The Fourth Annual Conference Proceedings, 2001*. Southwestern College Press.

Encyclopedia Entries

1. "Grateful Dead." *Music in American Life: An Encyclopedia of the Songs, Styles, Stars, and Stories That Shaped Our Culture*. Greenwood, 2014.
2. "Tautology." *The Pragmatics Encyclopedia*. Routledge, 2009.

Book Reviews

1. Bernard Schweizer's *Christianity and the Triumph of Humor*. *The European Journal of Humor Research*. Forthcoming.
2. Lydia Amir's *Philosophy, Humor, and the Human Condition: Taking Ridicule Seriously*. *Israeli Journal of Humor Research*. Volume 9, number 1. 2020.
3. Alan Roberts' *A Philosophy of Humour*. *Philosophical Practice*. 2020. Volume 15, Number 1.
4. Al Gini's *The Importance of Being Funny: Why We Need More Jokes in Our Lives*. *Yearbook of Philosophy of Humor*. 2020. Volume 1.
5. Lydia Amir's *Humor and the Good Life in Modern Philosophy: Shaftesbury, Hamann, and Kierkegaard*. *Philosophical Practice*. March 2016. Volume 11, Number 1.
6. Rosie McGee's *Dancing with the Dead. A Rare and Different Tune*. Dead Letter Press, 2015.
7. Ian Stewart's annotated edition of Edwin Abbott's *Flatland*. *Teaching Philosophy*. March 2003. Volume 26, Number 1.
8. Max Jammer's *Einstein and Religion*. *History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS) Working Group Newsletter*. Spring-Summer 2000. Volume V, Issue 2.

Professional Presentations

Named Lectures

1. David Lipson Memorial Lecture. University of Toronto. Anne Tannenbaum Center for Jewish Studies. February 25, 2019. "Einstein's Jewish Science."
2. Selig Brodetsky Lecture. University of Leeds. June 4, 2013. "Einstein's Jewish Science."
3. Meredith/Donovan Honors Lecture. Mount Saint Mary's University. October 17, 2013. "Einstein and Religion."
4. Keith Goree Lecture on Applied Ethics. St. Petersburg College. March 27, 2012. "Humor Ethics." with Richard C. Richards.
5. Frederick V. Pohle Memorial Colloquium in the History of Mathematics. Adelphi University. April 3, 2002. "Poincaré, the Language of Mathematics, and the Intuitionist/Formalist Debate"

Author Meets Critic Sessions

Isn't that Clever: A Philosophy of Humor and Comedy

1. International Society for the Philosophy of Humor. American Philosophical Association, Pacific. April 9, 2020. [Conference cancelled due to Covid-19]
2. Lighthearted Philosophers Society. October 24, 2017.

Conference Papers

1. "Fans, Teams, and Organizations: A Teleo-Structural Account" with Stephen Stern and William Rasmussen. Sport and the Power to Inspire Change. [Cancelled due to Covid]
2. "It's about Time: Film, Video Games, and the Advancement of an Art Form," with Joseph Roman. Gettysburg College Philosophy and Film Symposium. April 8, 2019.
3. "Richard Richards, Robert Roberts, and Aristotelian Aristotelianism," Lighthearted Philosophers Society. October 13, 2018.
4. "The Strangest of Places: An Atlas of Grateful Dead Philosophical Discourses," Southwest/Texas Association for American and Popular Culture. February 8, 2018.
5. "A Social Contractarian Approach to Heckler Ethics," The Ethics and Aesthetics of Stand-Up Comedy, Bucknell University. April 8, 2017.
6. "Albert Einstein: Science and Religion in the 20th Century," American Academy for the Advancement of Science. February 16, 2014.
7. "Hermann Minkowski: The Quiet Genius," Mathematical Association of America. January 13, 2014.
8. "Heckler Ethics," Lighthearted Philosophers' Society. October 12, 2013.
9. "The Extra-Ethical Standing of Sublimely Funny Jokes," Lighthearted Philosophers Society. October 12, 2012.

10. "Reflections on the Biological Oddity of a Particular Former Male Resident of the Island of Nantucket: Congruity Theory and Forms of Non-Joking Humor," Lighthearted Philosophers Society. October 15, 2011.
11. "What's My Line: On Joke Identity and Ownership," Lighthearted Philosophers Society. October 18, 2010.
12. "I Feel Fine, Why Do You Ask?: Autonomy and Utopia in the Psychedelic Sixties," Southwest/Texas Association for Popular and American Culture. February 16, 2008.
13. "The Other and The Other One: Moral Lessons from a Reluctant Teacher," The Grateful Dead in Music, Culture, and Memory, University of Massachusetts. November 17, 2007.
14. "Keep Your Day Job: Tie-Dyed T-Shirts, Veggie Burritos, and Adam Smith in the Parking Lot," Southwest/Texas Association for Popular and American Culture. February 15, 2007.
15. "Gödel, Positivism, and Incompleteness," with Kellen Dwyer, American Mathematical Society. October 8, 2005.
16. "Wishful Retroduction and Inference from a Better Explanation," Johns Hopkins Conference on Scientific Evidence. April 12, 2003.
17. "Restoring Ambiguity to Achinstein's Account of Evidence," Philosophy of Science Association. November 9, 2002.
18. "How a Math Class Can Be in Two Places at Once: A Proposed Mathematical/Philosophical Collaboration," with Eric Egge, Bridges Conference. July 17, 2002.
19. "Nicomachean Business Ethics: What Aristotle Would Have to Say About Corporate Responsibility," Society for Business Ethics. August 3, 2001.
20. "Flatland, Curved Space: How M. C. Escher Illustrated the History of Geometry," Bridges Conference. July 28, 2001.
21. "Poincaré, the Language of Mathematics, and the Intuitionist/Formalist Debate," Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics. May 25, 2001.
22. "The Plane Truth about Reichenbach's Conventionality of Geometry," Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science. May 24, 2001.
23. "Poincaré on Mathematical Truth and the Nature of Geometry," American Mathematical Society. April 28, 2001.

Department Colloquium Talks

1. "Can't You Take a Joke?: Offensiveness and the Morality of Humor"
 - a. St. Lawrence University, April 12, 2018
 - b. Inamori Center for Ethics. Case Western Reserve. March 18, 2016.
2. "Einstein, the Engineer" Stevens Institute of Technology. March 9, 2016.
3. "Hermann Minkowski: The Quiet Genius" Mathematics Department. University of Maryland, College Park. March 17, 2014.

4. "Einstein's Jewish Science: Physics at the Intersection of Politics and Religion"
 - a. Montclair State University. November 4, 2013.
 - b. McNeese State University, April 18, 2013.
 - c. McDaniel College. April 4, 2013.
 - d. Shepherd University. April 3, 2013.
 - e. Wheaton College. February 20, 2013.
 - f. University of Alabama, Birmingham. January 22, 2013.
 - g. Colgate University. December 4, 2012.
 - h. Johns Hopkins University. November 15, 2012.
 - i. Millersville University. November 5, 2012.
 - j. Messiah College. November 1, 2012.
 - k. Juniata College. Physics Department. October 26, 2012.
 - l. Yeshiva University. September 12, 2012.
 - m. St. John's College, Annapolis. July 11, 2012.

Professional Activities

Departmental External Reviewer

1. Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Department of Philosophy
2. Roanoke College, Department of Philosophy

Governmental Grant Referee

1. National Endowment for the Humanities

Manuscript Referee

1. American Chemical Society
2. Imperial College Press
3. Jewish Publication Society
4. Johns Hopkins University Press
5. Oxford University Press
6. Palgrave/MacMillan
7. Routledge
8. Syracuse University Press
9. World Scientific Press
10. Yale University Press

Journal Referee

1. *American Philosophical Quarterly*
2. *Analysis*
3. *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*
4. *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*
5. *Erkenntnis*
6. *European Journal of Humor Research*
7. *European Journal of Philosophy of Science*
8. *Evolution: Education and Outreach*
9. *Florida Philosophical Review*
10. *Israeli Journal for Humor Research*
11. *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*
12. *Journal of Philosophy*
13. *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*
14. *Journal of Value Inquiry*
15. *Philosophical Papers*
16. *Philosophies*
17. *Philosophy, Psychology, and Psychiatry*
18. *Public Philosophy Journal*
19. *Pragmatics and Cognition*
20. *Religions*
21. *Southern Journal of Philosophy*
22. *Studies in Practical Philosophy*
23. *Synthese*
24. *Yearbook for the Philosophy of Humor*

Awards, Honors, and Grants

Awards

1. Joseph S. Ellin Memorial Essay Prize. Lighthearted Philosophers Society. "Heckler Ethics." 2013.
2. Finalist, National Jewish Book Award. *Einstein's Jewish Science*. 2012.
3. Luther W. and Bernice L. Thompson Distinguished Teaching Award. Gettysburg College. 2005.

Honors

1. Edwin T. and Cynthia Shearer Johnson Chair for Distinguished Teaching in the Humanities. Gettysburg College. 2010-2013.

Grants

1. National Science Foundation. "Faculty Development Seminar in Science, Technology and Society." Principle Investigator. 2009-2011. \$149,000.