

CURRICULUM VITAE
(Last Revised 09/10/2020)

KEITH McKENDREE PARSONS

POSITION:

Professor of Philosophy and Humanities

University of Houston-Clear Lake

Dates of Employment: September 1, 1996 to present.

Assistant Professor, 9/96-9/2002

Associate Professor, 9/2002-9/2006

Promoted to Professor, 9/2006

ADDRESS:

Bayou Building, Suite 2529, #10
University of Houston-Clear Lake
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Houston, TX 77058

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Home Phone: (281) 309-1944

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EDUCATION:

Ph.D.--History and Philosophy of Science, The
University of Pittsburgh,
Pittsburgh, PA; 1996

Dissertation: *Wrongheaded Science? Rationality,
Constructivism, and Dinosaurs*; Supervisor: James
Lennox

Ph.D.--Philosophy, Queen's University,
Kingston, Ontario, Canada; 1986

Dissertation: *Science, Confirmation, and the Theistic
Hypothesis*; Supervisor: C.G. Prado;

M.A.--Philosophy, Georgia State University, Atlanta,
GA; 1982

Thesis: *Miracles and Christian Apologetics*;
Supervisor: James Humber

Master of Theological Studies--Emory University,
Atlanta, Georgia; 1981; awarded *cum laude*

B.A.--Religion and Philosophy, Berry College, Rome,
Georgia; 1974; awarded *magna cum laude*

**AREAS OF
SPECIALIZATION:**

Philosophy of Science; History of Science and
Technology; Philosophy of Religion

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

Darwinism; History of Philosophy; Logic; Critical
Thinking

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP: American Philosophical Association, Central
Division.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

It's OK to Trust Science, Routledge Press,
(forthcoming, 2022).

*Polarized: The Collapse of Truth, Civility, and
Community in Divided Times, and How to Find
Common Ground*, Co-authored with Paris N.
Donehoo, D. Min. Prometheus Books, (2019).

*Bombing The Marshall Islands: A Cold War
Tragedy*. Co-authored with Robert Zaballa, Ph.D.
Cambridge University Press (2017).

It Started with Copernicus; extensively revised and
expanded (three new chapters) edition of *Copernican
Questions*, Prometheus Books (2014).

Selected by Choice Reviews as an Outstanding
Academic Title in 2015. Choice Reviews is published
monthly by the Association of College and Research
Libraries, featuring reviews of new academic titles.

Each year the editors select only a handful of titles to be included in their annual list of outstanding titles

Rational Episodes: Logic for the Intermittently Reasonable, Prometheus Books (2010).

Copernican Questions: A Concise Invitation to the Philosophy of Science, McGraw-Hill (2006); Out of print.

The Great Dinosaur Controversy: A Guide to the Debates. ABC-Clio Press, Santa Barbara, CA, (2003).

The Science Wars: Debating Scientific Knowledge and Technology, an anthology of readings, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, NY (2003).

Drawing Out Leviathan: Dinosaurs and the Science Wars. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN (2001)

Why I am not a Christian; Freethought Press, Atlanta, GA (2000).

God and the Burden of Proof, Prometheus Books: Buffalo, NY (1989); Foreword by Kai Nielsen.

Articles, Reviews, Book Chapters:

Review of *Doing Philosophy: From Common Curiosity to Logical Reasoning*, by Timothy Williamson, Oxford University Press, for *Free Inquiry Magazine* (forthcoming).

Review of *Atheism, Morality, and the Kingdom of God*, by David K. Clark, Oxford Scholars Press, for *Free Inquiry Magazine* (December/January 2020).

Review of *A Meaning to Life*, by Michael Ruse, Oxford University Press, for *Free Inquiry* magazine (August/September, 2019)

“Is History Guided by the Hand of Providence?” Chapter in *Theism and Atheism: Opposing Arguments in Philosophy*, edited by Graham Oppy

and Joseph Koterski, S.J., Macmillan Reference USA (2019).

“Dogma: The Stupidity of the Intelligent,” *The American Rationalist*, (2013).

“It is Not Reasonable to Believe in Heaven or Hell” in *Oxford Dialogues in Christian Theism*, edited by Chad Meister, et al., Oxford University Press (2013).

“Natural Theology from the Perspective of Analytic Philosophy,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Natural Theology*, edited by Russell Re Manning and John Hedley Brooke, Oxford University Press (2013).

Review of *Copernicus, Darwin, and Freud: Revolutions in the History and Philosophy of Science*, by Friedel Winert; *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of the Philosophy of Science*, (Fall 2011, pp. 351-352).

“Hell: Christianity’s Most Damnable Doctrine” in *The End of Christianity*, John Loftus, ed., Prometheus Books: Amherst, NY, (2011).

Review of *The Agnostic Inquirer: Revelation from a Philosophical Standpoint*, by Sandra Menssen and Thomas D. Sullivan, (Eerdmans, 2007), *Notre Dame Philosophical Review* (April, 2008).

“Bertrand Russell,” a 10,000 word chapter in *Icons of Unbelief: Atheists, Agnostics, and Secularists*, S.T. Joshi, ed., Greenwood Press (2008).

“Atheism: Twilight or Dawn” in *The Future of Athesim: Alister McGrath and Daniel Dennett in Dialogue*. R.B. Stewart, ed., Minneapolis: Fortress Press, (2008), pp. 51-65.

“Naturalistic Rejoinders to Theistic Arguments,” in *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Chad Meister and Paul Copan, (Routledge, 2007).

“Evil and the Unknown Purpose Defense: Remarks Addressed to Theodore Drange’s *Nonbelief and Evil*,” *Philo*, Vol. 8, #2, (pp. 160-168).

“Some Contemporary Theistic Arguments,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Atheism*, ed. by M.L. Martin, Cambridge University Press (2006).

Review essay on Susan Haack’s *Defending Science*, published by Prometheus Books; in *Philosophy of Science* (April, 2005).

“Defending the Radical Center,” chapter in *Scientific Values and Civic Virtues*, edited by Noretta Koertge, Oxford University Press (2005)

“Peter Kreeft and Ronald Tacelli on the Hallucination Argument,” chapter in *The Empty Tomb: Jesus Beyond the Grave*, edited by Robert Price and Jeffrey Lowder, Prometheus Books (2005).

“Toward a Postmodernist Paleontology?” coauthored with Peter Copeland, in *Academic Questions* vol. 17, #2 (Spring, 2004).

Review of *Tower of Babel: The Evidence against the New Creationism*, by Rob Pennock, *The Journal of Scientific Exploration* (December 2003).

“The Universe is not Improbable; The Resurrection is” chapter in *Does God Exist? The Craig-Flew Debate*, Stan W. Wallace, editor, Ashgate (2003).

Review of *Intelligent Design Creationism and its Critics*, Robert T. Pennock, editor, *The Journal of Scientific Exploration* (Vol. 17, #1), pp. 139-143.

“Need Reasons be Causes? A Further Reply to Victor Reppert’s Argument from Reason” *Philosophia Christi*, vol. 5, #1 (2003).

“Scientific Civilization and its Discontents: Further Reflections on the Science Wars.” A review essay in *Philosophy of Science* (December 2002).

“Reformed Epistemology: An Atheist Perspective,” chapter in *God Matters*, edited by Raymond Martin and Christopher Bernard; Longman (2002).

Review of *Can a Darwinian be a Christian?* By Michael Ruse, in *Philosophical Inquiry*, (Vol. XXIII, Summer-Fall, 2001, No. 3-4).

“Further Reflections on the Argument from Reason,” *Philo* (Vol. III, #1, pp. 90-102).

“Defending Objectivity,” article-length review of *The Last Word* by Thomas Nagel and *Objectivity: The Obligations of Impersonal Reason*, by Nicholas Rescher, *Philo* (Vol. II, #1, pp. 77-89).

"Lively Answers to Theists," article-length review of *Arguing for Atheism: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, by Robin Le Poidevin *Philo* (vol. I, #1, pp. 115-121).

"The Wrongheaded Dinosaur," *Carnegie Magazine*, (November/December 1997).

Review of *Higher Superstition* by Paul Gross and Norman Levitt, *The Skeptical Inquirer*, March/April 1995.

"Is There a Case for Christian Theism?" chapter in *Does God Exist?* by J.P. Moreland and Kai Nielsen (Prometheus Books: Buffalo, NY, 1990).

Review of *Reason and the Radical Crisis of Faith* by Shabbir Akhtar, *Journal of Religion*, (Spring, 1989).

Review of *Foundations of Religious Tolerance* by Jay Newman, *Queen's Quarterly*, (Spring, 1984).

Sample Internet Publications:

I was a blogger for the Huffington Post and the Secular Outpost:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/secularoutpost/>

My post on Huffington, “Message to my Freshman Students,” got over 200,000 “likes.” It was translated into Italian and Japanese.

“A Simple Statement of the Problem of Evil,” The Secular Web (2011).

Review of Michelle Goldberg’s *Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism*.” The Secular Web (2007).

“Atheism: Twilight or Dawn,” The Secular Web (2007).

“No Creator Need Apply: A Response to Roy Abraham Varghese,” The Secular Web (2006).

“Why I am not a Christian” The Secular Web (2006).

“Seven Common Misconceptions about Atheism” The Secular Web (1998). Farsi translation, 2007.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Interview for the program “Encounter,” with Joe Sellepack for WBNG TV of Binghamton, NY (7/17/20). The topic was my book *Polarized*, coauthored with Paris N. Donehoo, who was also interviewed. The program was broadcast on 8/9/20.

“Finding Hope: An Interfaith Discussion,” Gail Borden Library District, Elgin, Illinois. A discussion about finding hope in troubled times. Panelists represented the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and atheist positions. 6/28/2020

“Contempt—It’s Not All Bad,” a paper delivered at the meeting of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, session of the North American Society for Social Philosophy, Chicago, Illinois, Feb. 27, 2020. Topic of session: Contempt in Public Life.

“See the Universe from Your Back Yard: An Introduction to Amateur Astronomy,” Presentation for the UHCL Program of Continuing Education, October 12, 2018. A shorter version of this presentation was made to the Friendswood Daughters of the Republic of Texas, January 19, 2019.

Interviewed about the book *Polarized* for the program “Rising with Sonali” broadcast by Radio Pacifica. The video was broadcast on Free Speech TV. January 2019

Interviewed with Paris N. Donehoo, coauthor of *Polarized*, by Micah Hanks for the podcast *Middle Theory*. February 1, 2019.

External examiner for the promotion committee for Professor Craig Duncan of Ithaca College, 2018.

Participant in panel of Piper Award nominees on teaching excellence, Faculty Development Day, sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development, April 6, 2018.

Filmed interview for the QEP Cohort 6 workshop “Other Models of Critical Thinking,” sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development, March 22, 2018.

Interviewed on KTRH Morning Show on the topic of end-of-the-world prophecies, 9/22/17

Interviewed on KTRH Morning Show on the topic of whether today’s students have a strong sense of “entitlement.” I was consulted because of my Huffington Post Essay, “Message to my Freshman Students.” 8/3/2017.

“Bombing Bikini: The Nuclear Tests in the Marshall Islands, 1946-1958,” A lecture given at the Bayou Science and Math Colloquium, April 28, 2017.

“Evaluating the Easter Enigma” A talk and discussion for the Houston Humanists—Clear Lake. April 14, 2017.

“Bombing Paradise: The Nuclear Tests in the Marshall Islands.” A lecture for the Liberal Arts Lecture Series, Spring, 2017. February 22, 2017.

“Bombing Paradise: The Nuclear Tests in the Marshall Islands, 1946-1958.” A lecture for the UHCL Program of Continuing Education, February 17, 2017.

“Science and Religion,” a talk and discussion given at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rice Village, Houston, January 16, 2017.

“Navigating a Sea of BS: A Political Discussion.” A lecture for the UHCL Program of Continuing education. Sept. 30, 2016.

“Science and Religion.” A talk and discussion given at Webster Presbyterian Church, May 7, 2015.

“Bombing Bikini: Nuclear Tests in the Marshall Islands,” an address to the Humanists of Houston, December 13, 2014.

Appearance at Brazos Bookstore, Houston to speak on my book *It Started with Copernicus*. 8/12/14.

“It is not Reasonable to Believe in Heaven or Hell,” paper read at the Greer-Heard Forum, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, April 13, 14, 2012.
Topic: Life After Death.

“A Simple Statement of the Problem of Evil” presented at Texas Lutheran University on February 17, 2011 as part of the Colloquium on the Problem of Evil.

“The Paradigm-Shift that Wasn’t.” Paper read to the Colloquium on History and Philosophy of Science, The University of Colorado, October 23, 2010.

“Biological Belief Theories, the Warrant-Basic Status of Theistic Belief, and Atheology,” paper read to faculty colloquium, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, (March 5, 2010)

“Charles Darwin, Hammer of the Creationists,” paper to be read at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, (March 4, 2010).

“What, Really, is Whig History;” paper read at the session “Old Bones and New Worlds: Reinterpretations in the History of Science;” European History Section of the Southern Historical Association; New Orleans, Louisiana, October 11, 2008.

“Belief: Nurture, Nature, or Neither;” paper read at the Rice University Religious Studies Colloquium, October 31, 2007.

“Belief: Nurture, Nature, or Neither,” read at the Conference on the Evolution of Religion; Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciencia (Gulbenkian Institute of Science), Lisbon, Portugal, March 12-13, 2007

“Atheism: Twilight or Dawn,” read at the Greer/Heard Forum on the Future of Atheism, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Feb. 24, 2007.

“Can Science tell us the Truth about Truth?”: Paper read at the Boston Colloquium for Philosophy of Science, Boston University, September 11, 2006.

“No Creator Need Apply: Why Baby Universes *can* be Brute Facts”: Paper read at the Symposium on Science and Religion, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio, April 8, 2006.

Multiple-session presenter, Debater’s Toolbox, Center for Inquiry West, Hollywood, CA, June, 2005.

“Apparently Gratuitous Evil and the Unknown Purpose Defense: Remarks Addressed to Theodore Drange’s *Nonbelief and Evil*,” A paper delivered to the Society of Humanist Philosophers at the Pacific Division APA meeting, March 24, 2004.

Organizer of symposium “Debater’s Toolbox;” Center for Inquiry, Amherst, NY; August 1-3, 2003.

Founding editor, *Philo*; Official Journal of the Society of Humanist Philosophers (1997-2000)

“Does God Exist?” A debate with Dr. William Lane Craig held before an audience of 3500 at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana on February 4, 2002

“The World-Change that Wasn’t: David Raup’s ‘Conversion’ to the Impact Theory of Extinction,” paper delivered at the Lunar and Planetary Institute

Colloquium; Center for Advanced Space Studies;
Houston, TX; September, 2000

"Disconnecting Disconnections," commentary
delivered at colloquium on causation at the Western
Division meeting of the American Philosophical
Association, April, 2000

"Science and Religion," a lecture given at Berry
College, Rome, GA, January, 2000; part of a series of
lectures funded by the Templeton Foundation

"Does Scientific Reasoning Rest on a
Mistake?" paper delivered to the
Colloquium of the Lunar and Planetary
Institute, Houston, TX, July 24, 1998

"Why I am/am not a Christian;" a debate
with Dr. William Lane Craig, held before an audience
of 4200 at Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, TX,
June 15, 1998

"Darwin vs. Gray. vs. Hodge, Or Will the Real Atheist
Please Stand Up?"; paper delivered at a conference of
the Society of Humanist Philosophers, the Center for
Inquiry; Amherst, NY; Dec. 6, 1997

"'Social Constructivism' and the Image of Science";
paper delivered at Academic Festival III: Science in
the 21st
Century, at Cameron University, Lawton,
OK; March 20-22, 1997

"Are Dinosaurs Social Constructs?"; paper delivered
to the Colloquium of the Philosophy Dept. of the
University of
Texas at Austin; Jan. 31, 1997

Debate: Creation vs. Evolution;
"Transitional Fossils Support the Case for Evolution;"
Berry College, Rome, GA, Sept. 10, 1996

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, University
of Houston-Clear Lake (8/96-present).

Courses Taught:

Team taught:

Texts and Images I and II (graduate humanities core)

Full responsibility (catalog courses; my preparations):

Ideas in Transition (humanities core): Mind, Brain,
and Meaning.

Theory of Knowledge

Ethics

Philosophy of Religion

Logic (both deductive and inductive)

Basic Texts; (Humanities Core)

Metaphysics

Great Philosophers (History of Philosophy) I and II

History of Ancient Greece

New courses developed and taught:

History of Liberalism and Conservatism

Mind, Brain, and Meaning

Introduction to Philosophy

Darwin and His Critics

History of Exploration

Philosophy of Mind Graduate Seminar;

Science and Pseudoscience

Science and Religion

History of Science

Philosophy of History

Darwin's *Origin* Graduate Seminar

Teaching Fellow, Dept. of History and
Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh (8/93-
4/96).

Courses taught:

Myth and Science

Science and Pseudoscience

Principles of Scientific Reasoning

Problem Solving

Teaching Fellow, Dept. of Classics, University of
Pittsburgh (8/92-4/93).

Courses assisted:

Mythology
Pre-Socratic Philosophy

Teaching Fellow, Dept. of Communications and
Rhetoric, University of Pittsburgh (8/91-4/92):

Courses taught:

Rhetoric
Public Speaking

Assistant Professor, Berry College, Rome, GA 30149
(9/89-8/90).

Courses taught:
Introduction to Philosophy
Critical Thinking

Adjunct Faculty, St. Francis College, Health Arts
Program, 500 Wilcox St. Joliet, IL 60435 (8/88-
12/88).

Course taught:

Introduction to Ethics

Adjunct Faculty, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
30303 (9/86-8/89).

Courses taught:

Informal Logic/Critical Thinking
Introduction to Philosophy
History of Philosophy

Graduate Assistant, Queen's University, Kingston,
Ontario, K7L 3N6, Canada (Summer '84 and Summer
'86).

Courses taught:

Introduction to Logic (through first-order predicate
calculus)
Introduction to Philosophy

THESIS DIRECTION:

“A Critical View of the Past, and Current, Space Program,” Madeline O. Clark, M.A. 2006.

“Ivan’s Quandary: Coping With God and Suffering in the Judeo-Christian Experience,” J. Barry Waddell, M.A. 2004

“Music and Meaning,” William Edward Snider, M.A. 2001

"School Prayer: A Violation of the First Amendment;" Louis Salmon, M.A., 1998

Direction of Reflective Essays for M.A. students at the Ramsey Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Fall, 1998)

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL HONORS:

Named a finalist to be UHCL’s nominee for the Piper Teaching Award, 2017

Faculty Research Support Fellowship, 2014, University of Houston-Clear Lake, \$4000

University of Houston-Clear Lake’s nominee for the Piper Teaching Award, a statewide award honoring excellence in teaching, 2010. One nominee is selected from the entire university each year. Selection is by a committee of faculty and students.

Faculty Research Support Fellowship. University of Houston-Clear Lake. Amount: \$1600. October, 2009

Faculty Research Fellowship. University of Houston-Clear Lake. One of five awarded university wide for the academic year 2009-2010. Fellows are selected by a committee of former fellows.

President’s Distinguished Research Award, 2005
(This award is given annually to honor the outstanding UHCL faculty researcher of the year. The

honoree is selected by a committee of faculty representing all academic divisions of the university.)

Faculty Development Leave awarded for Fall Term 2004, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Faculty Research Support Fellowship, University of Houston-Clear Lake, amount: \$2122, July 2003

Faculty Research Support Fellowship, University of Houston-Clear Lake, amount: \$800, October, 2003

University of Houston-Clear Lake: Phi Kappa Phi honorary society; Secretary 2001-2002; President, 2003-2004

University of Pittsburgh: Apple for the Teacher Award (university-wide award for excellence in teaching); Sigma Xi (honorary society for scientific research); selected to participate in the Dibner Institute Seminar, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA (summer, 1994)

Queen's University: R.S. MacLaughlin Fellow

Emory University: M.T.S. awarded *Cum Laude*

Berry College: B.A. awarded *Magna Cum Laude*; Charles A. Dana Scholar

BRIEF STATEMENT OF SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE AND THE COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES:

I have served on numerous search, promotion, promotion and tenure, and third year review committees, chairing several. I have also served on numerous committees both at the school and university levels including: Faculty Senate (serving on the Budget and the Curriculum and Teaching committees), The Academic Honesty Committee, The Grade Appeal Committee, The Bookstore Committee, The Parking Committee, The FDSF Committee, the Faculty Development Leave Committee, the Council of Professors Executive Committee, the Provost's Convocation Committee, and numerous *ad hoc* committees, such as the committees to select winners of the President's Distinguished Research Awards and the Faculty Research Fellowship. I met repeatedly with other humanities faculty in 2012-2013 to develop the completely new humanities curriculum. I have made various presentations at faculty colloquia and student events and presented research at the Provost's Scholarly Luncheon series. I have

been involved with various student activities, including serving as a judge of the annual Student Research Conference, and publishing a number of invited editorials in *The Signal*, the student newspaper. I founded the Astronomy Club in 2012, and it was awarded the “Best New Organization” by the Student Government Association.