

G. Owen Schaefer

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Current position:

Fellow, Department of Bioethics, Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health;
September 2008-present

Education:

Princeton University, A.B. in Philosophy, fall 2004 – spring 2008. *Magna Cum Laude*.
GPA: 3.672

Studied abroad at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, spring 2006.

Scholarships and Awards:

Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar, 2004-2008

“Best Papers Consortium Prize” at the 2008 Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium
Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at West Chester University

Class of 1869 Prize for Philosophy Thesis in Ethics, 2008

Alexander McCosh Prize for Philosophy Thesis, 2008

Publications:

G. Owen Schaefer, Ezekiel J. Emanuel and Alan Wertheimer, “The Obligation to Participate in Biomedical Research,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 301(1) 2009, 67-72. Online at <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/302/1/67> (need JAMA subscription to access; online on PubMed circa January 2010). Letters in reply and authors’ reply forthcoming.

G. Owen Schaefer, “Theory of Mind and Mirror Neurons: Unifying the Triumvirate,” *Agnitio* (The Duke Undergraduate Journal of Philosophy), Vol. 1, Issue II, Spring 2007. Revised (including apx. 5 pages cut to meet publication guidelines) from independent work below. Online at http://www.duke.edu/web/agnitio/agnitio_2.pdf.

Presentations:

ASBH panel; Moderator: Alan Wertheimer; Panelists: Rosamond Rhodes, G. Owen Schaefer and Robert Wachbroit, “Is There an Obligation to Participate in

Biomedical Research,” October 17, 2009 American Society of Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

G. Owen Schaefer, “Was Peter John Olivi an Intuitionist?” presented at the Third Annual New England Philosophy Conference at Providence College and printed in the conference’s journal, April 2007.

G. Owen Schaefer, “An Unprudential Method,” presented at the 2008 Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at West Chester University. Online at <http://www.udel.edu/GPPC/G.%20Owen%20Schaefer.pdf>.

Works in progress:

The right to withdraw – a conceptual and normative account of the right to withdraw from biomedical research. Though such a right is universally recognized, there has been surprisingly little analysis of the right, its justifications and how it can be coherently applied. This project aims to fill that gap.

Consent of egg donors to stem cell research – with the NIH’s new guidelines, human embryonic stem cell research can now be federally funded, provided that the embryo donors give informed consent. However, often the embryo donors were not gamete donors; women who undergo significant risks and burdens of egg donation do not have to consent to the use of their fertilized eggs in stem cell research. Consistency demands such women provide informed consent, if we are to require it of embryo donors who did not undergo substantial physical risks to produce the embryos. A second part of this project is an empirical study of practice – do fertility clinics get consent from egg donors for use of the resultant eggs in stem cell research, even though regulations do not require it?

Independent Undergraduate Work:

“Theory of Mind and Mirror Neurons: Unifying the Triumvirate,” Junior Paper, under the supervision of Prof. Sarah-Jane Leslie. This is primarily a research paper on recent discoveries in neuroscience and how it affects the philosophical debate surrounding our knowledge about other minds. Completed January 2007.

“Plato and Freud: Dual Theories on Tripartition,” Junior Paper, under the supervision of Prof. Hendrik Lorenz. An examination of the continuities and divergences between two icons in philosophy and psychology related to their respective theories of mentality and motivation; this involved cross-disciplinary research and analysis. Completed May 2007.

“The Ethics of Simulation,” Senior Thesis, under the supervision of Prof. Mark Johnston. This paper is focused on moral issues raised by the possibility of simulated people: what sorts of obligations do we have towards sentient computer programs in a

fabricated world? Is systematic deception – on the level of an entire simulated universe – permissible? I argue that it is not permissible. Completed April 2008.

Previous Work Experience:

Educational Testing Service [Princeton, NJ; off-campus] – Summer 2007

Full-time internship working for the English as a Second Language Summer Institute. I designed questions for the Test of English for International Communication, a business-oriented English comprehension test. Question-writing and revision required creativity and a firm grip on the English language, as well as the ability to handle a large amount of constructive criticism.

The News Virginian [Waynesboro, VA] – Summer 2006

Full-time internship in The News Virginian (daily circulation: apx. 7,800) in Waynesboro, Virginia, where I wrote about 30 news and feature articles in the course of about 9 weeks. Assignments varied from political coverage to human interest to local events and development, with direct guidance and supervision from the managing editor, J. Todd Foster.

Undergraduate Activities:

The Daily Princetonian [on-campus] – Staff writer and layout designer 2004-7, Associate Editor for Design Spring to Fall 2006 and Executive Editor for Design Spring to Fall 2007.

Worked on and managed the campus newspaper's layout for the news and sports sections (apx. 18 hours a week, managing apx. 20 people) using Adobe InDesign. Also, was staff writer for the 'Street' section (arts/features), primarily writing film reviews and entertainment pieces.

Philosophy table – 2006-8

A weekly dinner meeting with other philosophy enthusiasts where we discuss topical issues accessible to those with little background in the field, for example, the ethics of abortion, the ideal society and science's compatibility with religion.

Other skills:

Video camera operation, Microsoft Office, Adobe products (Acrobat, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Pagemaker, Final Cut), QuarkXPress, HTML, internet and database research