

# Walter Joram Riker

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## Academic Positions

University of West Georgia  
Assistant Professor (tenure track), Philosophy, 2010-  
Assistant Professor (limited term), Philosophy, 2008-2010.

Vanderbilt University  
Lecturer (limited term), Philosophy, 2007-2008.

## Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Tennessee, 2007.  
M.A., Anthropology, Brandeis University, 1996.  
B.A., Anthropology, California State University, Los Angeles, 1991.

## Areas of Specialization

Political Philosophy, Rawls.

## Areas of Competence

Ethics, Philosophy of Law, Early Modern M&E, Philosophy of Science.

## Publications

### Book

*Coercion and the State*. David Reidy & Walter Riker, eds. Edited volume in Amintaphil's series *Philosophical Foundations of Law and Justice*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2009. 225 pp. Co-authored introduction, pp. 1-14.

### Articles

"The Complicity Objection and the Return of Prescriptions." *Southwest Philosophy Review*, forthcoming.

"Human Rights Without Political Participation?" *Human Rights Review*, forthcoming.

"Towards Limits on Diversity in Press Freedom." *Journal for Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, forthcoming.

“The Democratic Peace is Not Democratic: On Behalf of Rawls’s Decent Peoples.” *Political Studies*, v. 57, n. 3, 2009, pp. 617-638.

“Reading (and Misreading) Rawls’s Theory of Legitimacy.” *Southwest Philosophy Review*, v. 22, n. 1, 2006, pp. 149-161.

“Rawls’s Decent Peoples and the Democratic Peace Thesis.” *Social Philosophy Today*, v. 20, 2004, pp. 137-153.

### Chapters

“Introduction.” With D. Reidy, co-author. In D. Reidy and W. Riker, eds., *Coercion and the State*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2008, pp. 1-14.

“Democratic Legitimacy and the Reasoned Will of the People.” In D. Reidy and W. Riker, eds., *Coercion and the State*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2008, pp. 77-94.

“Food.” Walter Riker & John Nolt (co-authors). In J. Nolt, ed., *A Land Imperiled: The Declining Health of the Southern Appalachian Bioregion*, University of Tennessee Press, 2005, pp. 173-220.

### Encyclopedia Entries

“Benevolent Absolutism.” In J. Mandle and D. Reidy, eds., *The Rawls Lexicon*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Common Good Conception of Justice.” In J. Mandle and D. Reidy, eds., *The Rawls Lexicon*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Democratic Peace Thesis.” In J. Mandle and D. Reidy, eds., *The Rawls Lexicon*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Lawrence Kohlberg.” In J. Mandle and D. Reidy, eds., *The Rawls Lexicon*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Liberal People.” In J. Mandle and D. Reidy, eds., *The Rawls Lexicon*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Philip Soper.” In J. Mandle and D. Reidy, eds., *The Rawls Lexicon*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“Compatriot Partiality Thesis.” In D. Chatterjee, ed., *Encyclopedia of Global Justice*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2011.

“Explanatory Nationalism.” In D. Chatterjee, ed., *Encyclopedia of Global Justice*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2011.

“Liberal Nationalism.” In D. Chatterjee, ed., *Encyclopedia of Global Justice*, Dordrecht: Springer, 2011.

### Book Reviews

Stephanie Rutherford, *Governing the Wild: Ecotours of Power*. In *Environmental Philosophy*, v. 9, n. 1, Spring 2012, pp. 149-152.

J. Angelo Corlett, *Race, Rights and Justice*. In *Journal of Philosophy, Science and Law*, v. 10, 2010. Available at:  
<http://www6.miami.edu/ethics/jpsl/archives/bookReview/BRCorlett-Race-Rights-Justice.html>

### **Conference Presentations**

“The Complicity Objection and the Return of Prescriptions.” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, February 2014.

“Can We Have Rights Without a Right to Political Participation?” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, February 2013.

“How Do Rawls’s Benevolent Absolutisms Honor Human Rights?” North American Society for Social Philosophy, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Philosophy Conference, Boston, July 2012.

“Does Famine Prevention Require a Free Press?” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, March 2012.

"The Right to Subsistence: Famine Prevention and the Free Press." Ninth Annual Information Ethics Roundtable, University of Arizona, April 2011.

"Must Corporations Obey the Spirit of the Law?" Midsouth Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, March 2011.

“Protecting the Environment from the Law? Why Humphrey’s Irreversibility Defense of Direct Action Fails.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Main Program, Pasadena, CA, March 2008.

“Is Environmental Direct Action Against Legitimate Democratic Policies Justified?” University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, Conference on Law, Ethics, and Life Sciences, October 2007.

“The End of Liberalism.” Amintaphil Conference on Coercion, Justice and Democracy (American Section of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy), Washington University, St. Louis, MO, November 2006.

“Approaches to Teaching Applied Ethics.” Workshop developed/managed with Bill Kabasenche. American Association of Philosophy Teachers, 16<sup>th</sup> Workshop/Conference, Washington, PA, August 2006.

“Student Religious Convictions in the Philosophy Class.” Workshop developed/managed with Bill Kabasenche. American Association of Philosophy Teachers, 16<sup>th</sup> Workshop/Conference, Washington, PA, August 2006.

“Reading (and Misreading) Rawls’s Theory of Legitimacy.” Southwestern Philosophical Society, 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Fayetteville, Arkansas, November 2005.

“Rawls’s Liberal Principle of Legitimacy Revisited.” North American Society for Social Philosophy, 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Social Philosophy Conference, Troy, NY, July 2005.

“Three Approaches to Teaching Business Ethics.” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Annual Meeting, San Antonio, February 2005.

“Rawls’s Decent Peoples and the Democratic Peace Thesis.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Mini-Conference on Global Justice, Pasadena, March 2004. (A substantially revised version of the paper presented earlier at NASSP 2003.)

“Rawls’s Decent Peoples and the Democratic Peace Thesis.” North American Society for Social Philosophy, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Philosophy Conference, Boston, July 2003.

### **Conference Comments**

Comment on Saythala Phonexayphova’s “Personal Autonomy and the Challenges of Subsistence.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, February 2013.

Comment on Donald Bruckner’s “Against the Tedium of Immortality.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, March 2011.

“Rawls on the Duty of Assistance, Duties of Justice, and Current Ways of Life: Response to Navin.” AMINTAPHIL Conference on Economic Justice (American Section of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy), Rochester Institute of Technology, October 2010.

“Pushing Singer’s Analogy: Response to Peard.” AMINTAPHIL Conference on Economic Justice (American Section of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy), Rochester Institute of Technology, October 2010.

“What is the Spirit of the Law? Comments for David Silver.” American Philosophical Association, Society for Business Ethics, Baltimore, MD, December 2007. 20-minute response to Silver’s paper.

## **Other Conference Participation**

Session Chair, North American Society for Social Philosophy, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Philosophy Conference, Boston, July 2012.

Session Chair, Philosophy in the Contemporary World, 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Helen, GA, July 2012.

## **Professional Service**

Reviewed journal article for *Journal of International Political Theory*, Fall 2012.

Reviewed book manuscript (117,000 words) for Springer Verlag, Summer 2011.

Reviewed journal article for the *Review of International Studies*, Fall 2010.

Reviewed journal article for the *American Journal of Political Science*, Summer 2010.

Reviewed book proposal for Broadview Press, Summer 2010.

Reviewed journal article for *Business Ethics Quarterly*, Spring 2010.

Reviewed journal article for *Public Affairs Quarterly*, Fall 2009.

Reviewed journal article for *Social Philosophy Today*, Fall 2007.

Textbook review for Wadsworth Publishing. Reviewed Louis P. Pojman, *Philosophy: The Pursuit of Wisdom*, to make suggestions for 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

## **Institutional Service**

Member, UWG Faculty Senate, beginning Fall 2012.

Member, UWG Faculty Development Council, beginning Fall 2012.

Member, Ad-hoc Committee on Themed Years, beginning Fall 2012.

Member, UWG COAH/RCOB Intercollegiate Collaboration Committee, 2011-12.

Advisor to UWG Philosophical Society, beginning Fall 2011.

Judge for Humanities Research Day, Spring 2011, 2012.

Presenter for Excel Center “Success Seminar” on Critical Thinking Skills, Fall 2010, 2011, 2012.

## **Community Service**

Georgia Educators Association of Radiation and Medical Imaging (GEARMI). Gave presentation on teaching ethics in the college classroom. June 2010.

Tennessee Governor’s School for Science and Engineering, Assistant. Summer enrichment program for gifted high school students. “The Logic of Science.” Summer 2007 and 2008.

## **Courses Taught**

Philosophy of Law

Early Modern Philosophy

Political Philosophy

Introduction to Ethical Theory

Business Ethics

Professional Responsibility  
Contemporary Moral Problems  
Environmental Ethics  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Critical Thinking  
Political Obligation

## **Honors**

Excellence in Teaching Award (Graduate Teaching Associate), Department of Philosophy, University of Tennessee, 2005.

Honors Pass, Ph.D. Qualifying Exam, University of Tennessee, Department of Philosophy, May 2003.

Bacon-Beard Scholarship, University of Tennessee, Department of Philosophy, 1997-98.

Certificate of Honor, California State University, Los Angeles, Department of Anthropology, 1991.

David Miller Scholarship, California State University, Los Angeles, Department of Anthropology, 1991.

## **Language Competence**

German, *Zertifikat Deutsch als Fremdsprache*, Goethe Institut, 1997.

(updated August 2014)