

Curriculum Vitae

Ty J. Raterman

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Personal:

Born March 30, 1977; Sidney, OH

Education:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

Philosophy, Ph.D., 2006

Dissertation: "Preferences, Well-Being, and Value: A Critique of the Normative Foundations of the Economic Approach to Valuing Non-Market Goods"

Committee: Douglas MacLean (Director), Thomas Hill, Jr., Susan Wolf, C. D. C. Reeve, Richard Andrews

Public Policy Analysis, Master's Certificate, 2004

Philosophy, M.A., 2001

Thesis: "The Value of Modesty: A Characterization and Defense of Modesty as a Virtue"

Committee: Thomas Hill, Jr. (Director), Don Garrett, Bernard Boxill

Northwestern University; Evanston, IL: Philosophy and Psychology; B.A., 1999

Academic Position:

University of the Pacific; Stockton, CA
Assistant Professor of Philosophy (tenure-track)
August 2006 – present
Philosophy Department Co-Chair
July 2009 – present

Areas of Specialization:

Applied Ethics
Environmental Philosophy
Normative Ethics
Social and Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence:

Philosophy and Public Policy
Philosophy of Economics
Moral Psychology
Meta-Ethics

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

“Non-Market Valuation,” in *Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources*, G. Adelson, R. Howarth, B. Hull, B. Minter, B. Norton, and P. Thompson (eds.) (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale / Cengage Learning, 2009)

“An Environmentalist’s Lament on Predation,” *Environmental Ethics*, Volume 30, No. 4 (Winter 2008)

“Kristin Shrader-Frechette,” in *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*, J. Baird Callicott and Robert Frodeman (eds.) (New York: Macmillan Reference USA / Thomson Gale, 2008)

“On the Role of Preferences and Values in Public Decisions,” *Social Theory and Practice*, Volume 33, No. 2 (April 2007)

“On Modesty: Being Good and Knowing It Without Flaunting It,” *American Philosophical Quarterly*, Volume 43, No. 3 (July 2006)

Peer-Reviewed or Invited Academic Presentations:

Commentator on “Hume, Callicott, and the Land Ethic: Prospects and Problems,” by Jennifer Welchman, 6th Annual Joint Meeting of the International Society for Environmental Ethics and the International Association for Environmental Philosophy, hosted in Rocky Mountain National Park; June 2009

“An Environmentalist’s Lament of Predation,” Thinking Through Nature Conference, sponsored by the International Association for Environmental Philosophy and hosted at the University of Oregon; June 2008

“An Environmentalist’s Lament of Predation,” 5th Annual Joint Meeting of the International Society for Environmental Ethics and the International Association for Environmental Philosophy, hosted in Rocky Mountain National Park; May 2008

“An Environmentalist’s Lament of Predation,” Department of Philosophy, California State University, Fresno; March 2008

“Regulation, Compensation, and the Loss of Life: A Paradox for Cost-Benefit Analysis,” 58th Annual Northwest Conference on Philosophy, hosted at University of Portland; November 2006

Commentator on “Eating Apes: Virtue Ethics and Pragmatism Applied,” by Erin McKenna and Lindsey Webb, 58th Annual Northwest Conference on Philosophy; November 2006

“Comparing Voting and Cost-Benefit Analysis as Mechanisms for Public Decisions,” 57th Annual Northwest Conference on Philosophy, hosted at Seattle University; October 2005

“Well-Being and Preferences,” 2nd Annual Virginia Tech Graduate Student Conference; October 2005

“On Why and How to be Modest,” 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World, hosted at Western Carolina University; July 2005

Other Publications:

What is a Good Society?: Pacific Seminar 1 Reader, edited with J. Becker, E. Camfield, K. Jaggears, L. Matz, and P. Turpin (New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 2008)

What is a Good Society?: Pacific Seminar 1 Reader, edited with K. Albala, G. Camfield, L. Fox, C. Goff, L. Matz, C. Ostberg, and G. Randels (New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 2007)

“Wallowing in Waste in the Tar Heel State,” for *Ethical Issues in the News*, Parr Center for Ethics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; March 2006

Other Presentations:

“How Much ^{\$\$}Green^{\$\$} for Green Campus Building?” for the Rotary Club of North Stockton, CA; December 2007

“How Much ^{\$\$}Green^{\$\$} for Green Campus Building?” for the Stanislaus County Pacific Alumni Club; October 2007

“Is Nothing Sacred? The Pricing of Environmental Goods and Services,” as part of a faculty panel titled Stewards of the Earth, University of the Pacific; October 2006

“Preferences, Well-Being, and Cost-Benefit Analysis,” Department of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; September 2005

Papers in Preparation:

“Regulation, Compensation, and the Loss of Life: What Cost-Benefit Analysis Really Requires”

“Implications of an Idealized-Preference Account of Well-Being for Cost-Benefit Analysis”

“Preferences and Well-Being”

Fellowships:

Thomas J. Long Foundation Fellowship for Innovative Teaching, Univ. of the Pacific; Spring 2008

Mary Williams Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Fall 2004

Bertha Williams Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Spring 2004

E. Maynard Adams Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Fall 2003

Henry Horace Williams Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Spring 2003, Spring 2002, Fall 2001

Teaching Experience:

University of the Pacific:

Environmental Ethics (four times, including one Honors section)

Moral Problems (six times)

History of Modern Philosophy

Philosophy of Religion

Pacific Seminar 1: What Is a Good Society? (three times, including one Honors section)

Pacific Seminar 2: Crime, Responsibility, and Punishment (Honors section)

Pacific Seminar 2: Animal Rights and Wrongs (two times)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill:

Full Responsibility:

Applied Ethics (four times)
Bioethics
Environmental Ethics (four times)
Introduction to Ethics
Social and Political Philosophy (three times)

Teaching Assistant:

Applied Ethics (Jeanette Boxill)
Environmental Ethics (Douglas MacLean)
Introduction to Ethics (twice: Geoffrey Sayre-McCord)
Introduction to Philosophy (once: Don Garrett; once: Dorit Bar-On)

University Service (all at University of the Pacific):

Co-Chair, Philosophy Department (July 2009-present)
Member, Athletics Advisory Board (2009-12)
Member, Academic Integrity Committee (2008)
Member, Pacific Seminar 1 Planning Committee (2007-08, 2006-07)
Convener of Pacific Seminar 1 faculty (Fall 2008, Fall 2007)
Member, University Green Committee (2006-07)

Professional Affiliations and Activities:

Member, American Philosophical Association (2005-present)
Member, International Society for Environmental Ethics (2008-present)
Member, International Association for Environmental Philosophy (2008-09)
Member, Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World (2005-06)
Referee for Wadsworth Publisher (occasional, 2007-present)
Graduate Fellow, Parr Center For Ethics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2005-06)

Graduate Courses Taken:

History of Moral Philosophy	Thomas Hill, Jr.
Normative Ethics	Thomas Hill, Jr.
Contemporary Moral Theory	Geoffrey Sayre-McCord
Political Philosophy	Bernard Boxill
Continental Rationalism	Don Garrett
British Empiricism	Simon Blackburn
Proto-seminar in Philosophy	Don Garrett and Simon Blackburn
Issues in Analytic Philosophy	Dorit Bar On
Philosophy of Language	Dorit Bar-On
Symbolic Logic	Keith Simmons
Studies in Logic (Decision Theory)	Michael Resnik
Philosophy of Science	John Roberts
Aristotle	Edward Galligan
Environmental Decision-Making	Richard Andrews
Cost-Benefit Analysis	Dale Whittington
Public Investment Theory	Dale Whittington

Microeconomics
 Quantitative Methods for Public Policy
 Advanced Seminar in Public Policy Analysis
 Introduction to Public Policy Analysis

Meenu Tewari
 Sudhanshu Handa
 Michael Stegman
 Richard Wisnant

Dissertation Abstract:

Title: “Preferences, Well-Being, and Value: A Critique of the Normative Foundations of the Economic Approach to Valuing Non-Market Goods”

Abstract:

Should the government permit drilling for oil in the Alaskan wilderness? How much arsenic should be allowed in municipal drinking water? What level of pollution-abatement technology should factories be required to utilize? One approach to answering these and many similar questions is to employ cost-benefit analysis (CBA). Many politicians call for such analysis when faced with tough policy choices regarding the allocation of “scarce resources.” But CBA’s critics charge that it is morally bankrupt and undemocratic. My dissertation is a philosophical evaluation of the normative foundations of CBA. I focus on the theory of value underpinning CBA, which consists of two main claims. The first is that the satisfaction of individual preferences is what counts as a benefit and their frustration is what counts as a cost. The second is that all costs and benefits – including human lives lost or preserved, as well as changes affecting human health and comfort, the cleanliness of air and water, the welfare of non-human species, and ecological services rendered – can be expressed monetarily. I defend a version of the first claim, but reject the second.

CBA’s proponents assert that public policy should aim to satisfy individual preferences because doing so promotes individual well-being and, in turn, social welfare. Should we accept this claim? I argue that, to a large extent, we should. This is because there is a close connection between well-being and preference satisfaction: a person’s well-being simply consists in the satisfaction of that person’s fully-informed and rational preferences. Of course, not all preferences are fully informed and rational. Against many of CBA’s defenders, I maintain that there are occasions where a person’s actual preferences would, if satisfied, diminish her well-being, and where the state is a better judge than the person herself of what would enhance her well-being. On such occasions, the state’s aim should neither be merely to promote the satisfaction of a person’s actual preferences nor to frustrate these preferences in order to promote what it knows to be her well-being. Instead, the state should strive as far as possible to make people informed and rational (in the relevant respects), and then *after* doing so, attend to and promote the satisfaction of the preferences they then have. In connection with this I defend an account of the nature of value, arguing that the value of a good is fixed by preferences regarding the good, so long as these preferences are informed and rational. Although this is a stronger view than many economists would endorse, I maintain it is one CBA can and should accommodate.

This brings me to the second of the claims comprising CBA’s theory of value, which is, in effect, that the value of any good can be expressed monetarily. I maintain that an individual’s willingness to pay or to accept a certain amount of money for a good does not suffice to show that this good’s value can be monetized. With respect to certain goods, an individual can have preferences that differ from one another along multiple irreducible dimensions. Different preferences will sometimes incorporate fundamentally distinct attitudes such as appreciation, fascination, respect, agitation, disgust, and shame. Thus, there will be pairs of goods of which it can neither be said that one member is simply more valuable than the other nor that the members are equal in value. This means that rational preferences cannot generate a single ordering of value, monetary or otherwise. The dissertation ends with a discussion of how public decision makers can approach regulatory and investment decisions without reducing these in each case to a comparison of monetized costs to monetized benefits.

References (contact information available upon request):

Douglas MacLean || Professor of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Thomas E. Hill, Jr. || Kenan Professor of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Susan Wolf || Edna J. Koury Professor of Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Don Garrett || Professor of Philosophy, New York University

Richard N. L. Andrews || Thomas Willis Lambeth Distinguished Professor of Public Policy,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jeanette Boxill || Senior Lecturer and Associate Chair, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill