



**Jennifer L. McMahon**

Professor of Philosophy and English  
Department of English and Languages  
East Central University  
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EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Philosophy, 1997; State University of New York at Buffalo  
Title: "The Slippage of the Self: The Interdependence of Sartre's Fiction and Philosophy."

M.A. in Philosophy, 1995; State University of New York at Buffalo  
Title: "Beyond Contemporary Pragmatism Toward a Buddhist Process Ontology."

B.A. in Philosophy, 1993; Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS:

Chair of the Department of English and Languages and Humanities Program Coordinator. East Central University, Ada, OK. 2007-2013.

Chair of the Department of Philosophy. Centre College, Danville, KY, 2000-2006.

PUBLICATIONS:

"Cinematic Consciousness: Animal Consciousness, Activist Rhetoric, and the Problem of Other Minds in *Blackfish*." *Philosophy and Documentary Film*. Ed. David LaRocca. New York: Lexington Press, 2017.

"Redemptive Rapping: The Redemptive Power of Narrative and Music in Miranda's *Hamilton* and Sartre's *Nausea*." *Hamilton and Philosophy*. Eds. Aaron Rabinowitz and Robert Arrp. New York: Wiley and Sons, 2017. Co-authored with Jacqueline McMahon-Smith.

"Captive in Not So Well Upholstered Hells: Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit* and Sterlin Harjo's *Goodnight Irene*." *Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> Native American Symposium*, 2017.

"Docile Bodies and a Viscous Force: Fear of the Flesh in *Return of the Jedi*." *Star Wars and Philosophy*. NY: Wiley and Sons, 2016.

"Ghost Dance: Visions of Death in Contemporary Native American Cinema." *Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> Native American Symposium*, 2015. <http://www.se.edu/nas/files/2015/08/A-NAS-2013-Proceedings-McMahon.pdf>

"Momentarily Lost: Finding the Moment in *Lost in Translation*." *Buddhism and America Cinema*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2014. Co-authored with Dr. B. Steve Csaki.

"It's Uncanny: Death in Burton's *Corpus*." *The Philosophy of Tim Burton*. Ed. Jennifer McMahon. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2014.

"Desperate Times Call for Existential Heroes: Eastwood's *Gran Torino* and Camus' *The Plague*." *The Philosophy of Clint Eastwood*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2013.

"Visions of Death: Native American Cinema and the Transformative Power of Death." *Death in Classic and Contemporary Cinema: Fade to Black*. Eds. Jeff Greenberg and Daniel Sullivan. New York: Palgrave, 2013.

"Icons of Stone and Steel: Death, Cinema, and the Future of Emotion." *Death in Classic and Contemporary Cinema: Fade to Black*. Eds. Jeff Greenberg and Daniel Sullivan. New York: Palgrave, 2013.

"I'm Not Nobody: *Dead Man*, Double Negatives and Transcending Stereotypes of Native Americans."

- Proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> Native American Symposium*. August 2012.  
<http://homepages.se.edu/nas/files/2013/03/NAS-2011-Proceedings-McMahon.pdf>
- “City of Dreams: Bad Faith in *Mulholland Drive*.” *David Lynch and Philosophy*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2011.
- “Dead Men Do Tell Tales: The Existential Significance of the Dead in *Four Sheets to the Wind*.” *Images, Imaginations, and Beyond: Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> Native American Symposium*. August 2010.  
<http://homepages.se.edu/nas/files/2013/03/NAS-2009-Proceedings-McMahon.pdf>
- “Beating a Live Horse: The Elevation and Degradation of the Horse in Westerns.” *The Philosophy of the Western*. Ed. Jennifer McMahon and B. Steve Csaki. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010.
- “Twilight of an Idol: Our Fatal Attraction to Vampires.” *Twilight and Philosophy*. Ed. Rebecca Housel and Jeremy Wisniewski. NY: Blackwell, 2009.
- “House and Sartre: Hell Is Other People.” *House M.D. and Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.
- “24 and the Existential Man of Revolt.” *The Philosophy of TV Noir*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2007.
- “The Existential Frankenstein.” *The Philosophy of Science Fiction Film*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2007.
- “After Hours: Scorsese on Absurdity.” *The Philosophy of Martin Scorsese*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2007.
- “Talking Trees and Walking Mountains: Buddhist and Taoist Themes in *The Lord of the Rings*.” *The Lord of the Rings and Philosophy*. Ed. Eric Bronson. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2003. Co-authored with Dr. B. Steve Csaki.
- “Popping a Bitter Pill: Existential Authenticity in *The Matrix* and *Nausea*.” *The Matrix and Philosophy*. Ed. William Irwin. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2002.
- “The Function of Fiction: The Heuristic Value of Homer.” *The Simpsons and Philosophy: The D’oh of Homer*. Eds. William Irwin, Mark T. Conard, and Aeon J. Skoble. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2001.
- “Seinfeld, Subjectivity, and Sartre.” *Seinfeld and Philosophy: A Book About Everything and Nothing*. Ed. William Irwin. Chicago: Open Court Press, 1999.
- “Sartre’s Nothingness and Zen *Sunyata*: Sickness as a Refuge for the Self.” *Journal of the Association for the Interdisciplinary Study of the Arts*, Special Issue, Fall 1997.
- “Dependent Origination and the Dual-Nature of the Japanese Aesthetic.” *Asian Philosophy*, Volume 7, Number 2, July 1997.
- Section Introductions in *Aesthetics: The Big Questions*. Ed. Carolyn Korsmeyer. Oxford: Basil & Blackwell Publishing, 1997.
- “*The Yellow Wallpaper*: The Role of Psychological Literature in Understanding Neuroses.” *Politeia*, Spring 1991.

#### FORTHCOMING:

- “Feeling As, Feeling For, Seeing What’s Right and So Much More: Empathy, Concern and Moral Growth in Dr. Seuss.” *Dr. Seuss and Philosophy*. Ed. Jacob Held. New York: Lexington Press, Forthcoming 2017.
- “Rebellious Bodies: Challenging Oppressive Ideals of Femininity in *Hairspray*, *Polyester*, and *Cry-Baby*.” *Philosophy and John Waters*. Ed. Kimberly Baltzer-Jaray. New York: Lexington Press, Forthcoming 2017.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- “The Talking Dead: The Psychodynamics of the Uncanny in Jean-Paul Sartre’s *No Exit*.” International Conference on the Literature of the Hidden and Fantastic. University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, AR. September 2016.

- “I Am ~~Not~~ an Animal: Bad Faith, Authenticity, and the Phenomenon of Animal Suffering.” International Conference on Animal Suffering. Southwestern College, Winfield, KS, October 2015.
- “Captive in Not So Well Upholstered Hells: Jean-Paul Sartre’s *No Exit* and Sterlin Harjo’s *Goodnight Irene*.” Eleventh Native American Symposium, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK, November 2015.
- “Ghost Dance: Visions of Death in Contemporary Native American Cinema.” Tenth Native American Symposium, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK, November 2013.
- “What’s in a Name?: *Dead Man* and Transcending Stereotypes of Native Americans.” Ninth Native American Symposium, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK, November 2011.
- “Cowboys, Schoolmarm, and the Western View of Education.” Rotten Apples Symposium, East Central University, Ada, OK, November 2011.
- “Dead Men Do Tell Tales: The Existential Significance of the Dead in *Four Sheets to the Wind*.” Eighth Native American Symposium and Film Festival, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, November 2009.
- “Truth, Lies, and Videotape: *Ikiru* and Truth Telling in a Medical Context.” International Association of Asian Studies Conference. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 2006.
- “Finding the Value of the Moment with the Help of *Lost in Translation*.” International Association of Asian Studies Conference. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 2006. Presented jointly with Dr. B. Steve Csaki.
- “Laughing in the Silence: Existentialism and the Making of Meaning.” International Conference on Silence and Laughter in Literature and the Visual Arts. Atlanta, Georgia, October 2003.
- “Idle Idols: An Existential Critique of the Pursuit of Permanence in Platonic Philosophy.” International Conference on Imitation and Parody in Literature and the Visual Arts. Atlanta, Georgia, November 2001.
- “Is Authenticity All It’s Cracked Up to Be?: The Agony of Existential Awareness and the Bliss of Bad Faith.” International Conference on Madness and Bliss in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2000.
- “*Nausea*, *The Plague*, and *No Exit*: The Ability of Existential Dystopias to Promote Authenticity.” International Conference on Utopia and Dystopia in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, November 1999.
- “An Uncomfortable Coupling: Sartre on the Necessity of the Body to the Formation of Self.” Fifth Annual International Conference on Persons, St. John’s College, Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 1999.
- “Unnecessary Losses: The Incompatibility of Joy with Extreme Idealism.” International Conference on Joy and Sorrow in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, November 1998.
- “Real Necessities, Virtual Fantasies: The Role of the Body in Identity Formation.” 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Semiotics Society, Toronto, September 1998.
- “Unforgettable: Arendt, Nietzsche and an Ethics of Remembrance.” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, Tennessee, February 1998.
- “Dissolving Borders, Fading Foundations, Disgust, and Despair: The Effects of Sartre’s Existential Insights.” International Conference on Borders and Foundations in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, October 1997.
- “Sartre’s Nothingness and *Zen Sunyata*: Sickness as a Refuge for the Self.” International Conference on Despair and Desire in Literature and the Visual Arts, Atlanta, Georgia, October 1996.
- “Beyond Contemporary Pragmatism Toward a Buddhist Process Ontology.” New York Conference on Asian Studies, Oakdale, New York, October 1996.
- “The Dual Influence of Dependent Origination on a Japanese Aesthetic.” New York Conference on Asian Studies, Buffalo, New York, September 1995.

CREATIVE WORK:

- “Break Time.” Original Charcoal Drawing (10”X 12”). Skidmore Alumni Exhibit. Tang Art Museum. Saratoga Springs, New York, June 2011.
- “Nervous Heifer.” Original Charcoal Drawing (5” X 8”). Skidmore Alumni Exhibit. Tang Art Museum. Saratoga Springs, New York, June 2011.
- “Ghost Rider.” Original Graphite Drawing (8” X 14”). Skidmore Alumni Exhibit. Tang Art Museum. Saratoga Springs, New York, June 2011.
- “Inclosing Reserve.” Original Oil Painting (20”X24”). Skidmore Alumni Exhibit. Tang Art Museum. Saratoga Springs, New York, June 2006.

#### BOOK REVIEWS:

- Review of David Goldblatt’s and Lee B. Brown’s *Aesthetics: A Reader in the Philosophy of the Arts* (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 1996), *American Society for Aesthetics Newsletter*, 1999.
- Review of Susan Feagin’s *Reading with Feeling* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996), *Journal of Value Inquiry*, July 1998. Co-authored with Dr. Sarah Worth.

#### ACADEMIC HONORS AND ACTIVITIES (select):

- Recipient. East Central University, Teaching Excellence Award, Spring 2017.
- Chair, East Central University’s Resource Allocation Committee, Fall 2016-2017.
- Recipient of Research Grant (ECU Research Committee), Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Fall 2009.
- Recipient of Professional Development Grant (ECU Research Committee), Spring 2014.
- Editor. *The Philosophy of Tim Burton*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2014.
- Invited Lecturer. Hedgehog and Fox Lecture. East Central University, Ada, OK. October 2014.
- Invited Panelist. Lowak Sho’li (“Carry the Fire”) Native American Humanities Forum. Chickasaw Nation, Ada, OK, October 2014.
- ECU Institutional Nominee for NEH Summer Scholar Program, Fall 2013, Fall 2012.
- Honors Faculty Member of the Year, East Central University, 2012-13.
- Recipient of Exceptional Merit Award for Scholarship, East Central University, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008.
- Editor. *The Philosophy of the Western*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010.
- Honors Board, Chairperson. East Central University, 2007-2013.
- Awarded Promotion to Professor Rank, East Central University, 2012.
- Awarded Tenure, East Central University, 2009.
- Learner-Centered Training. Native American Voices Grant. East Central University, 2009.
- Promoted to Rank of Associate Professor, Centre College, 2004.
- Recipient of Merit Stipend, Centre College, 1998-2006.
- Awarded Tenure, Centre College, 2003.
- Recipient of Teacher Award at Centre College Honor Walk, 2005, 2003, 2002. (Awards are given by graduating seniors to acknowledge the individual who has contributed most to their academic success at Centre College.)
- Recipient of Kirk Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2001.
- Faculty Mentor for John C. Young Scholar Program, 1999-2000.
- Recipient of Teagle Foundation Grant, 1998-2001.
- Recipient of Omicron Delta Kappa’s “1997-8 Rookie of the Year” Teaching Excellence Award.
- Nominated for Teaching Excellence Award, SUNY at Buffalo, Spring 1997.
- Recipient of Teaching Excellence Award, SUNY at Buffalo, Spring 1996.
- Full Tuition Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship, SUNY at Buffalo, Fall 1993-Spring 1997.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Department of English and Languages, East Central University (2007-present)

- Composition I (ENG 1113)
- Composition II (ENG 1213)
- Enduring Questions in Western Humanities (HNRS 1213)
- Enduring Questions in Non-Western Humanities (HNRS 1313)
- General Humanities I (HUM 2113)
- Responding to Literature (HUM 2413)
- Introduction to Philosophy (HUM 2613: Metaphysics, Epistemology Ethics; HUM 2613: Self, Society, and Justice; and HUM 2613: Philosophy of Art)
- World Religion and Thought (HUM 2633)
- Interpreting Film (HUM 2813)
- Introduction to Literary Study (ENG 2513)
- Persuasive Writing and Logic (ENG 3193)
- Critical Approaches to Prose (ENG 3333)
- North American Indian Captivity Narratives (ENG 4523/NAS 4983)
- Existential Philosophy and Literature (ENG 4953)
- Advanced World Religion and Thought (HUM 4983)
- Buddhist Philosophy (HUM 4983)
- Classic and Contemporary Theories of Mortality (HUM 4983)
- Advanced Aesthetics/Philosophy of Art (HUM 4983)
- Western Films and Philosophy (HUM 4983)
- Honors Project Supervision (HNRS 4983)
- Honors Thesis Supervision (HNRS 4993)

Department of Language and Literature, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (2006-2007)

- Rhetoric (IDS 1013)
- Writing I (IDS 1113)
- Writing II (IDS 1213)
- Advanced Composition (ENG 3503)
- Critical Approaches to Literature (ENGL 4503)
- World Civilization and Thought: 1650-present (IDS 4333)

Philosophy Program, Centre College (1997-2006)

- Introduction to Humanities I (HUM 110)
- Introduction to Humanities II (HUM 120)
- Introduction to Philosophy (PHI 110)
- Philosophy of Art (PHI 160)
- Philosophy of Religion (PHI 170)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy (PHI 330)
- Existentialism (PHI 350)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy (PHI 380)
- Advanced Aesthetics (PHI 400: Independent Study)
- Heidegger's *Being and Time* (PHI 400: Independent Study)
- Buddhist Philosophy (PHI 400: Independent Study)
- Emotion And/As Judgment (PHI 400/500)
- Existentialism and Buddhism: A Comparative Analysis (PHI 400: Independent Study)
- Nietzsche's Philosophy and Literature (PHI 400: Independent Study)
- Existential Literature (PHI 400: Independent Study)
- Existentialism and Hermeneutics (PHI 400: Independent Study)
- Beginning Chinese (HUM 400: Independent Study)

Department of Philosophy, State University of New York at Buffalo (1993-1997)  
--Social and Ethical Values in Medicine (PHI 337)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Existentialism and Phenomenology; Philosophy and Literature, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental  
Philosophy, Asian/Comparative Philosophy, Aesthetics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

History of Philosophy, Ethics

LANGUAGES:

French, Chinese (limited)

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