

## Jennifer L. McMahon

Professor of English and Philosophy  
Department of English and Languages  
East Central University  
1100 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Ada, OK 74820  
(580) 559-5452 (office)/ [jmcmahon@ecok.edu](mailto:jmcmahon@ecok.edu)

### 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."  
Dissertation Director: Dr. Carolyn Korsmeyer

M.A. in Philosophy, 1995; State University of New York at Buffalo  
Title: "Beyond Contemporary Pragmatism Toward a Buddhist Process Ontology."  
Thesis Directors: Dr. Peter Hare and Dr. Kenneth Inada

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

### ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS:

President. ECU Chapter of the AAUP, East Central University, Ada, OK, June 2018-present.  
Chair. Resource Allocation Committee, East Central University, Ada, OK, 2016-2017.  
Chair. Department of English and Languages, East Central University, Ada, OK, 2007-2013.  
Program Coordinator. Humanities Program. East Central University, Ada, OK, 2007-2013.  
Chair. Honors Board. East Central University, Ada, OK, 2007-2013.  
Chair. Department of Philosophy and Religion. Centre College, Danville, KY, 2000-2006.

### PUBLICATIONS:

- "Gallop into the Jaws of Death: The Psychology of Animal Symbolism in *Jaws* and *Warhorse*." A *Critical Companion to Steven Spielberg*. New York: Lexington Press, 2019.
- "Death, *The Rider*, and a Pale Horse." *Ernest Becker Foundation-Features*. Ernest Becker Foundation. <http://ernestbecker.org/features/death-denial-at-the-movies/mcmahon/>
- "~~Indian~~ Summer: Reclaiming and Revitalizing Native American Identity through Art." *Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> Native American Symposium*, 2019. <https://www.se.edu/native-american/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2019/09/A-NAS-2017-Proceedings-McMahon-1.pdf>
- "We Are More Than Things That Think: Meditations on Embodied Learners, Learning, and Instruction"(Abstract). *Proceedings of the 2019 Transformative Learning Conference*, Spring 2019. <http://sites.uco.edu/central/tl/conference/conference-archives/2019conference/2019.rev-proceedings-completed.pdf>.
- "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, 2018.
- "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 Arp. New York: Wiley and Sons, 2017. Co-authored with Jacqueline McMahan-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. <https://www.se.edu/native-american/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2019/09/AAA-NAS-2015-Proceedings-McMahon.pdf>
- “Docile Bodies and a Viscous Force: Fear of the Flesh in *Return of the Jedi*.” *The Ultimate Star Wars and Philosophy*. Eds. Kevin Decker and Jason Eberl. 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. <https://www.se.edu/nativeamerican/wpcontent/uploads/sites/49/2019/09/A-NAS-2013-Proceedings-McMahon.pdf>.
- “Momentarily Lost: Finding the Moment in *Lost in Translation*.” *Buddhism and America Cinema*. Eds. Gary Storhoff and John Whalen-Bridge. 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*. Eds. Richard McClelland and Brian Clayton. 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. <https://www.se.edu/native-american/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2019/09/NAS-2011-Proceedings-McMahon.pdf>
- “City of Dreams: Bad Faith in *Mulholland Drive*.” *David Lynch and Philosophy*. Eds. William Devlin and Shai Biderman. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2011.
- “Dead Men Do Tell Tales: The Existential Significance of the Dead in *Four Sheets to the Wind*.” *Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> Native American Symposium*. August 2010. <https://www.se.edu/native-american/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2019/09/NAS-2009-Proceedings-McMahon.pdf>
- “Beating a Live Horse: The Elevation and Degradation of the Horse in Westerns.” *The Philosophy of the Western*. Eds. 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*. Ed. Henry Jacoby. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008.
- “24 and the Existential Man of Revolt.” *The Philosophy of TV Noir*. Eds. Steven Sanders and Aeon

- Skoble. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2007.
- “The Existential Frankenstein.” *The Philosophy of Science Fiction Film*. Ed. Steven Sanders. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2007.
- “After Hours: Scorsese on Absurdity.” *The Philosophy of Martin Scorsese*. Ed. Mark Conard. 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.

#### EDITED COLLECTIONS:

- Editor. *The Philosophy of Tim Burton*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2014.
- Editor. *The Philosophy of the Western*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010. Co-edited with B. Steve Csaki.

#### FORTHCOMING:

- “Cowboy, ‘Indian’, Rider: Deconstructing Dichotomous Stereotypes in *The Rider*.” *Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Native American Symposium*, 2020.
- “Mired in Red Tape: Invoking and Overcoming Stereotypes of Native Americans in *Longmire*.” *A Critical Companion to Longmire*. Ed. Clint Jones. New York: Lexington Press. Forthcoming, 2020.
- “Horse Sense: Discerning a Dialectic of Human Relations from *Buck* and *The Rider*” *Rethinking, Remaking, Reimagining: The American Cowboy in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Context*. Ed. Clint Jones. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. Forthcoming, 2020.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- “Cowboy, ‘Indian’, Rider: Deconstructing Dichotomous Stereotypes in *The Rider*.” Thirteenth Native American Symposium, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK, November 2019.
- “Rebellious Bodies: Challenging Oppressive Ideals of Femininity in *Hairspray*, *Polyester*, and *Cry-Baby*.” 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gender and Sexuality. University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK, October 2019.

- “We Are More Than Things That Think: Meditations on Embodied Learners, Learning, and Instruction.” 2019 Transformative Learning Conference, Oklahoma City, OK, March 2019.
- “Shared Governance in Budgeting: East Central University’s Resource Allocation Committee.” AAUP Regional Conference, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK, March 2019. Co-presenter with Dr. Andrew Wells and Ms. Dana Belcher.
- “Teaching Heidegger’s *Being and Time* with the Aid of Tolstoy’s *The Death of Ivan Ilych*.” American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA, February 2019.
- “Steps Toward Success: Implementing Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities in the Oklahoma Regional University System.” National Council on Undergraduate Research Annual Conference, Edmond, OK, April 2018.
- “~~Indian~~ Summer: Reclaiming and Revitalizing Native American Identity through Art.” Twelfth Native American Symposium, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK, November 2017.
- “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.

#### TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS:

- Recipient. Honors Teacher of the Year Award, East Central University, 2017-18.
- Recipient. University Teaching Excellence Award, East Central University, Spring 2017.
- Recipient. Honors Teacher of the Year Award, East Central University, 2012-13.
- Recipient. Teacher Award at Centre College Honor Walk, 2005.
- Recipient. Teacher Award at Centre College Honor Walk, 2003.
- Recipient. Teacher Award at Centre College Honor Walk, 2002.
- Recipient. Kirk Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2001.
- Recipient. Omicron Delta Kappa's "1997-8 Rookie of the Year" Teaching Excellence Award.
- Finalist. Teaching Excellence Award, SUNY at Buffalo, Spring 1997.
- Recipient. Teaching Excellence Award, SUNY at Buffalo, Spring 1996.

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

##### Tenure and Promotion:

- Awarded Promotion to Professor Rank, East Central University, 2012.
- Awarded Tenure, East Central University, 2009.
- Awarded Promotion to Rank of Associate Professor, Centre College, 2004.
- Awarded Tenure, Centre College, 2003.

##### Research Grants/Awards:

- Recipient. U.S. Department of Education/NASNTI Faculty Research Grant, February 2019.
- Recipient. Research Grant (ECU Research Committee), Spring 2016, Spring 2015, Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Fall 2009.
- Recipient. Professional Development Grant (ECU Research Committee), Spring 2014.
- Recipient. Teagle Foundation Research Grant, 1998-2001.
- Institutional Nominee. NEH Summer Scholar Program, Fall 2013, Fall 2012.
- Recipient. Exceptional Merit Award for Scholarship, East Central University, 2008-2019.
- Recipient. Annual Merit Stipend, Centre College, 1998-2006.
- Recipient. Full Tuition Scholarship/Teaching Assistantship, SUNY Buffalo, 1993-1997.

##### Scholarship of Teaching:

- Participant. CEETL Scholarship of Teaching Conference. University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK, August 2018.
- Author. Undergraduate Research and High Impact Practice Implementation Plan for East Central University's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, October 2017.
- Author. Undergraduate Research and High Impact Practice Implementation Plan for East Central University's Department of English and Languages, October 2017.

- Seminar Participant/Stipend Recipient. Undergraduate Research and High Impact Practice Seminar, East Central University, Ada, OK, September 2017.
- Recipient. Learner-Centered Training. NASNTI “Native American Voices” Grant. East Central University, 2009.
- Faculty Mentor for John C. Young Scholar Program, 1999-2000.

Public Lectures:

- Invited Speaker. Honors Convocation, 2018.
- Invited Speaker. Spectre of Marx Conference. East Central University, 2018.
- Invited Speaker. Hedgehog and Fox Lecture. East Central University, Ada, OK. 2014.
- Invited Panelist. Lowak Sho’li (“Carry the Fire”) Native American Humanities Forum. Chickasaw Nation, Ada, OK, 2014.
- Invited Speaker. Honors Convocation, 2009.

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)

Enduring Questions: Rhetoric and Research (HNRS 2313)

General Humanities I (HUM 2113)

Responding to Literature (HUM 2413)

Introduction to Philosophy (HUM 2613/four versions)

- Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics (historical survey w/disciplinary concentration)
- Self, Society, and Justice (identity theory/social and political philosophy/ethics)
- Philosophy of Art (aesthetics)
- Philosophy of Religion (classic and contemporary issues in philosophy of religion)

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 3323)

North American Indian Captivity Narratives (ENG 4523/NAS 4983)

Existential Philosophy and Literature (ENG 4553)

Publications and Portfolio Capstone (ENG 4883)

Advanced World Religion and Thought (HUM 4983)

Buddhist Philosophy (HUM 4983)

Classic and Contemporary Theories of Mortality (HUM 4983)

Death Theory, Literature, and Film (ENG 4983)

Advanced Aesthetics/Philosophy of Art (HUM 4983)

Western Films and Philosophy (HUM 2883/4983)

Advanced Literary Theory (ENG 4993)

Honors Project Supervision (HNRS 4983)

Honors Thesis Supervision (HNRS 4993)

Existential Philosophy and Literature (ENG 5983)

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:

Existential Philosophy and Literature, Philosophy and Literature, Aesthetics, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

Gender Studies, Animal Studies, History of Philosophy

LANGUAGES:

French (reading), Chinese (elementary)

Revised: April 10, 2020