

AOS: Philosophy of Biological Science, Philosophy of Law, Applied Ethics
AOC: Moral and Philosophical Psychology, Political Philosophy

EDUCATION

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|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Ph.D. Philosophy, | Duke University | (expected April 2008) (4-year completion) |
| M.S. Biological Science, | Duke University | (expected April 2008) |
| J.D., cum laude | N.Y.U. Law School | (May 2002) |
| B.A. Philosophy, <i>summa cum laude</i> | SUNY Binghamton | (May 1999) |

Dissertation: *Reading the Book of Life: Chance, Contingency, and Constraint in Macroevolution*
{Supervisors: Robert Brandon, Alex Rosenberg}

Abstract. Many biologists and philosophers of biology believe that replaying the proverbial ‘tape of life’ would result in radically different evolutionary outcomes. In this thesis, I develop a metaphysics of macroevolutionary contingency in order to answer the following question: Is the clumpy distribution of organismic form in an otherwise vast and uncharted ‘morphospace’ the predictable result of optimizing processes; or does it represent the fluky culmination of an eminently unrepeatably series of contingencies that took place early in the history of life? To this end, I examine and relate five key macrobiological concepts: chance, causation, contingency, constraint, and convergence.

Biology Masters Thesis: *Robust Image-Formation as a Key Innovation* {Supervisor: V. L. Roth}

Abstract. In this thesis, I explore the developmental constraints and macroevolutionary effects associated with the iterated evolution of robust image-forming sensory modalities.

Law School Thesis: *The Interplay of Science and Law in the Construction of Human Races* (2002)

Abstract. This thesis explores the dynamic interaction of racist law and racist science in perpetuating the American racial caste system from the Antebellum South through *Brown v. Board of Education*.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1) Powell, R. (2007), “Is Convergence More than an Analogy? Homoplasy and its Implications for Macroevolutionary Predictability,” *Biology and Philosophy*, vol. 22, pp. 565-578.
- 2) Powell, R. (2007), “The Law and Philosophy of Preventive War: An Institution-Based Approach to Collective Self-Defense,” *Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy*, vol. 32, pp. 67-89.
- 3) Powell, R. (2008), “Domestic Constitutionalism and the Supremacy of International Law: Towards a Normative Reconciliation,” *Routledge Handbook for the Phil. of Int’l Law* (w/ Allen Buchanan)
- 4) Powell, R. (2008), “Constitutional Democracy and the Rule of International Law: Are They Compatible?” in J. Dunoff/J.Trachtman (eds.), *Ruling the World? Constitutionalism, International Law and Global Governance* (w/ Allen Buchanan) (forthcoming).
- 5) Powell, R. (2008), “Transcending the Darwinian Crucible: Genetic Enhancement and the New Teleological Biology,” in *Genetic Enhancement* (Julian Savulescu, ed.) (Oxford) (forthcoming) (w/Allen Buchanan)
- 6) “Contingency and Convergence in Macroevolution: A Reply to Beatty,” *Journal of Philosophy* (under review)
- 7) “International Law, Constitutionalism, and Human Rights,” *Journal of Political Philosophy* (under review) (w/ Allen Buchanan)

Work in progress:

- 1) R. Powell, "Evolutionary Heuristics for Genetic Enhancement: A Reply to Bostrom and Sandberg"
- 2) R. Powell, "Biological Chaos as a Channel for Quantum Percolation: an Argument for Indeterminism in Micro and Macro Evolution"
- 3) R. Powell, "The Metaphysics of Macroevolutionary Contingency"
- 4) R. Powell, "When Extinction *Really is* Forever: An Argument for Prioritizing Disparity over Diversity"
- 5) R. Powell. "Fodor's Apostasy: In Defense of a Lawless and Goal-less Biology"
- 6) R. Powell, *Thought in an Epistemically Hostile World: An Evolutionary Psychological Account of Cognitive Dissonance and its Role in Moral Belief Formation and Change* (book-length manuscript)

HONORS: *James B. Duke Fellowship* in Philosophy
Phi Beta Kappa, Binghamton Chapter (ranked top 1%)
Who's Who Among American Teachers (2006/2007)

CONFERENCE TALKS/PARTICIPATION and SPECIAL RESEARCH

- ❖ *Is Robust Image-Formation a Key Innovation?* Philosophy of Biology Conference on Complexity (Université de Montréal, 2006).
- ❖ *Preventive War: Institutions and the Right to Self-Defense*, Graduate Conference in Ethics and Political Philosophy (Virginia Tech, 2006).
- ❖ *Faculty Advisory Committee* for Provost's Lecture Series: *Science & Human Nature* (2007-2008)
- ❖ Chief Organizer: 7th annual Conference in Philosophy & Biology, *Exploring the Major Transitions of Life: Individuality, Coloniality, and the Units of Selection* (Duke, 2008) (forthcoming)
- Organizer: 6th annual Conference in Philosophy & Biology, *Chance in Evolution* (Duke, 2007)
- Organizer: 5th annual Conference in Philosophy & Biology, *The Emotions as Norm Enforcers: The Interface between Evolution, Ethics, and Behavioral Game Theory* (Duke, 2006).
- Lizard Island Research Station, Great Barrier Reef, Cairns, QLD, Australia (Summer, 2007)
Project: *Reciprocal Altruism in Cleaning Interactions: Investigating Protomoral Ecology in a Basal Vertebrate Clade*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Autonomous Teaching:

- *The Ethics of War: Moral and Legal Issues with respect to the Use of Force* (Duke University, Spring 2008)
- *Contemporary Issues in Biomedical Ethics: Genomics, Justice, and Human Nature* (Duke University, Summer/Fall 2007)
- *Philosophical Problems in Constitutional Law* (Duke University, Spring 2006)
- *Ethics and Public Policy* (w/ Allen Buchanan, Duke University, Fall 2006)
- *Existentialism and Phenomenology* (w/ M.C. Dillon, Binghamton University, Fall 1999)
- *Plato and Aristotle* (w/ Anthony Preus, Binghamton University, Spring 1999)

Teaching and Research Assistantships:

- Philosophy of International Law (w/ Allen Buchanan, Duke University, Spring 2007)
- Introduction to Ethical Theory (w/ Owen Flanagan, Duke University, Fall 2005)
- Introduction to Philosophy (w/ Robert Brandon, Duke University, Spring, 2005)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM LLP, New York, NY; Central, Hong Kong

Associate, Complex Mass Torts and Insurance Litigation, 2001-2004

Commercial Matters: Class action litigation, complex product liability, commercial contracts, intellectual property, insurance law, and corporate finance.

Pro Bono Matters: Immigration (asylum), domestic relations (VAWA petitions), housing discrimination, and animal welfare.

Awards: Pro Bono Publico Service Award, 2002-2003

SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP, New York, NY.

Litigation Specialist, May-September 2006

Commercial Matters: Patent and Advertising Litigation

BRACKEN & MARGOLIN LLP, Islip, NY

Litigation Specialist, May 2006-Present

Commercial Matters: Corporate Trade Secret and Fiduciary Litigation

ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Law Professional Volunteer, Oct. 2002-Present

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY / CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC, New York, NY

Student Attorney Practitioner, Aug. 2001-May 2002

Class action on behalf of female inmates incarcerated in New York State Dept. of Corrections

BAR ADMISSION/MEMBERSHIP: New York State Bar, 2002.

U.S. District Courts, Eastern and Southern Districts of N.Y.

LANGUAGES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Well studied in written and spoken **Korean**.

Hobbies: fossil hunting, snorkeling/diving, underwater photography, marine aquariums, hiking.

REFERENCES

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