

Ronald Loeffler

Curriculum Vitae (October 2025)

Department of Philosophy
Grand Valley State University
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Employment:

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| Fall 2025-present | Professor, Department of Philosophy,
Grand Valley State University. |
| 2010-2025: | Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy,
Grand Valley State University. |
| Winter 2022:
(February-May) | Visiting Professor, Department of Philosophy
University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic |
| Fall 2004 - 2010: | Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy,
Grand Valley State University. |
| 2002 – 2004: | Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy,
Carleton College. |
| 2001 – 2002: | Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy,
University of Illinois at Chicago. |
| 2000 – 2001 | Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Northwestern University. |

Education:

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| 2001 | Ph. D., Philosophy, Northwestern University. |
| 1995 | Magister Artium, Philosophy, Free University Berlin. |
| 1994 | M.A., Philosophy, University of London, King's College. |

Areas of Specialization:

Philosophy of Language (discursive rationality, semantic inferentialism); Philosophy of Mind (nature of belief, social cognition, mindreading); Wilfrid Sellars (ethics/practical philosophy)

Areas of Competence:

History of Western Philosophy (Ancient Greek, Early Modern, Kant, American Pragmatism, Analytic); Philosophy of Mind & Psychology; Ethics (Meta- & Normative); Logic; Metaphysics; Epistemology; Philosophy of Science; Human Nature.

Area of Teaching Interest:

Philosophy of Race & Antiracism

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

Book:

Brandom. Cambridge UK: Polity Press (2018).
(An 85,000-word introductory monograph on the philosophy of Robert Brandom.)

Edited Volumes:

(with J. R. Koons.) *Ethics, Practical Reasoning, Agency. Wilfrid Sellars's Practical Philosophy*. London UK: Routledge (2023).

Articles/Book Chapters:

“Moral Intentions as Individualistic We-Attitudes.” In J. R. Koons & R. Loeffler (eds.), *Ethics, Practical Reasoning, Agency. Wilfrid Sellars Practical Philosophy*. London UK: Routledge (2023), 62 – 83.

“Implicit Scorekeeping. A We-Mode Account of Belief and Interpretation.” In P. Stovall, Ladislav Koreň, Hans Bernhard Schmid, Leo Townsend (eds.). *Groups, Norms and Practices. Essays on Inferentialism and Collective Intentionality*. Cham, CH: Springer (2021), 59 – 81.

“Sellars’ Theory of We-Intentions and Gilbert’s Theory of Joint Commitment. A Critical Note on Jeremy R. Koons’ *The Ethics of Wilfrid Sellars*.” *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* **28**(1) (2020), 114 – 127.

“Belief Ascriptions and Social Externalism.” *Philosophical Studies* **168** (2014), 211 - 239.

“Practice-Based Theories of Meaning.” *Philosophy Compass* **4** (2009), 197 – 218.

“Normative Phenomenalism: On Robert Brandom’s Practice-Based Explanation of Meaning.” *European Journal of Philosophy* **13** (2005), 32 – 69.

“Intertheoretical Identity and Ontological Reductions.” *Erkenntnis* **62** (2005), 157 – 187.

“Demonstrative Reference and Cognitive Significance”. *Synthese* **128** (2001), 229 – 244.

Other Publications:

“Snapshot: Robert Brandom.” *Philosopher’s Magazine* **87** (2019), 38-47.

Book Reviews:

“Review of SELLARS, Wilfrid, *The Metaphysics of Practice. Writings on Action, Community, and Obligation*. Edited by Kyle Ferguson and Jeremy Randel Koons.” *The Review of Metaphysics* **77(4)** (2024), 728 – 730.

“Review of *Practices of Reason. Fusing the Inferentialist and Scientific Image*, by Ladislav Koreň.” *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* **30(2)** (2022), 174-9.

In Preparation:

(With J. R. Koons) Edited volume *Collective Intentionality, Normativity, and the Space of Reasons. Engaging Wilfrid Sellars*. Under contract with Springer Nature. To be published in 2026.

“Sellarsian We-Intentions and Joint Moral Agency.” Chapter in *Collective Intentionality, Normativity, and the Space of Reasons. Engaging Wilfrid Sellars*

“Sellars on the Moral Point of View.” Chapter in forthcoming Routledge Handbook *The Sellarsian Mind*.

“Belief as a Cognitive We-Attitude, and Recognizing Common Ground.”

Presentations (Peer-Reviewed or Invited):

“Sellarsian We-Intentions and Joint Moral Agency.” Presented at the workshop “Collective Intentionality, Normativity, and the Space of Reasons. Engaging Wilfrid Sellars.” Georgetown University in Qatar, Doha, October 2024.

“Belief, the Norm of Truth, and Assertion’s Essential Effect.” Presented at the international conference “Rule-Following between Nature and Culture.” University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, October 2023.

“Moral We-Intentions as Individualistic We-Attitudes.” Colloquium presentation at the Pacific APA Meeting, San Francisco, April 2023.

“Belief as a First-Person Plural Cognitive Attitude, and Recognizing Common Ground.” Invited presentation at the Center for the Study of Language, Mind, and Society (LMS), University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, March 2022.

“Moral We-Intentions as Individualistic We-Attitudes.” Presented at workshop “Ethics, Practical Reasoning, Agency. Wilfrid Sellars’ Practical Philosophy.” Grand Valley State University, August 2021.

“Instituting Semantic Norms through Scorekeeping in the We-Mode.” Invited presentation at the workshop “The Social Institution of Norms. A Workshop with Robert Brandom.” University of Vienna, Austria. April 2019.

“Belief as a We-Attitude.” Invited presentation at the Center for the Study of Language, Mind, and Society (LMS), University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, April 2019

- “Belief and Linguistic Understanding.” Presented at the Meeting of the International Social Ontology Society, Tufts University, Boston, MA, August 2018.
- “Belief and Linguistic Understanding.” Presented at the Language, Culture, Mind conference, Denison University, Granville, OH, July 2018.
- “Mutual Recognition in Assertional Practice.” Invited presentation at Kalamazoo College, May 20, 2010
- “Mutual Recognition in Assertional Practice.” Invited presentation at the 46th Annual Cincinnati Philosophy Colloquium. University of Cincinnati, May 7 – 8, 2010.
- “(Simple, Pragmatically Undemanding) Assertional Practice without Higher Order Thought.” Poster Presentation at the Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, University of Indiana, Bloomington, June 2009.
- “The Psychology of Presupposing.” Presented at the Meeting of the Central States Philosophical Association, St. Paul, MN, September 2008.
- “Belief Ascriptions and Social Externalism.” Presented at the Meeting of the Central States Philosophical Association, Memphis, TN, October 2006.
- “Assertional Practice and the False Belief Task.” Colloquium Presentation at the Pacific APA Meeting in Portland, OR, March 2006.
- “Do Assertional Practitioners Need the Concept of Belief?” Presented at the Illinois Philosophical Association, Carlestown, IL, November 2005
- “Normative Phenomenalism.” Colloquium Presentation at the Pacific APA Meeting, San Francisco, March 2005.
- “Intertheoretical Identity and Ontological Reductions.” Presented at the Illinois Philosophical Association, Normal, IL, November 2003.
- “Brandom on *De Re* and *De Dicto* Belief Ascriptions, and Burge’s Argument for Social Externalism.” Presented at the Minnesota Philosophical Association, Northfield, MN, October 2003.
- “Brandom’s Theory of Belief Ascriptions and Burge’s Argument for Social Externalism.” Presented at the Illinois Philosophical Association, Southern-Illinois University at Edwardsville, November 2002.
- “Identity Across Domains of Theories.” Presented at the Fall meeting of the Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington IN, November, 2001.
- “3 ½-Year-Old Producers and Consumers of Assertions. Or: How to Communicate without the Concept of Belief.” Presented at Birmingham Southern College, Birmingham AL, May 2001.

Other Presentations:

“Belief as a First-Person Plural Cognitive Attitude, and Recognizing Common Ground.”
GVSU Philosophy Colloquium presentation, October 7, 2022.

Discussion of “Moral Intentions as Individualistic We-Attitudes” at the International
Sellars Colloquium, February 2022.

“The Quest for Cartesian Certainty as a Misguided Philosophical Methodology.”
Presented at “400 Years since Descartes Three Dreams. A Panel Discussion on
Knowledge, Nature, and Modernity.” Philosophy Colloquium, Grand Valley State
University, October 2019.

“Linguistic Meaning and the Autonomy of Reason.” Presentation at the Research
Colloquium of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Grand Valley State
University, February 2018.

“On the Semantic Contribution of Laws of Nature to Empirical Concepts.” Philosophy
Colloquium Presentation, Grand Valley State University, October 2014.

“Remarks on Consciousness.” Participation at the Interdisciplinary Panel on
Consciousness. Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI, April 2013

“Acting as a Member of the Community of Rational Beings. Wilfrid Sellars' Theory of
Moral Judgment and Moral Agency.” Poster Presentation at the Sabbatical Showcase,
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI, April 2012.

“What is Sellars’ Theory of We-Intentions?” Philosophy Colloquium Presentation,
Grand Valley State University, October 2011.

“Sellars’ Theory of We-Intentions as a Theory of Intentions to Collective Action.”
Presented at the 7th Conference on Collective Intentionality, University of Basel,
Switzerland, August 23 – 26, 2010.

“Wilfrid Sellars’ “Kantian” Theory of Moral Judgment.” Invited presentation at the
Centre Marc Bloch (A French-German Centre for Research in the Social Sciences),
Humboldt University Berlin, Germany, June 1, 2010.

“Practice-Based Theories of Meaning.” Philosophy Colloquium Presentation, Grand
Valley State University, November 2008.

“Assertion and the False Belief Test.” Presented at the CLAS Research Colloquium,
GVSU, October 2007.

“Mutual Recognition in the Game of Giving and Asking for Reasons.” Philosophy
Colloquium Presentation, Grand Valley State University,
December 2005.

Commentaries:

Conference “Applied Neo-Pragmatism” at the College of William and Mary,
Williamsburg, VA, September 2018. Invited Official Participant and
Commentator.

Commentary on Greg Lynch's "Radical Interpretation and the Problem of Asymmetry."
Presented at the Meeting of the Central States Philosophical Association, Oklahoma
State University, Tulsa, OK, October 2013.

"Commentary on Matthew Carlson's 'Circularity, Entitlement, and the Use of Principles
of Inference.'" Presented at the Central APA Meeting in Chicago, IL, February 2012.

"Commentary on Mark Criley's 'Cappelen, Content Relativism, and the
'CreativeInterpreter'.'" Presented at the Meeting of the Central States Philosophical
Association, University of Missouri at St. Louis, September 2011.

"Commentary on William Bauer's 'The self-grounding of pure powers'.'" Presented at
the Meeting of the Central States Philosophical Association, Northern Illinois
University, DeKalb, IL, October 2009.

"Commentary on Kelly Drozdon's 'Physicalism and Sparse Ontology'.'" Presented at the
Central APA Meeting in Chicago, IL, April 2008.

"Commentary on Mylan Engel's 'Rethinking Free Will: Why What You Don't Know
Won't Set You Free'.'" Presented at the Meeting of the Illinois Philosophical
Association, Normal, IL, November 2006

"Commentary on James Rissler's 'Does Armstrong Need States of Affairs?'" Presented
at the Illinois Philosophical Association, Loyola University, Chicago, November
2004.

Ph.D. Dissertation:

*Meaning as Use. A Critique and Reconstruction of Robert Brandom's Practice-Based
Account of Semantic Norms.*

Advisers: Michael Williams (Chair), Meredith Williams, Thomas McCarthy.

Teaching Experience:

At Grand Valley State University:

PHI 101 Introduction to Philosophy (38x, last FS 2025)
PHI 102 Ethics (14x, last WS 2025)
PHI 103 Logic (32x, last FS 2024)
PHI 203 Intermediate Logic (7x, last FS 2022)
PHI 300 Philosophy of Human Nature (3x, last WS 2023)
PHI 313 Reason, Experience, Morality at the Dawn of Modernity: Early Modern
Philosophy (1x, WS 2025)
PHI 315 Recent Great Philosophers (5x)
Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* and his *Philosophical Investigations* (WS 2005)
The Philosophy of Wilfrid Sellars (WS 2010)
History of Analytic Philosophy of Language (WS 2018)
American Pragmatism; Classic and Contemporary Readings (WS 2013, FS 2021)
PHI 430 Mind, Matter, Consciousness. Philosophy of Mind. (10x, last FS 2024)

PHI 440 Perception, Hallucination, Trust: Perspectives on Knowledge. (5x, last WS 2015)

PHI 450 Reality, Identity, Change: Metaphysics. (4x, last FS 2025)

PHI 470 Truth, Meaning, Communication: Philosophy of Language. (6x, last WS 2024)

PHI 495 Reality, Knowledge, and Value (Capstone) (1x, WS 2023)

Other:

IDS 105 Mindfulness as a College Success Tool (one-credit; 2x, FS 2022, WS 2025)

PHI 380 Philosophical Writings and Methods (one-credit workshop) (1x, WS 2010)

PHI 399 Teaching Apprenticeship (for philosophy majors; several times, last WS 2024)

At Other Institutions:

University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic (WS 2022)

Seminar: Introduction to Ethics

Graduate Seminar: How We Make Sense of Each Other. (Contemporary readings on mindreading.)

Carleton College (2002-04)

Seminar: Introduction to Logic

Seminar: The Mind-Body Problem

Seminar: History of Modern Philosophy

Seminar: Metaphysics

Seminar: Philosophy of Physics: Space, Time, and Motion

Seminar: Advanced Logic: Computability and Logic

Seminar: Contemporary Theories of Consciousness

Seminar: Sellars' *Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind*, and McDowell's *Mind and World*.

Seminar: The Realism/Antirealism Debate in the Philosophies of Language and Science

University of Illinois at Chicago (2001-02)

Lecture: Symbolic Logic I

Seminar: Intermediate Logic

Seminar: Introduction to the Philosophy of Science

Seminar: Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature*.

Northwestern University (2000-01)

Lecture: Society and the Individual.

Seminar: Epistemology

Center for Talent-Development, Northwestern University (1997 & 1998)

Seminar: Introduction to Western Philosophy

Service:

Academic:

- 2024 Pre-examiner for J. Reinikainen's Ph.D. Thesis *Making Meaning. A Study in Foundational Semantics*. Tampere University, Finland.
- 2023-24 Co-Organizer of workshop *Collective Intentionality, Normativity, and the Space of Reasons: Engaging Wilfrid Sellars*. October 13-15, 2024, Georgetown University in Qatar, Doha.
- 2019-21 Co-Organizer of online workshop *Ethics, Practical Reasoning, Agency. Wilfrid Sellars' Practical Philosophy*, August 11-14, 2021.
- 2019-present Chair of Philosophy Department Curriculum Committee, GVSU.
- 2017-present Faculty adviser to GVSU's Ethics Bowl Team (A registered student organization)

Participant, Ethics Bowl Summer Workshop, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. June 24-26, 2016

Initiated creation of Ethics Bowl Team at GVSU, Fall 2017

Tournament Participations of GVSU Ethics Bowl Team:

Upper-Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. November 16, 2024. (One team)

Upper-Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. November 11, 2023. (Two teams)

Upper-Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. November 12, 2021. (One team)

National Ethics Bowl, held online during the annual meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE), February 27-28, 2021. (One team)

Upper-Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, online. November 2020. (One team)

National Ethics Bowl competition at the annual meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) in Atlanta, GA, February 20-23, 2020. (One team)

Upper-Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, Oakland University, Rochester, MI. November 17, 2018. (Two teams)

Upper-Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL. November 17, 2018. (Two teams)

Central States Regional Ethics Bowl, Marian University,
Indianapolis, IN. November 11, 2017. (Two teams)

Ethics Bowl Judge:

National Ethics Bowl, Chicago IL, March 3&4, 2018

Upper-Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl, Harper College, Chicago, IL.
December 3, 2016

2010-2021 & 2024-2025	Member, Search Committee for Visiting Professors of Philosophy, GVSU.
2009/10 & 2011-14	Member of the CLAS Faculty Development Committee
2004-07	Faculty Liaison to the GVSU Philosophy Club
2004-07	Coordinator GVSU Philosophy Colloquium
2000- present	Blind reviews of article manuscripts for: <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> <i>British Journal for the History of Philosophy</i> <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> <i>Croatian Journal of Philosophy</i> <i>Erkenntnis</i> <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> <i>Journal of the History of Analytic Philosophy</i> <i>Journal of Philosophy</i> <i>Logic and Logical Philosophy</i> <i>Philosophia</i> <i>Philosophical Topics</i> <i>Synthese</i> <i>Theoria</i> Blind reviews of book manuscript for Routledge (3x; 2017, 2018; 2020)

Non-Academic:

2014-2023	Board Member, Fulton Street Flats Condominium. (Chair 2018-2023.)
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Professional Development:

2022	Certificate Phase I Teacher Certification Training. <i>Center for Koru Mindfulness.</i> Koru Teacher Training workshop (July 18-22, 2022)
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- 2020 Certificate in Effective College Instruction from *The Association of College and University Educators* (ACUE) and *The American Council on Education* (ACE)
- (Based on year-long ACUE course on active learning pedagogy, sponsored by the FTLC, GVSU.)
- 2020 Certificate in Developing and Teaching an Online Course from *MAGNA Publications*.
- (Four-unit online course, sponsored by the FTLC, GVSU)

Awards:

- 1999 /2000 Dissertation Year Fellowship, Northwestern University.
1995/1996 Fellowship, Northwestern University.

Professional Affiliations:

American Philosophical Association.
International Social Ontology Society
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics
American Association of University Professors