

DEBORAH PERRON TOLLEFSEN

Graduate School
University of Memphis
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EDUCATION

- 1995 – 2002 Ohio State University
PhD, Philosophy, May 2002
Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science
- 1992 – 1995 University of South Carolina
MA, Philosophy, May 1995
- 1988 – 1992 St. Anselm College
BA, Philosophy, May 1992

APPOINTMENTS

Administrative

- 2022-present Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, University of Memphis
- 2021- 2023 Director, *Technology Serving Humanity Lecture Series*, Fed Ex Institute of
Technology, University of Memphis
- 2019 - 2021 Co-Director, University Process Management Group, University of Memphis
- 2015 – 2021 Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Memphis
- 2008 - 2013 Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Memphis
- 2008 - 2013 Co-Founder & Faculty Advisor, Philosophical Horizons Program, University of
Memphis
- 2005 - 2008 Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Philosophy, University of
Memphis

Academic

2021-2024	Catherine and Charles Freeburg Professor
2012 - Present	Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Memphis
2007 - Present	Institute for Intelligent Systems, Faculty Affiliate, University of Memphis
2007 - Present	Women and Gender Studies Program, Faculty Affiliate, University of Memphis
2008 - 2012	Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Memphis
2002 - 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Memphis

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School (2022-present)

- Plan, direct, and coordinate the operational, personnel, budgetary, and technological activities of the Graduate School.
- Manage the Graduate School budget and oversee the allocation of a \$17.4 million graduate assistantship budget.
- Provide leadership to and oversight of graduate admissions processes, including the implementation and maintenance of CRM.
- Develop, revise, and ensure compliance with academic policy.
- Work collaboratively with the Graduate Council to develop and oversee policies and procedures for graduate education, including curriculum approval.
- Strengthen programs and policies that improve graduate student retention, degree completion, professional opportunities, and overall success.

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2015-2021)

- Chaired the college level curriculum committee, served on the University undergraduate curriculum committee.
- Liaison to the humanities and interdisciplinary academic programs and centers; worked with directors and chairs to develop innovative curriculum and programming.
- Assisted the Dean in data driven approach to budgeting and strategic planning.
- Tracked course enrollment trends and reviewed requests for faculty and instructor positions.
- Ran department chair and director searches.
- Oversaw undergraduate college advising, retention initiatives, and strategies for increasing graduation rates.
- Assisted in review of Tenure and Promotion files.

Co-Director, University Process Management Group (January 2019-January 2021)

- Managed the portfolio of process improvement projects across the University; promoted adherence to best practices and ensures consistency in methodology and overall alignment with university strategy.
- Identified and recommended future process improvement projects to the group with the input of executive leadership.
- Aided in assembling project team members and identified team leads.
- Worked to eliminate project roadblocks within the organization.
- Served as mentor to team leads and team members as they plan and execute projects.
- Throughout the course of projects, identified critical communication points and brought to the group the issues that need to be communicated to the campus.
- Reviewed the scope of projects to ensure that they are achievable and well-defined.

Chair, Department of Philosophy (2008-2013)

- Balanced department budget in a transparent manner
- Scheduled courses and helped faculty revise curriculum
- Responsible for hiring and review of adjunct, instructors, and tenure-track faculty
- Developed department assessment plan for BA, MA, and PhD programs
- Built alumni relations and established faculty development opportunities

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Philosophy (2005-2008)

- Advised 30 graduate students and 5 MA students.
- Revised graduate student guidebook, oversaw curriculum revision.
- Served as member of the College Graduate Curriculum Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School (2022-present), University of Memphis

- Secured the largest single donation in the history of the Graduate School.
- Researched, negotiated, and secured a comprehensive health insurance plan for international and graduate students on campus.
- Successfully argued for and secured graduate assistantship health insurance subsidies.
- Established a Graduate Academic Advising Network.
- Established a Graduate Recruitment and Enrollment Advisory Board.
- Established Graduate School Alumni Advisory Board.
- Oversaw the launch of a new customer relations management system (CRM) which provides the graduate application and all communication to students across the admission funnel, through matriculation and graduation.
- Developed and implemented a new strategic plan for the graduate school.
- Developed and revised several academic policies to increase transparency, efficiency, and student success.

- Managed historic growth in international graduate student enrollment by working collaboratively with graduate departments, recruiters, and providing guidance for the Center for International Education Services.

Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (2015-2021), University of Memphis

- Managed college level implementation of new catalog and curriculum software.
- Secured donor funding for a summer research fellowship for faculty in the humanities.
- Collaborated with faculty to develop new curriculum, including several new degree programs and interdisciplinary certificates.
- Secured two joint positions to support interdisciplinary programs.
- Responsible for policy development and revision; including a Faculty Remote Work Policy and a Chair Term Policy which was subsequently adopted by the University.
- Oversaw or assisted in several faculty development initiatives, including an NEH workshop (2018), a Teaching Workshop (2017), and Book Publishing Workshop (2016).
- Chaired eight successful search committees for department chairs and interdisciplinary program directors.
- Led an adjunct faculty pay study that resulted in a standardization of adjunct pay across the University and raises for adjuncts.
- Served on College of Arts and Sciences Success Team and revised transfer credit policy for general education courses.

Chair, Department of Philosophy (2008-2013), University of Memphis

- Developed department assessment plan for BA, MA, and PhD programs.
- Developed a nationally ranked online BA program which generated new revenue for the department.
- Developed outreach program, *Philosophical Horizons*, which brought philosophy to K-12 schools in Memphis.
- Received Tennessee Board of Regents Access and Diversity Grant, \$93,500 to support *Philosophical Horizons*.
- Received an American Philosophical Association grant (\$10,000) to support recruitment of underrepresented students in philosophy.
- Successfully recruited and hired five faculty, including the Moss Chair of Excellence

G R A N T S

NSF Grant, Co-PI, with Leah Windsor, Alistair Windsor, Shaun Gallagher, Miriam Van Mersbergen, 2021 Multimodal Signaling and Communication Analysis of World Leaders, (\$450,000).

Templeton Foundation Subgrant, Honesty Project, (PI) 2021 (\$79,000)

University of Memphis, Discovery Grant, Jason Braasch (PI) and Chrysanthe Preza, 2018 (\$20,000)

NSF Grant, Co-PI, with Rick Dale (PI), Roger Kreuz and Andrew Olney, 2008– 2012 (\$673, 079)

American Philosophical Association Grant, PI, 2009 (\$4,500)

Tennessee Board of Regents, Access and Diversity Grant, PI, 2008–2011 (\$93,500)

Marsden Fast-Start Grant, Royal Society of New Zealand, with Sondra Bacharach (PI), 2007–2010 (\$70,000 NZ)

Faculty Research Grant, University of Memphis, Summer 2005 (\$5,000)

NSF Travel Grant, November 2004 (\$500)

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Catherine and Charles Freeburg Professorship, University of Memphis 2021

Course Redesign Fellowship, University of Memphis, 2009

Participant, NEH Summer Institute on Consciousness, Santa Cruz, CA, 2002

Cognitive Science Summer Fellowship, Ohio State University, Summer 2001

Departmental Dissertation Fellowship, Ohio State University, Spring 2001

Professional Development Grant, Ohio State University, Fall 2000

Departmental Summer Fellowship, Ohio State University, Summer 1998

RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization:

Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Social Ontology

Areas of Competence:

Philosophy of Language, History of 20th Century Analytic Philosophy, Action Theory

RECENT PUBLICATIONS (for a complete list see academic CV)

Books:

Groups as Agents, Polity Press, 2015

Journal Articles: (refereed unless otherwise noted)

Kronsted C., Gallagher S., Tollefsen D., Windsor L. 2023. An enactivist account of the dynamics of lying. *Adaptive Behavior*. doi:[10.1177/10597123231166421](https://doi.org/10.1177/10597123231166421)

Kessler, E.D., Braasch, J.L.G., Tollefsen, D., & Preza, C., (2021). Creation of an Inventory Assessing Epistemic Beliefs about the Construction of Knowledge in Team Science Contexts. In E. de Vries, J. Ahn, & Y. Hod (Eds.), 15th International Conference of the Learning Sciences – ICLS 2021 (pp. 869–870).

Ransom, T.G., Dale, R., Kreuz, R.J. Tollefsen, D. T. 2019 How do different types of alignment affect perceived entity status? *Journal of Psycholinguist Research*, 48 (5), 961-985.

Tollefsen, D. & Gallagher, S. 2017. Advancing the “we” through narrative. Special Issue, *Topoi*, 1-9.

Tollefsen, D. & Gallagher, S. 2017. We-narratives and the stability and depth of shared agency. *The Journal of the Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, 47 (2):95-110.

Burroughs, M.D & Tollefsen, D. 2016. Learning to listen: Epistemic injustice and the child. *Episteme* 13 (3):359-377.

Bacharach, S. & Tollefsen, D. 2015. You complete me: posthumous works and secondary agency. *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, 49 (4):71-86.

Bacharach, S. & Tollefsen, D. 2015. Co-authorship, multiple authorship, and posthumous authorship: a reply to Hick. *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, vol 73, issue 3, 331-334.

Tollefsen, D., Kreuz, R. & Dale, R. 2014. Flavors of togetherness: experimental philosophy and theories of joint action. In J. Knobe & S. Nichols (Eds.) *Oxford Studies in Experimental Philosophy*, Oxford University Press: UK, pp. 232-252.

Tollefsen, D., Dale, R. & Paxton, A. 2013. Alignment, transactive memory, and collective cognitive systems. *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*. 4 (1): 49–64.

Tollefsen D., Dale, R. & Olsen, L. 2013. The devil’s in the details: mental institutions and proper engagement. In Merritt, M. & Varga, S. (Eds.) *Cognitive Systems Research*, 25–26; pp. 35–39.

Dale, R., Tollefsen, D. & Kello, D.P. 2012. An integrative planning approach to phenomenal consciousness. In S. Edelman, T. Fokete & N. Zach (Eds), *Being in Time: Dynamical Models of the Phenomenal Experience*, 231–258. Amsterdam: John Benjamin.

Tollefsen, D., Dale, R. 2012. Naturalizing joint action: a process-based approach. *Philosophical Psychology*, 25 (3): 385–407.

Book Chapters:

Tollefsen, D. 2019. Can groups assert that p? In *Oxford Handbook of Assertion*. Edited by Sanford Goldberg. Tollefsen, D. 2017. Epistemic reactive attitudes. *American Philosophical Quarterly* 54 (4): 353-366.

Palermos, O & Tollefsen, D. 2018. Group know-how. *Socially Extended Epistemology*, Carter, J. A., Clark, A., Kallestrup, J., Palermos, S. O, Pritchard, D. (eds.), Oxford University Press.

Tollefsen, D. & Dale, R. Joint action and Ecognition. 2018. *Oxford Handbook of Cognition*:

Embedded, Embodied, Extended, Enactive, edited by S. Gallagher and Albert Newen.

Tollefsen, D. 2017. Collective intentionality and methodology. Routledge Handbook on Collective Intentionality, edited by Marija Jankovic and Kirk Ludwig, pp. 389-401.

Tollefsen, D. 2017. French on innocence lost. Reflections on Responsibility and Ethics: Essays in Honor of Peter A. French, edited by Zachary Goldberg. Springer, pp. 135-144.

Tollefsen, D. 2014. Social Ontology. In N. Cartwright and E. Montuschi (Eds.) Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Oxford University Press, pp. 85-101.

Tollefsen, D. 2014. A dynamic theory of shared intention. In S. Chant, F. Hindricks & G. Preyer (Eds.) From Individual to Collective Intentionality: New Essays, Oxford University Press: US, pp. 13-33.

For information on recent talks and conference presentations, teaching experience, dissertation advising, please see full CV, available upon request.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFERENCES

Dr. Abby Parrill-Baker
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Dr. Remy Debes
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ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Dr. John Greco, Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University
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Dr. David Henderson, Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska
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Dr. Miranda Fricker, Professor of Philosophy, Professor of Philosophy, NYU
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