

Russell Powell

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EDUCATION

PhD. Philosophy, Duke University (2009)
M.S. Evolutionary Biology, Duke University (2009)
J.D., *with honors*, New York University Law School (2002)
B.A. Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, SUNY Binghamton (1999)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Science
Philosophical Bioethics / Philosophy of Biotechnology / Ethics and Political Philosophy

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Boston University, Department of Philosophy and Center for Philosophy of Science (since July 2011)
Assistant Professor

Oxford University, Faculty of Philosophy (2009-2011)
Arts and Humanities Research Council Fellow, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics
James Martin Research Fellow, Institute for Science and Ethics, Oxford Martin School
Research Associate, Corpus Christi College

Johns Hopkins University, Berman Institute of Bioethics (2008-2009)
Greenwall Postdoctoral Fellow

Georgetown University, Department of Philosophy / Kennedy Institute of Ethics (2008-2009)
Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Senior Research Scholar, respectively

FELLOWSHIPS / GRANTS / HONORS

Visiting Research Fellow, Center for Genetic Engineering and Society, N.C. State University (2014)
National Humanities Center Fellow (2013): “Genetic Engineering and the Future of Humanity”
American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (2013)
John Templeton Foundation, Principal Investigator, Grant (\$140,000): “The Meanings of Convergent Evolution: Why Conscious Species are Common but Technological Species are Rare” (2014)
Boston University Center for the Humanities Fellowship (2013) (declined for NHC/ACLS fellowships)
Visiting Fellow, Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research, Vienna (2012)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey (Summer 2012)
American Council of Learned Societies New Faculty Fellow (2011) (declined for tenure-track job)
James B. Duke Fellow, Duke University Society of Fellow (2004-2008)
Phi Beta Kappa, SUNY Binghamton Chapter (1999)

JOURNAL APPOINTMENTS

Journal of Medical Ethics, *Associate Editor*, British Medical Journal Group (2011-present)

ARTICLES

Buchanan, A. and R. Powell (forthcoming), “The Limits of Evolutionary Explanations of Morality and Their Implications for Moral Progress” *Ethics*

- Powell, R. (forthcoming.), "In Genes We Trust: Genetic Engineering, Eugenics and the Future of the Human Genome," *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*
- Powell, R. and N. Shea (forthcoming), "Homology Across Inheritance Systems," *Biology and Philosophy*
- Powell, R. (forthcoming), "Adopting a Technological Stance Toward the Living World: Promises, Pitfalls and Perils," in *Philosophical Perspectives on the Role of Technology in Science*, S.O. Hansson (ed.), Springer.
- Douglas, T., R. Powell, and J. Savulescu (2013), "Is the Creation of Artificial Life Morally Significant?" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsc.2013.05.016>
- Holm, S. and R. Powell (2013), "Organism, Machine, Artifact: The Conceptual and Normative Challenges of Synthetic Biology," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sci.* 44(4): 627-631.
- Powell, R. and S. Clarke (2013). "Religion and Intolerance: Scientific and Political Perspectives" in S. Clarke, R. Powell, and J. Savulescu, (eds.), *Scientific Investigations of Religious Conflict*, Oxford University Press.
- Powell, R. and S. Clarke (2012), "Religion as an Evolutionary Byproduct: A Critique of the Standard Model," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 63(3): 457-486 (editor's choice).
- Powell, R. (2012), "The Evolutionary Biological Implications of Human Genetic Engineering," *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 37(3): 204-226.
- Powell, R. (2012), "The Future of Human Evolution," *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 63: 145-175.
- Powell, R. (2012), "Convergent Evolution and the Limits of Natural Selection," *European Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 2(3): 355-373.
- Powell, R., G. Kahane and J. Savulescu (2012), "Evolution, Genetic Engineering and Human Enhancement," *Philosophy & Technology* 25(4): 439-458.
- Powell, R., S. Clarke and J. Savulescu (2012). "Prioritizing the Reduction of Parasite-Stress in the Allocation of Healthcare Resources," *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 35(2): 90-1.
- Powell, R. (2012), "Human Nature and Respect for the Evolutionarily Given" *Philosophy & Technology* 25(4): 485-493.
- Powell, R. and A. Buchanan (2011), "Breaking Evolution's Chains: The Prospect of Deliberate Genetic Modification in Humans," *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 36(1): 6-27. Re-printed in U.S. Presidential Commission for Bioethics, Briefing Booklet 2011.
- Powell, R. (2011), "On the Nature of Species and the Moral Significance of their Extinction," in *Oxford Handbook on Animal Ethics*, T.L. Beauchamp and R.J. Frey (eds.), Oxford University Press.
- Powell, R. (2010), "What's the harm? An Evolutionary Theoretical Critique of the Precautionary Principle," *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 20(2): 181-206.
- Douglas, T., R. Powell. K. Devolder et al. (2010), "Resisting Sparrow's Sexy *Reductio*: Selection Principles and the Social Good," *American Journal of Bioethics* 10(7): 16-19.
- Powell, R. (2009), "Contingency and Convergence in Macroevolution," *Journal of Philosophy* 106(7): 390-404.
- Powell, R. and A. Buchanan (2009), "Fidelity to Constitutional Democracy and to Robust International Law," in *Routledge Handbook of International Law*, D. Armstrong (ed.), Routledge.
- Buchanan, A. and R. Powell (2008), "Constitutional Democracy and the Rule of International Law: Are They Compatible?" *Journal of Political Philosophy* 16(3): 326-349.
- Powell, R. (2007), "Is Convergence More than an Analogy? Homoplasy and its Implications for Macroevolutionary Predictability," *Biology and Philosophy*, vol. 22: 565-578.
- Powell, R. (2007), "The Law and Philosophy of Preventive War: An Institution-Based Approach to Collective Self-Defense," *Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy* 32: 67-89

BOOKS

Clarke, S., R. Powell and J. Savulescu (eds.), *Scientific and Conceptual Investigations of Religious Conflict*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2013) (Amazon.com top 70,000).

Powell, R. (in preparation), *Genetic Engineering and the Future of Humanity: A Philosophical Exploration of the Biotechnology Revolution*

JOURNALS EDITED

Powell, R. (main editor), G. Kahane and J. Savulescu (co-eds.) (2012), "Evolution, Genetic Engineering and Human Enhancement," *Philosophy & Technology*

Powell, R. and S. Holm (forth.), "Organism, Machine and Artefact: The Conceptual and Normative Challenges of Synthetic Biology," *Studies in Hist. and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*

EDITORIALS / BOOK REVIEWS

Powell, R and Buchanan, A. (forth.). "Evolution, Evoconservatism, and the Future of Human Morality." *Aeon*

Powell, R. (forth.). "The Philosophy of Human Evolution: Contemporary Debates in Historical Context." *Metascience*

Powell, R. (forthcoming). "Is Preventive Suicide a Rational Response to a Presymptomatic Diagnosis of Dementia?" *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Powell, R. (2013). "The Biomedical Enhancement of Moral Status." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 39(2): 65-66.

Savulescu, J. and Powell, R. (2013). "Cloning the Woolly Mammoth: The Ethics." *The Conversation*

Powell, R. (forth.). "Limited Forms Most Beautiful: A Review of *Convergent Evolution* by George McGhee"

Powell, R. (2012), "Beyond the Blueprint: Genetic Exceptionalism and Enhancement." *Philosophy Now* 91.

Powell, R. (2012). "Governmental Coercion in the Name of Health." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 38(6): 325-326.

Powell, R. (2010), "Nanoethics: Big Ethical Issues with Small Technology," *Notre Dame Phil. Reviews*

EDITORIAL AND ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Philosophy and Technology, Executive Editor, 2012 – Present

BioSYNergy Project, Academic Advisory Board, University of Copenhagen, DK, 2013 – Present

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING

Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, Collaborative Research Grant Program (2012)

Nuffield Council on Bioethics, U.K. (2011): Synthetic Biology

U.S. President's Commission on Bioethics (2010): Synthetic Biology (w/ Allen Buchanan)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, NY

Attorney, Complex Mass Torts and Class Action Product Liability Litigation, 2001-2004

Awards: *Pro Bono Publico Service Award*, 2002-2003 (immigration asylum)

The Legal Aid Society New York, NY: *Student Attorney Practitioner*, Aug. 2001-May 2002

Animal Legal Defense Fund, *Law Professional Volunteer*, 2002-2004

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- *Philosophy of Biomedical Science* (Duke University, 2014)
- *Healthcare Ethics– Graduate Level* (Boston University, 2012/2013)
- *Philosophy of the New Biosciences* (Boston University, 2012)

- *Philosophy of Biology – Graduate Level* (Boston University, 2012)
- *Applied Philosophy* (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Summer 2012)
- *Biomedical Ethics* (Boston University, 2011)
- *Bioethics* (Oxford University, Ethox Centre, Department of Public Health, 2011)
- *Philosophy of Science* (Oxford University, Lectures, co-taught w/ Prof. Simon Saunders 2010)
- *Ethical Theory* (Oxford University, New College, Tutorial 2010)
- *Practical Ethics* (Oxford University, St Anne’s College, Tutorial 2010)
- *Philosophy of Biology - Graduate Level* (Georgetown University, Fall 2008, Spring 2009)
- *Philosophy of Environmental Science* (Georgetown University, Spring 2009)
- *The Ethics of War and International Affairs* (Duke University, mixed Grad/UG Seminar Spring 2008)
- *Genomics, Ethics and Public Policy* (Duke University, Fall 2007)
- *Biomedical Ethics* (Duke University, Summer 2007)
- *Philosophical Problems in Constitutional Law* (Duke University, Spring 2006)
- *Ethics and Public Policy* (w/ Allen Buchanan as primary instructor, Duke University, Fall 2006)

REFeree

Biology and Philosophy, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, American Journal of Bioethics, Mind, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, Erkenntnis, Philosophy Compass, Philosophy & Technology, Journal of Medical Ethics, Wellcome Trust Foundation, MIT Press, National Humanities Center

DISSERTATION

Reading the Book of Life: Contingency and Convergence in Macroevolution (2009)
 {Supervisors: Alex Rosenberg / Robert Brandon; Committee: Dan McShea, Karen Neander}

Abstract. Biologists have long debated whether the shape of complex life represents the fluky culmination of an eminently unrepeatable series of contingencies, or whether there is a greater necessity to life’s grand parade of forms. Gould believed that replaying the tape of life would result in a radically different macroevolutionary outcome—a morphological menagerie bearing little resemblance to complex life as we know it. Others have argued that the evolution of animal life is highly replicable because it is significantly constrained by physical and biological laws. In this thesis, I analyze several key theoretical concepts in this debate, especially the notion of contingency as it functions in macroevolutionary theory, and I explore methodological hurdles confronting the empirical resolution of this controversy.

EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY MASTERS THESIS

Extinction and Reiteration in the History of Life: A Macroevolutionary Dialectic (2009)
 {Supervisor: V. Louise Roth}

Abstract. In this thesis, I examine the macroevolutionary dialectic between the extinction of biological forms on the one hand, and their evolutionary reiteration on the other, especially the iterated evolution of robust image-forming sensory modalities including vision, echolocation, and electrolocation.

LAW SCHOOL THESIS

Science and Law in the Construction of Human Races (2002), Supervisor: F. Michael Higginbotham

Abstract. In this thesis I explore the interaction between racist law and flawed science in perpetuating the American racial caste system in the Antebellum and post-Civil War South.

CONFERENCES / TALKS

- ❖ *Convergence as Natural Experiment: The Tape of Life Reconsidered*, University of Cambridge, 2014
- ❖ *Major Problems in Major Evolutionary Transitions*, Duke University, 2014

- ❖ *The Ethics of Artificial Life*, North Carolina State University, 2014
- ❖ *Inclusivist Morality as Evolutionary Anomaly*, University of Arizona, 2014
- ❖ *The Evolution of Morality and its Implications for Evoconservatism*, Duke University, 2013
- ❖ *The Limits of Evolutionary Explanations of Morality*, Boston Colloquium in Philosophy of Science, 2013
- ❖ *The Future of Human Nature*, George Washington University / Loyola University Chicago, 2013
- ❖ *Evolutionary/Ethical Implication of Germline Modification*, AAP New Zealand, APA Pacific, 2012
- ❖ *Is the Creation of Artificial Life Morally Significant?* CAPPE, Univ. of Melbourne, Australia, 2012
- ❖ *Biological Evolution in a Technological Species*, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2012
- ❖ *Human Evolution: Past, Present, Future*, Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution Research, Vienna, 2012
- ❖ *Biological Evolution in a Technological Species*, Boston Philosophy of Science Colloquium, 2011
- ❖ *The Ethics of Human Germ-Line Modification*, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey, August 2011
- ❖ *The Ethics of Human Germ-Line Modification*, New York University, January 2011
- ❖ *In Genes We Trust*, Boston University, January 2011
- ❖ Organizer: *Organism and Machine: The Conceptual and Normative Challenges of Synthetic Biology*, University of Copenhagen, 2011 (w/ Sune Holm)
- ❖ *A Future Without Genetic Engineering: Medicine, Evolution and the Preservation of Human Good*, James Martin Advanced Research Seminar, Oxford University, 2010
- ❖ *The Ethics of Synthetic Biology: A Comprehensive Approach* (w/ Allen Buchanan), material presented by Buchanan at the meeting of the U.S. Presidential Commission for Bioethics, 2010
- ❖ *Genetic Engineering and Human Variation*, Consortium for the Ethics of Emerging Technologies, Oxford University, 2010
- ❖ *Adaptationism and the Limits of Natural Selection*, Altenberg Symposium in Theoretical Biology, Konrad Lorenz Institute for Evolution and Cognition Research, University of Vienna, 2010
- ❖ *Is Religion an Adaptation or a Byproduct?* University of Edinburgh, International conference on Science and Religion, 2010 (European Society for the Study of Science and Theology).
- ❖ Organizer: *Scientific Perspectives on Religious Conflict*, University of Oxford, 2010 (with Steve Clarke)
- ❖ *Is Extinction Really Forever? Convergent Evolution and the Limits of Natural Selection*, Darwin Day Speaker, Department of Evolution, Ecology and Behavior, Georgetown University (2009)
- ❖ *What's the Harm? A Skeptical Assessment of the Precautionary Principle*, Georgetown Univ. Conference on the Ethics of Emerging Biotechnologies, 2008
- ❖ *Precaution and Genetic Modification*, Johns Hopkins University, Berman Inst. of Bioethics, 2008
- ❖ *Contingency in Macroevolution*, Rutgers Univ. Philosophy Dept. Colloquium (2008)
- ❖ *Reading the Book of Life*, Florida State Univ. Department of Philosophy (2008)
- ❖ *This Gouldian View of Life*, University of Kansas, Philosophy Colloquium (2008)
- ❖ *Faculty Advisory Committee*, Provost Lecture Series: *Science & Human Nature* (2007-2008)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE: Admissions Committee, Accelerated Medical Program (2012-present); Adviser, Debate Society (2012-present); First-Year Student Outreach Program, Animal Ethics Module (2012).

LANGUAGES: Proficient in written and spoken Korean; French; Learning Turkish

HOBBIES: Fossil hunting, snorkeling, wildlife photography, aquariums, hiking, sports that involve balls