

Philip R. Olson

CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Science and Technology in Society
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy Emory University, Atlanta, GA	2007
M.A., Philosophy (with distinction) Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA	1997
B.A., Philosophy Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN	1993

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor Department of Science and Technology in Society Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA	2012 – Present
Affiliate: Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (ASPECT) PhD program, Virginia Tech (Fall 2005 – Present)	2005 – Present
Visiting Assistant Professor Philosophy Department and Department of Religion and Culture (joint appointment) Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA	2007 – 2012
Instructor Philosophy Department Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA	2005 – 2007

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I work at the intersections of applied ethics, technology studies, medical humanities, women's and gender studies, and social epistemology. My current research focuses on funeral technologies, and on relationships between the medicalized body and the funeralized corpse. I look to the dead human body and funeral technologies as research sites for studying technology ethics, the roles of technology in the formation of expertise and authority over the human body, and the ways in which knowledge and value shape one another through the development and use of technological systems. My work also addresses the bio- and environmental ethics of corpse disposal, practical ontologies of the corpse, and gender and labor in death care. My work in applied technology ethics extends also to a funded research project dealing with ethical issues surrounding the incorporation of drones into US civilian airspace.

HONORS and AWARDS

- 2015 International Initiative Small Grant (\$750.00) awarded by the Dean's Advisory Committee on International Initiatives, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech
- 2009 Finalist: Arete Initiative's "A New Science of Virtues" grant competition, The University of Chicago. Of 700 submitted proposals, 40 finalists were chosen. Our research team's proposal was not among the 20 selected for funding.
- 2001 & 1998 Summer Research Fellowship, Howard and Edna Hong Kierkegaard Library, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN
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SPONSORED RESEARCH

- 2016 International Travel Supplemental Grant. Non-competitive grant awarded by the Associate Vice President for Research Programs, and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (\$1,500)
- 2015 CPSVP Studies and Violence Travel Grant (\$2,750) awarded by the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech

- 2014 Airing Concerns: A Data-Driven Approach to Autonomous Vehicle Technology Ethics. Competitive grant awarded by the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, and the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment, Virginia Tech (\$40,000)
- 2014 International Travel Supplemental Grant. Non-competitive grant awarded by the Associate Vice President for Research Programs, and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (\$1,500)
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PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

- Olson, Philip R. 2016. "Domesticating Deathcare: The Women of the U.S. Natural Deathcare Movement." *Journal of Medical Humanities* (accepted and forthcoming 2016)
- Olson, Philip R. 2016. "Knowing Necro-Waste." *Social Epistemology* 30/3 (May): 326-345.
- Olson, Philip R. 2014. "Flush and Bone: Funeralizing Alkaline Hydrolysis in the US." *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 39/5 (September): 666-693.
- Olson, Philip and Laura Gillman. 2013. "Combatting Racialized and Gendered Habits of Ignorance: Toward a Transactional Pedagogy of Friendship." *Feminist Formations* 25/1 (Spring): 59-83.
- Olson, Philip R. 2012. "Putting Knowledge in its Place: Virtue, Value and the Internalism/Externalism Debate." *Philosophical Studies* 159/2 (June): 241-261.
- Axtell, Guy and Philip Olson. 2012. "Recent Work in Applied Virtue Ethics." *American Philosophical Quarterly* 49/3 (July): 183-203.
- Axtell, Guy and Philip Olson. 2009. "Three Independent Factors in Epistemology." *Contemporary Pragmatism* 6/2 (December): 89-109.

Book Chapters

- Olson, Philip. 2015. "Epistemic Burdens and the Value of Ignorance." In *The Future of Social Epistemology: A Collective Vision*, edited by James Collier. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield: pp. 107-116.

Olson, Philip. 2016. "Custody of the Corpse: Controlling Alkaline Hydrolysis in US Deathcare Markets." In *Death in a Consumer Culture*, edited by Susan Dobscha. New York:Routledge: pp. 75-88.

Review Articles

Snarey, John and Philip Olson. 2003. "Pragmatism's Founding Brothers." *Journal of Moral Education* 32/1: 91-95.

Reply Articles

Olson, Philip. 2013. "Knowing 'Necro-Waste': A Reply to Hird." *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 2/7: 59-63.

Olson, Philip. 2016. "Refining and Extending Necro-Waste." *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 5/8: 5-9.

Book Reviews

Olson, Philip. 2009. "A Pragmatist Philosophy of Democracy by Robert B. Talisse," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 47/4: 631-633.

Olson, Philip. 2008. "Inquiry and Education: John Dewey and the Quest for Democracy by James Scott Johnston," *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 22/3: 227-229.

Olson, Philip. 2002. "Wittgenstein and William James by Russell B. Goodman," *Journal of Moral Education* 32/4: 441-444.

Public Scholarship Publications

Olson, Philip and Millie Smith. "Why Home Death Care Matters." *Roanoke Times*, Commentary Column (February 28, 2016)

Olson, Philip. "Flush and Bone: The Future of Alkaline Hydrolysis in Virginia." *Roanoke Times*, Commentary Column (November 11, 2012)

PUBLIC RESEARCH OUTPUTS (Selection)

I Delivered a "Pecha Kucha" presentation on the topic of green burial to local residents as part of the Town of Blacksburg's 10th annual Sustainability week (September 22, 2016).

In December 2015 I was contacted by Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky, a member of the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and

Standards to provide the committee with information regarding alternative mortuary practices, including alkaline hydrolysis, green burial, Promession technologies. Rabbi Kalmanofsky's committee sets halakhic policy for the Jewish Conservative movement as a whole.

In 2016 I was elected to the national board of directors of the Funeral Consumers Alliance, in recognition of my public scholarship and outreach related to deathcare practices and funeral consumer advocacy.

Olson, Philip. 2014. "Dying Green," a public film screening of the documentary film "Dying Green," followed by audience question and answer session, sponsored by Virginia Tech. Warm Hearth Village, Blacksburg, VA, August 26.

Olson, Philip in collaboration with Courtney Stewart of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge (FCAVBR). 2014. "Green Burial," a presentation about green burial and funeral options, followed by question and answer session. Unitarian Universalist Church, Blacksburg, VA, May 4.

Olson, Philip and Samuel Perry, Dr. Billy Campbell M.D., Josh Slocum, and Isabel Berney. 2014. "Dying Green," a public film screening of the documentary film "Dying Green," followed by a panel discussion involving national experts about green burial and conservation burial grounds, sponsored by Virginia Tech. The Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg, VA, March 20.

Olson, Philip in collaboration with Courtney Stewart of the FCAVBR. 2013. "Going Out Green: Eco-friendly Choices," a presentation to the Sierra Club of the New River Valley about eco-friendly funeral and burial options. Lucie Monroe's Coffee, Christiansburg, VA, August 21.

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

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| 2016 | My research into alkaline hydrolysis, the home funeral movement, and green burial was featured in a Health & Medicine article in <i>The Virginian-Pilot</i> : "For people worried about carbon footprint, green burial options provide an alternative resting place" (June 8). |
| 2016 | Interviewed for <i>Roanoke Times</i> article, "Bill's aim isn't to kill home funerals." (February 23). |
| 2015 | My research into alkaline hydrolysis is referenced by the |

popular, online do-it-yourself legal resource, NOLO, as the go-to resource for additional information on the alkaline hydrolysis process and the controversies surrounding it.

- 2015 My research into alkaline hydrolysis was cited in the science and technology blog/e-magazine, *Gizmodo*, which is distributed internationally in the US, Japan, Australia, India, and elsewhere (April 10, 2015)
- 2014 My research and funeral work experiences were featured in an article published in *The Atlantic*, "How to Be Eco-Friendly When You're Dead" (October 30)
- 2014 My work with green funeral and burial technologies was regularly featured in Virginia Tech's Invent the Future radio campaign (March through September)
- 2014 Interviewed by Robbie Harris (WVTF radio) about green burial and the *Dying Green* event I organized for March 2014 (interview aired March 18)
- 2014 Interviewed by Velvet Hall (WFIR radio) for a radio spot about green burial and the *Dying Green* event (interview aired March 10)
- 2014 Interviewed by Deanne Estrada (VT Public Relations) for a press release article about the *Dying Green* event (press release appeared March 3)

SELECT RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PREPARATION

I am currently working on a book project focusing on death care labor, expertise, and technology in the US. This project critically examines the women-led "home funeral" movement, its relationship to the home birth movement, and its relationship to the technification, professionalization, and masculinization of death care throughout the twentieth century.

I am co-authoring an article concerning the incorporation of UAS (drone) technologies into U.S. civilian and commercial airspace. This project originated through my activity as co-principle investigator on an interdisciplinary research grant (2014-2015) funded by Virginia Tech's Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE) and VT's Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Sciences (ICTAS).

CONFERENCES and PRESENTATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- "Domesticating Deathcare," Society for Social Studies of Science Conference, Barcelona, Spain (August 31 – September 3, 2016)
- "The Social Distribution of Epistemic Burdens," Society for Social Studies of Science Conference, Denver, CO (November 11-14, 2015)
- "The Emotional Politics of UAS Technologies" (with Christine Labuski) Reconfiguring Global Space: the Geography, Politics, and Ethics of Drone War, Indiana University Bloomington, Bloomington, IN (July 14-17, 2015)
- "Custody of the Corpse: Controlling Alkaline Hydrolysis in the US," Society for Social Studies of Science Conference/ESOCITE, Buenos Aires, Argentina (August 21, 2014). This paper was part of a conference session that I proposed, titled "Corpses, Technologies, and Cultures."
- "Care of the Corpse: Women and Technology in the 'Dismal Trade'," Gender, Bodies, and Technology Conference, Blacksburg, VA (May 3, 2014).
- "Flush and Bone: The Social Construction of Alkaline Hydrolysis in the US," Society for the History of Technology, Portland, ME (October 12, 2013).
- "Alkaline Hydrolysis and the Environmental Ethics of Corpse Disposal," 2013 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY (August 13, 2013).
- "Flush and Bone: Alkaline Hydrolysis and the Changing Politics of Human Remains," New School for Social Research Sociology Conference, New York, New York (April 6, 2013).
- "Putting Knowledge in its Place," North Carolina Philosophical Society, Boone, North Carolina (February 25th – 26th 2011)
- "Assessing the Effectiveness of Virtue Education in Crime Prevention," A New Science of Virtues Symposium a project of the University of Chicago, held in Chicago, Illinois (January 28th-30th 2010)
- "Three Independent Factors in Epistemology" (co-presented with Guy

Axtell, Radford University), Epistemic Goodness, an international conference held at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma (March 12th-14th 2009)

"Dewey's Virtues," presented at the 2007 meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina (March 8th-10th, 2007)

"Virtue in Inquiry," presented at the 2007 Atlantic Coast Pragmatism Meeting, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA (March 31st and April 1st 2007)

"The Reflexivity of Hume's Perceptions," The Georgia Continental Philosophy Circle, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, GA (February 2005)

Invited Talks

"'Basic' Cremation: White Bones, Black Boxes, and Alkaline Hydrolysis," an invited paper delivered as part of "Disputing the Deathcare Paradigm: Challenges to the Regulation of the Funeral Industry and the American Way of Death," a policy workshop held at Wake Forest Law School (February 23-24, 2017).

"A Corpse Divided: undertaking products, refuse, and resources," an invited presentation delivered as part of the Economic & Social Research Council seminar series, 'Encountering Corpses', Center for Death and Society at the University of Bath, UK (May 27, 2016).

Invited Speaker, Technological Bodies, Between Physiological and Psychological Boundaries, for the NYU Washington DC Workshop, "Bodies and Boundaries," Washington, DC (April 3, 2015)

"Thinking Outside the Box: New Technologies for the Wholesome Dead," a public lecture for the Columbia University Seminar on Death, New York, NY (March 11, 2015)

Departmental Service Presentations

"Democratizing Deathcare," Seminar Series, Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA (September 11, 2015).

"Thinking Outside the Box: New Technologies for the Formerly Living" for the Virginia Tech Department of Science and Technology in Society (National Capital Region site), as part of the Mentoring Workshop Series, Falls Church, VA (January 25, 2013)

"Do Virtues Explain Anything?" for the Philosophy Department at Virginia Tech (October 28, 2011)

"From Escape to Engagement: How to Be an Applied Philosopher," for the Department of Science and Technology in Society at Virginia Tech (February 18, 2011)

"Putting Knowledge in its Place," an public lecture through the Philosophy Department at Virginia Tech (May 1, 2009)

"The Virtues of Flourishing Rational Agents," presented as part of the Virginia Tech Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought's Working Paper's Series (October 2007)

Other Conference Participation

Organizer, closed session panel, "Technologies at the Frontiers of Death," Society for Social Studies of Science annual conference, Barcelona, Spain (August 31 – Sept 3, 2016).

Organizer and Chair, open panel session, "Corpses, Technologies, and Cultures," Society for Social Studies of Science annual conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina (August 21, 2014).

Invitee, 39th Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy (Epistemology): a by-invitation colloquium held in Oberlin, Ohio (May 7th – 9th 2010).

Chair, 'Papers on the Conception and Epistemology of Feminism,' Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Charlotte, North Carolina (March 11th – 13th 2010)

Chair, Open Graduate Session: Virtue Epistemology Conference, University of Stirling, Stirling, UK (November 2004)

"The Virtues of Reason," short presentation given at the Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon (July 2004)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Courses

Introduction to STS: Virginia Tech, STS

A mandatory, core course in our curriculum. This course offers an

overview of the field of STS and various subfields within STS, while examining key questions and concerns within STS.

The Fate of the Body in Technological Society: Virginia Tech, STS

An interdisciplinary graduate seminar devoted to the study of the dead human body as an object of scientific inquiry, as a political instrument, a sacred object or symbol, a profane entity, a source of nutrients, a logistical program, an industrial material, a commodity, a type of solid waste, etc. We examine technologies of the corpse and their uses, formations of expertise, relationships between medical and mortuary sciences, social infrastructure, and the technification of the human body.

Issues in Bioethics: Virginia Tech, STS

A graduate seminar examining ethical issues arising in basic and applied biology, medical, environmental, ecological, and energy studies. We study the origins and development of ethical issues related to scientific practice (e.g., the care and treatment of animals, human experimentation, plagiarism, falsification of data, etc.), public policy, and the impact of scientific research on both the human and non-human world

Feminist Epistemology: Virginia Tech, ASPECT

An interdisciplinary graduate seminar co-taught with Laura Gillman (Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies, Virginia Tech), examining feminist engagements with a variety of epistemological approaches, traditions, and theoretical disputes, including standpoint epistemology, postmodernism, virtue epistemology, epistemic justice, naturalized epistemology and epistemic psychology, social and institutional epistemology

American Pragmatism: Virginia Tech, Philosophy

Graduate seminar on the varieties of pragmatism advanced by C. S. Peirce, William James, John Dewey, and Richard Rorty, with special attention to pragmatism's engagements with science—especially biology and psychology

Neoliberalism and Society: Virginia Tech, ASPECT

An interdisciplinary graduate seminar co-taught with three other faculty representing the departments of Religious Studies, Political Science, and History at Virginia Tech. This course examines the global scope of the social, political, ethical, and cultural genealogy, implications, and social consequences of neoliberalism

Virtue Epistemology: Virginia Tech, Philosophy

Graduate seminar offering a close examination of the rise and development of virtue-theoretic approaches to epistemology, including close discussion of the ways in which “virtue epistemologists” respond to standard epistemological questions or endeavor to redefine the central questions of epistemology

Mixed Graduate & Undergraduate Courses

Epistemology: Virginia Tech, Philosophy

An advanced, upper level course devoted to the study of major topics and approaches within contemporary epistemology, including the analysis of knowledge, justification, skepticism, epistemic rationality, epistemic virtue and value, evidentialism, contextualism, relativism, formal epistemology, and social epistemology

Undergraduate Courses

Medical Dilemmas: Virginia Tech, STS

This course examines the roles of medicine in a life well lived, asking when and how medicine makes our lives better, and when and how medicine fails to do what it ought to do. In this course we look at the ways particular people have experienced medicine in their lives. That is to say, we will consider narratives and case studies that call us to think about our encounters with medicine, and to reflect upon what we (individually and collectively) want and don't want from medicine, its institutions, and its practitioners.

Death, Technology, and Culture: Virginia Tech, STS

Course examining the history of the funeral industry in the US; contemporary funeral trends; relationships between medical science/practice and mortuary science/practice; uses of various technologies in the disposition of human remains (embalming, cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, etc.); as well as religious, cultural, public health, regulatory, environmental, and labor issues related to funerary customs and practices.

Ethical Theory: Virginia Tech, Philosophy

Upper level course offering close analysis of some influential ethical theories (principally utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, and Aristotelian virtue ethics), as well as close study of some contemporary developments, criticisms, and applications of those theories to moral problems

Philosophy of Religion: Virginia Tech, Philosophy

Upper level course exploring matters pertaining to psychology of religion, religious experience, faith and reason, religion and ethics, and

religion and society

Knowledge and Reality: Virginia Tech, Philosophy

Introductory course on metaphysics, truth, knowledge, human nature, freedom, and scientific practice from Plato through John Dewey

Morality and Justice: Virginia Tech, Philosophy (large lecture)

Introductory course on the history of ethics, ethical theory, normative ethics, and applied ethics, including discussion of medical ethics, animal rights, and business ethics

The Classical Age: Virginia Tech, Department of Religion and Culture

Introduction to ancient Greek history, culture, politics, theater, art, and philosophy from the Minoan civilization through the beginning of the Hellenistic age

War and Peace: Virginia Tech, Department of Religion and Culture

Co-instructor (with Grace Kao, formerly of Department of Religion and Culture, Virginia Tech) of an upper level course examining the perspectives of Christians, Jews, Muslims, and just war theorists on the ethics of war (jus ad bellum, jus in bello, jus post bellum), pacifism, and terrorism

Independent Studies

I have conducted two graduate level independent studies (2015, 2016) and two undergraduate level independent studies (2014, 2016)

Invited Pedagogical Lectures

Guest lecture on the disposition of human remains, STS, Virginia Tech (invited by Dr. Ashley Shew-Heflin): Spring 2015

Guest lecture on virtue epistemology and epistemic value, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Radford University, Radford, VA (invited by Dr. Guy Axtell): Spring 2011

Guest lecture on "the problem of evil," Department of Religion and Culture, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA (invited by Dr. Benjamin Sax and Dr. Matthew Gabriele): Fall 2010

Guest lecture on "the problem of free will," Department of Theology and Philosophy, Barry University, Miami, FL (invited by the Department of Theology and Philosophy): Spring 2010

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Editorial Reviewer for MIT Press, Cambridge, MA (2016)

Editorial Reviewer for *Consumption Markets & Culture*, Oxfordshire, UK (2016)

Editorial Reviewer for Routledge, London, UK (2015)

Editorial Reviewer for *Mind*, York, UK (2014)

Editorial Reviewer for *Philosophical Studies*, Dordrecht, Germany (2014)

Editorial Reviewer for *Teaching Philosophy*, Charlottesville, VA (2011) (2012) (2014)

Manuscript Reviewer for Oxford University Press, New York, New York (2012)

Editorial Reviewer for *Philosophical Papers*, Grahamstown, South Africa (2012) (2006)

Editorial Reviewer for *Journal of Philosophical Research*, Charlottesville, VA (2012) (2011)

Editorial Reviewer for *Social Epistemology*, London, UK (2009)

GRADUATE ADVISING

Dissertations and Theses (Completed)

Ph.D. committee member for Bryn Whiteley, "Diamonds: Cultural Representations and Transformations of a 'Girl's Best Friend'," Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, completed April 20, 2016.

M.S. committee member for Kuan-Hung Lo [non-thesis option], Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, completed December 1, 2015.

M.S. committee member for Steven Morton [non-thesis option], Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, completed April 16, 2015.

M.S. committee member for Bryn Whiteley [non-thesis option],

Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, completed March 2014.

M.S. committee member for Joshua Penrod [non-thesis option], Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, completed August 2015.

M.A. thesis committee member, Jessica Wright, "Implications of a Universal Healthcare System in the United States: Why individual health is now of national concern," Philosophy Department, Virginia Tech, completed April 10, 2014.

M.A. thesis committee member, Michael Zarella, "Contextual Knowledge Ascriptions and Non-Contextual Knowledge," Philosophy Department, Virginia Tech, defended December 4, 2013.

M.A. thesis committee member for Matthew Schuler's thesis, "The Problem of Evil as the Problem of Pain," Philosophy Department, Virginia Tech, defended May 6, 2010 [*winner of the 2010 Virginia Tech Preston Society M.A. Thesis Award*]

Dissertations and Theses (In progress)

CHAIR

Ph.D. dissertation committee chair for Steven Morton [space medicine], Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech (Spring 2015—present)

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ph.D. dissertation committee member for Caroline Alphin [necropolitics in science fiction], APECT, Virginia Tech (Spring 2016—present)

Ph.D. dissertation committee member for Merc Fox, Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech (Fall 2014—present)

Ph.D. dissertation committee member for Kuan-Hung Lo, Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech (Spring 2015—present)

Advisor and M.S. committee member for Anita Mbogoni, Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech (Fall 2015 — present).

Advisor and M.S. committee member for Pratama Yudha Pradheksa, Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech (Fall 2015 — present).

Advisor and M.S. committee member for Andrew Pomeroy, Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech (Spring 2016 – present).

Advisor and M.S. committee member for Annie Patrick, Department of Science and Technology in Society, Virginia Tech (Spring 2016 – present).

SERVICE

Departmental Service

STS Seminar Series organizer, Virginia Tech (Summer 2014–Spring 2015)

STS Seminar Series co-organizer, Virginia Tech (Summer 2013–Spring 2014; Summer 2015–Spring 2016)

Choices and Challenges organizing committee, STS: Virginia Tech (June 2013– December 2013)

Admissions Committee, STS, Virginia Tech (2012, 2013, 2015, 2016)

Teaching Committee, Philosophy Department, Virginia Tech (Fall 2008 – Spring 2010)

College Service

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Scholarship Application Reviewer, Virginia Tech (Spring 2016)

University Service

STS Representative, Virginia Tech Faculty Senate (Fall 2016–present)

Service to the Profession

STS Grant Reviewer, National Science Foundation (Spring 2016)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Social Studies of Science	2012-present
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Society for the History of Technology	2012-2014
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American Philosophical Association

2002-2012

COMMUNITY SERVICE/OUTREACH

Member: Board of Directors, national Funeral Consumers Alliance
<funerals.org>; Elected to 3 year term through nationwide election
(2016)

Green Burial Consultant: invited to participate in a 'green burial ground'
planning group, for the development of a conservation burial ground in
the New River Valley (2016)

Deathcare Consultant, The Rabbinical Assembly, Committee on Jewish
Law and Standards (2015)

Member, Board of Trustees/Directors, Funeral Consumers Alliance of the
Virginia Blue Ridge (2013-present)
<<http://www.funerals.org/affiliates/fcavbr/>>

Sustaining Member, Funeral Consumers Alliance (2012-present)
<funerals.org>

Organizer, Dying Green film screening and panel discussion, Virginia Tech
(March 20, 2014): a free public event discussing green burial
<<http://www.sts.vt.edu/dyinggreen/>>

REFERENCES

Dr. John Troyer, Senior Lecturer and Director of the Centre for Death and
Society, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath,
UK

Dr. Saul Halfon, Associate Professor, Department of Science and
Technology in Society, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Dr. Joseph Pitt, Professor, Philosophy Department, Virginia Tech,
Blacksburg, VA

Dr. Walter Ott, Associate Professor, Corcoran Department of Philosophy,
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Dr. Mark Risjord, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; Professor, Philosophy Department and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Michael Sullivan, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Laura Gillman, Professor, Department of Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA