

## **Liz Stillwaggon Swan PhD | Teaching Assistant Professor**

Faculty-in-Residence, Environment & Natural Sciences Residential Academic Program  
Program for Writing & Rhetoric, University of Colorado Boulder  
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### **Education**

PhD Philosophy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC  
MA Philosophy, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA  
BA Psychology, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD

### **Teaching Experience**

**Technical Communication & Design.** PWR, University of Colorado Boulder, spring 2024  
**Writing on Science & Society.** PWR, University of Colorado Boulder, fall 2023  
**Crime, Ethics, and Justice.** CE, University of Colorado Boulder, summer 2023  
**First Year Writing & Rhetoric.** PWR, University of Colorado Boulder, since 2019  
**Written Communication in the Sciences.** EBIO, University of Colorado Boulder, 2016-2018  
**Philosophy and Forensic Science.** Honors RAP, University of Colorado Boulder, 2016  
**Consciousness.** Mercyhurst University, Erie, PA, Winter and Spring 2014  
**Studies in Scientific Controversy.** Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, 2011  
**Language, Logic, and Persuasion.** Metropolitan State College of Denver, 2010  
**Mind and the Natural World.** University of Colorado, Denver, 2009  
**History and Philosophy of Science.** University of South Carolina, 2008  
**Engineering Ethics.** University of South Carolina, 2008  
**Mind and Morality.** Center for Inquiry Transnational, Amherst, NY, 2007  
**Introduction to Philosophy.** Mercyhurst University, 2013-2014; University of Colorado, Boulder, 2010; University of Colorado-Denver, 2009; University of South Carolina, 2003-2005  
**Contemporary Moral Issues.** University of South Carolina (TA), 2004; Ft. Jackson campus, 2005  
**Introduction to Symbolic Logic.** University of South Carolina and Ft. Jackson campuses, 2004  
**Critical Thinking.** Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa, California, 2002-2003

### **Awards**

Marinus Smith award winner, New Student & Family Programs, University of Colorado Boulder  
\$1,500 National Human Genome Research Institute stipend for Barry Smith's International Conference on Biomedical Ontology, Buffalo, NY, 2009  
\$1,500 Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz, Germany: Future Research Directions 2009  
\$1,000 Best Ontological Paper, Eighth European Conference on Artificial Life, 2005  
\$100 University of South Carolina Greener Award Overall Achievement in Graduate Studies, 2005  
\$250 Best Paper, Walker Institute Graduate Student Colloquium Series, USC, 2004

## Publications

### Books

- Swan, L.S. (Ed.). (book proposal in progress). *Where is the Mind Going? How the new AI will impact the mind sciences*. Springer.
- Swan, L.S. (Ed.). (2016). Chinese translation of *Origins of Mind*. China Science Publishing and Language Rights: Chinese Simplified. [originally published by Dordrecht, Springer in 2013].
- Swan, L.S. (Ed.). (2013). *Origins of Mind*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- Swan, L.S., Gordon, R., and Seckbach, J. (Eds.). (2012). *Origin(s) of Design in Nature: A Fresh, Interdisciplinary Look at How Design Emerges in Complex Systems, Especially Life*. Dordrecht: Springer.
- Swan, L.S. (Ed.). (2011). *Yoga—Philosophy for Everyone: Bending Mind and Body*. Boston: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Shook, J.R., and Swan, L.S. (Eds.). (2009). *Transformers and Philosophy: More Than Meets the Mind*. Illinois: Carus Publishing.

### Peer-reviewed articles

- Swan, L.S. (in progress). The Death Dump: How to prevent a toxic afterlife.
- Swan, L.S. (2014). Forensic Science, Karl Popper, and Nested Codes. *Biosemiotics*, 7(2), 309-319.
- Swan, L.S. (2013). Deep Naturalism: Patterns in Art and Mind. *The Journal of Mind and Behavior*, 34(2), 105-120.
- Swan, L.S. and Winters, A.M. (Eds.). (2013). Special Issue of *Biosemiotics* on Origins of Mind, 6(3).
- Winters, A., and Swan, L.S. (2013). Does Inquiry Preempt Representation? A Reply to Teed Rockwell's "Representation and Radical Empiricism," *Intellectica*, 2(60), 245-250.
- Swan, L.S., and Howard, J. (2012). Digital Immortality: Self or 01001001? *International Journal of Machine Consciousness*, 4(1), 245-256.
- Goldberg, L.J., and Swan, L.S. (2011). A Biosemiotic Analysis of Braille. *Biosemiotics*, 4(1), 25-38.
- Swan, L.S., Goldberg, L.J. (2010). How Is Meaning Grounded in the Organism? *Biosemiotics*, 3(2), 131-146.
- Swan, L.S., and Goldberg, L.J. (2010). Biosymbols: Symbols in Life and Mind. *Biosemiotics*, 3(1), 17-31.
- Swan, L.S. (2009). Synthesizing Insight: Artificial Life as Thought Experimentation in Biology. *Biology and Philosophy*, 24(5), 687-701.
- Swan, L.S. (2005). Toward Genuine Continuity of Life and Mind. *Proceedings of the Eighth European Conference on Artificial Life*. Springer-Verlag, 47-56.

### Book Reviews

- Swan, L.S. (2022). A Review of *Connecting Hearts and Minds: Insights, Skills, and Best Practices for Dealing with Differences*. *The Journal of Mind and Behavior*. 43(1), 79-83.
- Swan, L.S. (2022) A Review of *The Hero Handbook*, *Heroism Science*, 7(1), 1.
- Swan, L.S. (2011). Signs Pointing in a New Direction: A Biosemiotic Framework for Bilingualistics. Review of *Essential Readings in Biosemiotics: Anthology and Commentary*. Favareau, D. *Biolinguistics* 5(4), 366-369.
- Swan, L.S. (2010). Review of *The Brain and the Meaning of Life*. *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, 25(3), 297-299.

- Swan, L.S. (Aug/Sept 2010). Review of Philosophy through Science Fiction: A Coursebook with Readings. Nichols, R., Smith, N., and Miller, F. (Eds.). *Philosophy Now*, 80, 41.
- Swan, L.S. (Jul/Aug 2010). Dialoguing on a Philosophical Divide. Review of Divine Action and Natural Selection: Science, Faith, and Evolution. Seckbach, J., and Gordon, R. (Eds.). *Skeptical Inquirer*, 60-61.
- Swan, L.S. (2009). Review of Philosophy of Science: A Historical Anthology. McGrew, T., Alspector-Kelly, M., and Allhoff, F. (Eds.). *Philosophy of Science*, 77(1), 141–143.
- Swan, L.S. (2005). Review of Neither Brain nor Ghost: A Nondualist Alternative to the Mind-Brain Identity Theory. Rockwell, W.T. *Philosophy of Science*, 73(1), 131-33.

### Essays and other writings

- Swan, L.S. (currently, since 2017). *Psychology Today* blog: “The Philosopher Is In: prescriptions for sanity in an insane world.”
- Swan, L.S. (currently, since 2016). *Psychology Today* blog: “College Confidential: welcome to your very own safe space.”
- Swan, L.S. (2023). Resilience and Leadership. *SAGE Encyclopedia of Leadership Studies*. Goethals, G.R., Allison, S.T., and Sorenson, G.J. (Eds).
- Swan, L.S. (April 2018). Yoga is not an Extreme Sport: the argument against fast-paced classes. *Elephant Journal*.
- Swan, L.S. (June 14, 2016). “So, You Think You Want a Tenure-Track Job?” *Vitae (Chronicle of Higher Education)*.
- Swan, L.S., Goldberg, L. (Mar. 2015). Are Social Media Making Us Stupid? (8-9). *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine*.
- Swan, L.S., Barnhizer, S. (Jan. 2015). Social Skills? There’s an App for That (97-98). *IEEE Consumer Electronics Magazine*.
- Swan, L.S. (2014). What the Devil is on TV Tonight?! *The Devil and Philosophy*. Illinois: Carus Publishing.
- Swan, L.S. (2012). Scholarship. In Favareau, D., Cobley, P., and Kull, K. (Eds.), *A More Developed Sign: Interpreting the Work of Jesper Hoffmeyer* (p.231-233). Tartu: Tartu University Press.
- Swan, L.S. (2012). Masters of a Better Possible Reality: Conquering Evil with Love. In Irwin, William (Ed.). *Black Sabbath and Philosophy*. Boston: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Swan, L.S. (2011). Galileo’s Falling Bodies; Karl Popper’s Demarcation Argument; Hilary Putnam’s No Miracles Argument; Thomas Kuhn’s Incommensurability Argument (co-authored with Michael Bruce) in *Just the Arguments: 100 of the Most Important Arguments in Western Philosophy*. Boston: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Swan, L.S. (2011). A Heart and Mind United. In Bowman, D., and Berti, J. (Eds.). *Rush and Philosophy: Heart and Mind United*. Illinois: Carus Publishing.
- Swan, L.S. (Aug.23, 2010). Message in a Bottle: Sending Out an (Academic) S.O.S., *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Swan, L.S. (Nov/Dec 2009). Animal Lab. *Philosophy Now*, 76, 52-54.
- Swan, L.S. (Winter/Spring 2006). How Does Artificial Life Inform the Mind-Body Problem? *Artificial Intelligence and the Simulation of Behavior Quarterly*, 123, 8.

## Invited Talks

- Commentator on two papers on Henry David Thoreau at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy convention, March 10, 2023.
- *Fordham Philosophy Department Job Placement Seminar*, in Zoom, Oct 18, 2021.
- A philosopher talks about the music of Rush, *Something for Nothing Rush* podcast, Apr 13, 2020.
- Interviewed for Kelsey Yandura's article, "In Defense of the Finsta: how my secret Instagram saved my sanity," published in *Rewire*, Feb 28, 2019.
- Interviewed for Derek Bowman's *Free Range Philosophers* project, Nov 2, 2017.
- Guest speaker, *Biota's Artificial Life* podcast with Tom Barbalet, Oct 21, 2014.
- *Forensic Science, Karl Popper, and Nested Codes*. Pacific APA meeting, San Diego, Apr 2014; First International Conference in Code Biology, Paris, France, May 2014.
- Interviewed for Alexander Hayes' PhD Dissertation (University of Wollongong), "The Socioethical Implications of Body Worn Computers: An Ethnographic Study," Jun 30, 2013.
- *Origins of Mind*. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Feb 2013.
- *Meaning-making in Organisms*. Distributed Language Group, First International Conference on Interactivity, Language and Cognition, University of Southern Denmark, Sept 2012.
- *Deep Naturalism: Patterns in Art and Mind*. University of Central Florida, Aug 2012.
- *The Search for Meaning in Biosymbols and Computer Codes*. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Gatherings in Biosemiotics, New York City, NY, Jun 2011.
- Commentator on three papers, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Mar 2011.
- *What is Required for a Natural History of Mind?* Oregon State Center for the Humanities, Oct 2010.
- *Eight Limbs or Four? Yoga and Philosophy*. UC Denver Philosophy Club, Apr 2010.
- *Biosymbols: Symbols in Life and Mind*. Richard Gordon's online Embryo Physics course, Nov 2010; University of Colorado, Denver Philosophy Dept Colloquium Series, Sept 2009.
- *Why Do We Have Feelings?* Zukunftscolleg of the University of Konstanz, Germany, Jul 2009.
- *A Structure and Process Account of Consciousness*. Naturalism Workshop, Center for Inquiry-NY; Metaphysics of Mind conference, University of Missouri, Mar 2009.
- *How Meaning Gets Grounded in the Organism*. Minds, Brains, and Experience, University of Colorado, Denver, Apr 2008.
- *Deep Naturalism: Patterned Complexity in Mind and Behavior*. Center for Inquiry, Dec 2007.
- *Methodological Continuity in Cognitive Science*. Cognitive Science Colloquium, State University of New York at Buffalo, Oct 2007.
- *From Patterns to Pollock: Being in the World*. Toward a Science of Consciousness, Tucson, AZ, Apr 2006; Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy and the North Carolina Philosophy Society, Columbia, SC, Mar 2006.
- *Toward Genuine Continuity of Life and Mind*. 8th European Conference on Artificial Life, Canterbury, England, Sept 2005.
- *How Do Computer Simulations Uniquely Mimic Real-World Systems?* South Carolina Society for Philosophy Meeting, Greenville, SC, Mar 2005.
- *Broadening the Scope of Thought Experiments: Artificial Life as Thought Experimentation in Biology*. Thought Experiments Rethought, University of Ghent, Belgium, Sept 2004.
- *An Account of How Mathematical Concepts Give Us Knowledge about the World*. University of South Carolina Philosophy Department Colloquium, Apr 2004.

## Academic Appointments

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO**, Boulder, CO (2010; 2016-currently)

Teaching Assistant Professor: Program for Writing & Rhetoric, promoted in 2023

Lecturer: Program for Writing & Rhetoric; Stories & Societies Residential Academic Program (currently); Honors Residential Academic Program (2016); Boulder Evening Program (2010)

Writing Consultant: Drafted a proposal for the new Center for the Study of Origins (2016)

**MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY**, Erie, PA (2013-2014)

Regionally ranked, private, liberal arts college

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Taught three courses each semester; advised students; conducted independent research.

**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**, Corvallis, OR (2010-2011)

Horning Postdoctoral Fellow in History and Philosophy of Science

Taught Scientific Controversies: 67% rated the instructor as excellent; 33% as very good.

**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER**, Denver, CO (2010)

Affiliate Professor, Philosophy Department

Taught one section of Language, Logic and Persuasion.

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO**, Denver, CO (2009-2010)

Instructor, Philosophy Department

Taught two sections of Introduction to Philosophy; one section of Mind and the Natural World.

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO**, Buffalo, NY (2008-2009)

Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Developed neurobiological accounts of life-mind continuity; meaning; symbolic communication.

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**, Columbia, SC (2003-2008)

Doctoral Student, Philosophy Department (Philosophy of Science; Cognitive Science; A.I./A-Life)

Taught a variety of courses; presented research at regional, national, and international conferences.

Assistant Editor, *Philosophy of Science* journal (2004-2007); under Michael Dickson, Editor-in-Chief.

**SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE**, Santa Rosa, CA (2002-2003)

Instructor, Philosophy Department

Taught six sections of Critical Thinking.

## References

**Eric Stade**, PhD, Professor of Mathematics, University of Colorado Boulder, and former Director of the Stories and Societies RAP, [stade@colorado.edu](mailto:stade@colorado.edu), (303) 492-0298.

**Stephanie Renfrow**, MA, Assistant Teaching Professor (of Writing) for EBIO, University of Colorado Boulder, [stephanie.renfrow@colorado.edu](mailto:stephanie.renfrow@colorado.edu); (303) 859-1201.

**Seth Myers**, PhD, Associate Teaching Professor, Program for Writing & Rhetoric, University of Colorado Boulder; former PWR mentor; [seth.myers@colorado.edu](mailto:seth.myers@colorado.edu).

**Maya Stephens**, CU Boulder doctoral student in Linguistic Anthropology and former EBIO student of mine, [maya.stephens@colorado.edu](mailto:maya.stephens@colorado.edu); (720) 290-1596.

**Candice Shelby**, PhD, Philosophy Professor; University of Colorado Denver, [candice.shelby@ucdenver.edu](mailto:candice.shelby@ucdenver.edu); (303) 968-0832.

**Louis J. Goldberg**, PhD, DDS, Professor Emeritus, State University of New York at Buffalo; Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics & Life Sciences. Buffalo, NY 14214; [goldberg@buffalo.edu](mailto:goldberg@buffalo.edu); (716) 566-0545.