

Ryan Nichols • ryantatenichols.com

Professor, Department of Philosophy, CSUF

Research Associate, Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition & Culture, UBC

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| Employment | 2013- | Research Associate, Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition and Culture, U. of British Columbia |
| | 2005- | Philosophy, California State University |
| | 2002-04 | Philosophy, Lecturer, University of Aberdeen |
| Fellowships | 2017-20 | Academic Cross-Training Fellowship, John Templeton Foundation |
| | 2012-13 | Research Fellow, Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition and Culture, U. of British Columbia |
| | 2010-11 | Research Fellow, Center for Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame |
| | 2005-06 2000-01 | Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellow, Center for Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame |
| Education | 2002 | Ph.D., Philosophy, The Ohio State University |
| | 1990-95 | B.A., Philosophy & Religion, Illinois Wesleyan University |
| | 1993-94 | Diploma, Chinese Language & History, University of Durham, United Kingdom |

Specializations

Classical Chinese Philosophy
Text Analytics
Eighteenth-century Scottish Philosophy
Empirical & Experimental Philosophy

Competence

Cultural Transmission
Psychology & Philosophy of Religion
Cultural Evolution
Science of Religion and Morality

Books

3. Nichols, R., & de Cruz, H. (Eds.). (2015). *Advances in Religion, Cognitive Science, and Experimental Philosophy*. New York: Bloomsbury.
2. Nichols, R., Miller, F., & Smith, N. (2009). *Philosophy through science fiction*. New York: Routledge Press.
1. Nichols, R. (2007). *Thomas Reid's theory of perception*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Articles *All peer reviewed except for **

29. Nichols, R., Nielbo K., Slingerland, E., Bergeton, U., Logan C., & S. Kleinman. (2016). Modeling the contested relationship between Analects, Mencius, and Xunzi: Preliminary evidence from a Machine-Learning Approach. Forthcoming in *Journal of Asian Studies*.

28. Slingerland, E., Nichols, R., Nielbo, K. & C. Logan. The Distant Reading of Religious Texts: A “Big Data” Approach to Mind-Body Concepts in Early China. Forthcoming in

Journal of the American Academy of Religion.

27. Nichols, R. (2015). Early Confucianism is a system for social-functional influence and probably does not represent a normative ethical theory. *Dao* 14, 499-520. DOI: 10.1007/s11712-015-9464-8
26. Nichols, R. (2015). Civilizing humans with shame: How early Confucians altered inherited evolutionary norms through cultural programming to increase social harmony. *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 15, 254-284. DOI: 10.1163/15685373-12342150
25. Nichols, R. (2015). Hypothesis-testing of the Humanities: The hard and soft humanities as two emerging cultures. *Southwest Philosophy Review* 31, 1-19. DOI: 10.5840/swphilreview20153111
24. Nichols, R. (2014) 孝道——一种自然主义的解释. *Studies in Philosophy of Science and Technology* 31 (5), 98-106.
23. Nichols, R., & Yaffe, G. (2014, September 23). Thomas Reid. In *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Rev.ed.). Retrieved from <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/reid/>.
22. Nichols, R., Lynn, J., & Purzycki, B. G. (2014). Toward a science of science fiction: Applying quantitative methods to genre individuation. *Scientific Study of Literature* 4, 25-45. DOI: 10.1075/ssol.4.1.02nic
21. Nichols, R. (2014). Re-evaluating the effects of the 1755 Lisbon earthquake on eighteenth-century minds: How cognitive science of religion improves intellectual history with hypothesis testing methods. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 82, 1-40. DOI: 10.1093/jaarel/lfu033
20. Wright, J., & Nichols, R. (2014). The social cost of atheism: How perceived religiosity influences moral appraisal. *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 14, 115–137. DOI: 10.1163/15685373-12342112
19. Nichols, R. (2013). The origins and effects of Confucian filial piety: How culture was made to solve an evolutionary problem for parents. *Journal of Cognition and Culture* 13: 201-230. DOI: 10.1353/pew.2011.0057
18. Draper, P., & Nichols, R. (2013). Diagnosing cognitive biases in philosophy of religion. *The Monist* 96, 422-448. DOI: 10.5840/monist201396319
17. Nichols, R., & Callergård, R. (2011). Thomas Reid on Reidian religious belief forming faculties. *The Modern Schoolman* 88, 329-347. DOI:10.5840/schoolman2011883/418
16. Nichols, R. (2011). A genealogy of Early Confucian moral psychology. *Philosophy East & West* 61(4), 609-629. DOI: 10.1353/pew.2011.0057
15. Nichols, R. (2011). The problem of disbelief in the gods for the cooperation enhancement account of supernatural punishment theory: A comment on Murray and Schloss. *Religion, Brain and Behavior* 1, 85-87. DOI: 10.1080/2153599X.2011.558712

14. Yaffe, G., & R. Nichols. (2009). Thomas Reid. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Stable URL: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/reid/>.
- *13. Nichols, R. (2010). Thomas Reid. *The Routledge Companion to Epistemology* (pp. 717-729). Sven Berneker, ed. London: Routledge.
- *12. Nichols, R. (2009). Confucius, justice and evolution. In K.J. Clark (Ed.), *On Happiness (Xing Fu De Ao Mi) 《幸福的奥秘》* (2009) (pp.1-15). (Zheng Zhiyong (郑志勇), Trans.). Beijing: Shi Jie Zhi Shi Chu Ban She.
- *11. Nichols, R. (2009). Thomas Reid. In N. Trakakis & G. Oppy (Eds.), *The History of Western Philosophy of Religion* (Vol. 3, pp. 235-248). Durham, UK: Acumen Publishing.
10. Nichols, R. (2007). Natural philosophy and its limits in the Scottish Enlightenment. *The Monist* 90, 233-250. DOI: 10.5840/monist200790215
9. Nichols, R. (2006). Why is the history of philosophy worth our study? *Metaphilosophy* 37, 34-52. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9973.2006.00411.x
8. Nichols, R. (2004). Moral motivation and Christian theism. *Faith and Philosophy* 21, 175-194. DOI: 10.5840/faithphil20042123
7. Nichols, R. (2003). Reid's inheritance from Locke, and how he overcomes it. *Journal for the History of Philosophy* 41, 471-492. DOI: 10.1353/hph.2003.0062
6. Nichols, R. (2003). Scientific content, testability, and the vacuity of Intelligent Design Theory. *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 77: 589-609. DOI: 10.5840/acpq200377433
5. Nichols, R. (2002). Learning and conceptual content in Reid's theory of perception. *The British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 10, 49-79. DOI: 10.1080/09608788.2002.10383080
4. Nichols, R. (2002). Visible figure and Reid's theory of visual perception. *Hume Studies* 28, 49-82. DOI: 10.1353/hms.2011.0196
3. Nichols, R. (2003). Reid on fictional objects and the way of ideas. In S. Read (Ed.), *The Philosophy of Thomas Reid*. Malden, MA: Blackwell. (Reprinted from *The Philosophical Quarterly* 52, pp. 582-601, 2002) DOI: 10.1111/1467-9213.0028
2. Nichols, R. (1999). Space, individuation and the identity of indiscernibles: Leibniz's triumph over Strawson. *Studia Leibnitiana* 31(2), 181-195. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40694512>
1. Nichols, R. (1999). Actions, their effects, and preventable evil. *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 46, 127-145. DOI: 10.1023/A:1003886616457

Awards and Grants

24. Academic Cross-Training Fellowship, The John Templeton Foundation, \$217,400, for three-years of retraining in statistics, psychology, and biological anthropology, Fall 2017-Spring 2020.
23. Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition and Culture, University of British Columbia, Funding to host 'Developing Virtue, East & West' conference, \$5000, Summer 2014.
22. Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition and Culture, University of British Columbia, course buyouts to continue work begun 2012-2013, \$6250, Summer 2014.
21. Religion and Moral Development: Contemporary & Historical Perspectives, Work Package 6 of Templeton World Charities Foundation, 'The Chinese Challenge,' for experiments with human subjects in China and the U.S. on cross-cultural differences in religious and moral cognition, and for quantitative textual research on a corpus of ancient Chinese texts, \$83,000, July 2011-June 2014.
20. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences, California State University at Fullerton, supplemental funding in support of the grant described in #19, \$36,000, August 2012-May 2013.
19. Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition and Culture, University of British Columbia, research fellowship on the first year of the five-year 'The Evolution of Religion' project, for research on cultural evolution and religion in historical China, \$45,000 CAD, August 2012-May 2013.
18. John Templeton Foundation Grant, administered by Oxford University's Centre for Anthropology and Mind, for Cognitive Science of Religion experiments on Chinese religious belief and ancestor veneration, \$17,200; supplemental award from Cal State Fullerton Summer Research grant, \$5000, August 2011-August 2013.
17. Research Fellowship at Center for Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame, for work on Early Modern Philosophy of Religion, full year research salary, August 2010-May 2011.
16. Dean's Office, Humanities and Social Sciences, International Travel Award, for travel to seminar on Confucianism, run by Beijing Foreign Studies University, in Qufu, Shandong, \$1000, July 2011.
15. Intramural Research Award, Office of Grants and Contracts, CSUF, for 'Philosophical Arguments and Cognitive Resistance: A Set of Experiments in Philosophy of Religion' project, \$3000, Summer 2010.
14. China Exchange Travel Grant, from Associate Vice President's Office, for travel with official CSUF delegation to Fudan University, Shanghai, \$1000, February 2010.
13. John Templeton Foundation Grant, administered by Oxford University's Centre for Anthropology and Mind, for Cognitive Science of Religion research on Divine Intentionality and Divine Morality, £23,399 (= \$37,630), September 2009-August 2010.

12. International Travel Grant, Faculty Development Center, Cal State Fullerton, \$1000, October 2007.
11. John Templeton Foundation Foreign Teaching Grant, \$3000, administered through the 'Advancing Scholarship on Science and Religion in Chinese Philosophy and Religious Studies' program, Kelly Clark, director, March 2008.
10. College of the Humanities & Social Sciences, CSUF, \$6250, course-release grant for writing grants, Spring 2007.
9. Earhart Foundation Grant, \$17,000, awarded by the Board of Directors, February 2006-July 2006.
8. National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, \$24,000, September 2005-February 2006.
7. Kristeller-Popkin Travel Fellowship, \$2000, awarded by the Board of Directors of the *Journal for the History of Philosophy*, March 2005.
6. Graduate Student Travel Prize, Central Division of the APA, \$250, April 2002.
5. Visiting Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, Center for Philosophy of Religion, Professor Alvin Plantinga, director, \$15,000, Academic year 2000-2001.
4. Graduate Student Travel Prize, Pacific Division of the APA, \$300, March 2001
3. Graduate Student Travel Prize, Eastern Division of the APA, \$250, December 1999.
2. The Ohio State University International Travel Dissertation Research Grant, used for research on Thomas Reid's papers in the Birkwood Special Collection Library, University of Aberdeen, \$1800, June 1998.
1. Lois C. Browns Scholarship for Study in the United Kingdom, used for study at the University of Durham, England, \$4000, 1993-1994.