

## Kathleen Wallace

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### Expertise & Interests

- Metaphysics/Personal Identity
- Ethics, Bioethics, Ethics & Sustainability
- American Philosophy

## About My Research

Philosophy aims for truth, sometimes using methods similar to those of science, but also by engaging in thought experiments, conceptual modeling and formal, logical analysis. Metaphysics -- the study of how & what things are -- and Ethics -- how things ought to be & how I ought to act -- are distinct areas of philosophy. I have published work in general metaphysics, and on the metaphysics of persons. In studying persons, my work has centered on concepts that also have ethical and practical import, such as my work on anonymity, and now on sustainability. In my work on Hume, I showed the systematic unity of his treatment of metaphysical & epistemological issues *and* moral issues. In my current work, I argue that the study of persons requires both metaphysical and ethical or practical considerations. My work also bridges several historical and methodological traditions in 20th century philosophy, classical American pragmatists, analytic metaphysics and feminism.



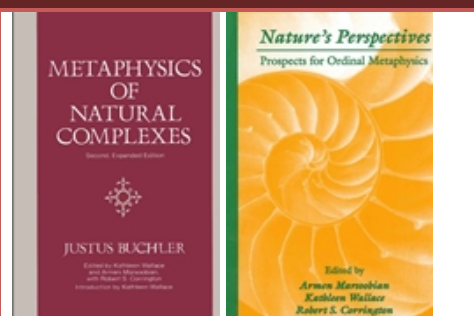
### • Relational Selves and Practical Identity •

I bring together insights from several philosophical traditions to develop a relational model of the person and its implications for practical issues. It is a work in metaphysics and in ethics. I develop a theory that is metaphysically true to the facts and to people's self-descriptions of their identity (e.g, as sister, daughter, student, friend, NY resident, physicist, Latina) *and* provides a practical account of selves as ethical and responsible agents. It explores

- 1) how relations shape the identity of the self;
- 2) how even with changing relations the self is the same self over time;
- 3) how the self has practical capacities for *self*-determination and individual responsibility.

### • Ethical Adaptation: Identity, Responsibility & Sustainability

Issues of sustainability raised by such things as climate change require ethical adaptation. This paper argues for reconceiving individuals as connected across space and time with others, and as agents who are responsible for their contributions to collective effects.



### Selected Published Articles:

- Anonymity (1999)
- Online Anonymity (2008)
- Hume on Regulating Belief and Moral Sentiment (2003)
- Agency, Personhood & Identity (2000)
- Autonomous 'I' of an Intersectional Self (2003)
- Morality and the capacity for symbolic cognition (2007)
- Common Morality & Moral Reform (2009)