

## Roger Sansom

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### **Education:**

- *Ph.D. in Philosophy*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (May 2002).  
Dissertation: "*Development as an Adaptation: A Philosophical Contribution to the Developmental Synthesis*".
- *M.A. in Philosophy*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1998).  
Master's Thesis: "*A Metaphysical Defense of an Independently Indeterministic Evolutionary Theory*".
- *Honours of Arts in Philosophy*, Victoria University of Wellington, N. Z (1995).
- *B. A. in Philosophy*, Victoria University of Wellington, N. Z. (1994).
- *Bachelor of Commerce and Administration in Marketing*, Victoria University of Wellington, N. Z. (1992).

### **Positions Held:**

- Associate Professor of Philosophy, Texas A & M University 2008 - present
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Texas A & M University 2002 - 2008

### **Areas of Specialization:**

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology.

### **Publications:**

#### **Book:**

- *Ingenious Genes: How Gene Regulation Networks Evolve to Control Ontogeny*, M.I.T. Press, 2011.

#### **Edited collection:**

- *Integrating Evolution and Development: From Theory to Practice*, coedited with Robert Brandon, M.I.T. Press, 2007.

#### **Journal articles:**

- "Asymmetry in the unificationist theory of causal explanation. *Synthese* (2018) 195: 765-783). (Jannai Shields is second author).
- "What are the implications of evolvable molecules?" James A. Shapiro: Evolution: a view from the 21st century. Critical notice. *Biology and Philosophy*. 29(3): 425-432, 2014
- "Auxiliary Hypotheses in *Evidence and Evolution*". *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. Volume 83 (3), 673-682, 2011.
- "The Nature of Developmental Constraints and the Difference-Maker Argument for Externalism" *Biology and Philosophy*. 24(4):441-459, 2009.
- "Countering Kauffman with Connectionism: two views of gene regulation" *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 59(2):169-200, 2008.

- “Why Gene Regulation Networks are Connectionist Networks” *Biology and Philosophy*. 23(4):.475-491, 2008.
- "Constraining the Adaptationism Debate", *Biology and Philosophy* 18: 493-512, 2003.
- "Why Evolution is Really Indeterministic", *Synthese* 136: 263-280, 2003.

**Book chapters:**

- “The Nature of Constraints” *Form and Function in Evo Devo*, Cambridge Studies in Philosophy and Biology, edited By Manfred Laubichler, Jane Maienschein, and Jorge Wagensberg, Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- "Evolvability" *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Biology*, edited by Michael Ruse, Oxford University Press 2008.
- "Legacies of Adaptive Development", in *Integrating Evolution and Development*, edited by Roger Sansom and Robert Brandon, 2007.

**Book Reviews:**

- “Now, Would Each Group Please Select a Religion”, review of *Darwin’s Cathedral: Evolution, Religion, and the Nature of Society*, by David Sloan Wilson, *Biology and Philosophy* 18: 743-749, 2003.
- "A Definitive Case for Group Selection", review of *Unto Others – the Evolution and Psychology of Unselfish Behavior*, by Elliot Sober and David Sloan Wilson, *Complexity*, Volume 5, Issue 2, 1999.
- Review of *Other Minds*, by Alec Hyslop, *Minds and Machines*, vol. 6, number 3, August 1996.

**Referee:**

- Manuscript: *Harvard University Press, Oxford University Press.*
- Journal article: *Biology and Philosophy, Integrative Zoology, Acta Biotheoretica, The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, American Midland Naturalist, The Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Complexity.*
- Grant application: *The Templeton Foundation.*

**Awards:**

- Student Led Award for Teaching Excellence (SLATE) Texas A&M University, 2009.
- Philosophy Fellow, Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, 2003-2004.
- Henry Horace Williams Fellowship, UNC Philosophy Department, 1999-2002.
- Graham Kenan Fellowship, UNC Philosophy Department, 1997-1998.
- Mary Taylor Williams Fellowship, UNC Philosophy Department, 1997.
- Summer Research Fellowship, UNC Philosophy Department, 1997.
- Bertha Colton Williams Fellowship, UNC Philosophy Department, 1996.
- Mary Stuart Graduate Scholarship, Victoria University of Wellington, 1996.

***Papers Presented:***

- “Why LaPlaceanism is no threat to evolutionary theory” International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology 2017 Biennial Conference in São Paulo, Brazil (July 2017)
- “Quantifying form versus function in current evolutionary transitions.” International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology 2015 Biennial Conference, Université du Québec à Montréal (July 2015).
- “Gradualism: Complications and Implications.” Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology 2013 Biennial Conference, The University of Montpellier (July 2013).
- "An Empirical Approach to the Form/Function/Adaptationism Issue", Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology 2011 Biennial Conference, The University of Utah (July 2011).
- "Auxiliary Hypotheses in Evidence and Evolution", American Philosophical Association (Central Division), Minneapolis, MN, (April 2011).
- “Selection and constraint in evolutionary change: a case study on crossbills”, co-authored Pim (W.M.C.) Edelaar, International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology 2009 Biennial Conference, Brisbane, Australia (July 2009).
- “Homology - an expression of selection or constraints?” co-authored Pim (W.M.C.) Edelaar, Form, Function and Homology: Duke's 8th Annual Conference in Philosophy & Biology and the Annual Consortium for the History and Philosophy of Biology, Duke University (July 2009).
- "The role of developmental constraint and natural selection in evolutionary explanation.”, William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Philosophy of Biology Workshop – Florida State University (March 2008).
- "How far should we bend over for ID?”, 69th Annual meeting of The Southwestern Philosophical Society in San Antonio (Nov. 2007).
- “Why Gene Regulation Networks Are the Controllers of Ontogeny”, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology 2007 Biennial Conference in Exeter, United Kingdom (July 2007).
- "Could Organisms Have Evolved by Natural Selection? The Difficulties of Denying Selectionism", The Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas, Houston (March 2006)
- "Countering Kauffman: The natural selection of gene regulation networks", International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology 2005 Meeting in Guelph
- “Accounting for Natural Selection and Constraints”, William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Conference - Form and Function in Biology, Florida State University, (March 2005)
- “The Cultural Evolution of Intelligent Beings”, Colloquium at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (July 2004)
- “The Connectionist Theory of Gene Regulation”, Australasian Association of Philosophy Annual Conference, South Molle Island Australia (July 2004)
- “Taking Cultural Evolution Seriously, Do Values Evolve?”, William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Philosophy of Biology Workshop – Biology and Values, Florida State University (April 2004)
- “Empirical Limits on the Theory of Cultural Evolution”, Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research conference – Defining Culture: Who, What, Why?, Texas A & M University (April 2004)

- “Evolvability and the Connectionist Theory of Gene Control Networks”, The International Congress of Logic Methodology and Philosophy of Science. Oviedo, Spain (August 2003)
- “Redundancy and the Connectionist Theory of Gene Control Networks”, International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, University of Vienna (July 2003).
- “Constraining the Adaptationism Debate”, Duke Center for Philosophy of Biology Second Annual Conference on Recent Work in Biology and Philosophy 25 Years after the Panglossian Spandrels - A Conference on Adaptationism.
- “Unisonant Selection for Redundancy”, Current Philosophical Issues in Science Seminar in the Wildlife and Fisheries Science Department TAMU (Nov. 2002)
- "Why Evolution is Really Indeterministic",
- Central TX Philosophy of Science Consortium (TAMU Sep. 2002)
- Department of Philosophy at Victoria University of Wellington (June 1999).
- “A Solution to the Difficulty of Development”, The Development Group, The University of Texas at Austin (April 2002).
- "Ingenious Genes and the Difficulty of Development",
- William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Philosophy of Biology Workshop, Florida State University (March 2002).
- "How Ingenious Genes Overcome the Difficulty of Development",
- Department of Philosophy at Brooklyn College (Dec. 2001)
- Department of Philosophy at Texas A & M University (Feb. 2002)
- Department of Philosophy at University of Western Ontario (Feb. 2002)
- Faculty of Rhodes College (Feb. 2002)
- Department of Philosophy at Towson University (Feb. 2002)
- Department of Philosophy at The University of Indiana Purdue University at Indianapolis (Feb. 2002)
- "The dynamics of the Evo-Devo debate, a Commentary on "Evolutionary Developmental Biology: Evolutionary Biology in the Context of Development" , by Jason Scott Robert", American Association of Professional Philosophers - Eastern Division (Dec. 2001).
- "Adaptive Development and Trends in Evolution", International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Quinnipiac University (July 2001).
- "Constraining the Adaptationism Debate", Australasian Association of Philosophy, New Zealand division annual conference (Dec. 2000).
- "Constraining the Adaptationism Debate", Philosophy Society, Research School of the Social Sciences, Australia National University (Nov. 2000).
- "Supervenience, Determinism and Reality", North Carolina Philosophical Society and South Carolina Philosophical Society (Feb. 2000).
- "A Metaphysical Defense of an Independently Indeterministic Evolutionary Theory", International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Oaxaca Mexico (July 1999).