

Jeff Behrends

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Academic Employment

Harvard University

- 2019 – present: Lecturer in Philosophy
- 2019 – present: Director of Ethics and Technology Initiatives, the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics
- 2018 – 2019: Ethics and Technology Fellow, jointly at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics and the Center for Research on Computation and Society
- 2016 – 2018: Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Illinois State University

- 2013 – 2016: Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Areas of Specialization

Ethical Theory, Applied Ethics

Areas of Competence

Action Theory, Epistemology

Education

- Ph.D. 2013 Philosophy University of Wisconsin-Madison
- M.A. 2010 Philosophy University of Wisconsin-Madison
- B.A. 2007 Philosophy, English (*Summa cum laude*) Loyola University Chicago

Dissertation

“A Hybrid Account of the Sources of Practical Normativity”

Chair: Russ Shafer-Landau. Committee Members: Michael Titelbaum and Sarah Paul

Articles

“Embedded EthiCS: Integrating Ethics Broadly Across Computer Science Education” (with Barbara J. Grosz, David Gray Grant, Kate Vredenburgh, Lily Hu, Alison Simmons, and Jim Waldo)

Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery 62 (8) 2019, pp. 54 – 61

“Educating for Gender Justice? A Case for Gender-Differentiated Caregiving Education” (with Gina Schouten)

Ethical Theory and Moral Practice 20 (3) 2017, pp. 551 – 565

“Normative Source and Extensional Adequacy”

Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy 10 (3) 2016, pp. 1 – 25

“Probabilistic Promotion Revisited” (with Joshua DiPaolo)
Philosophical Studies 173 (7) 2016, pp. 1735 – 1754

“Reason to Promotion Inferences” (with Joshua DiPaolo)
Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, August 2015, pp. 1 – 10

“Problems and Solutions for a Hybrid Approach to Grounding Practical Normativity”
Canadian Journal of Philosophy 45 (2) 2015, pp. 159 – 178

“Meta-normative Realism, Evolution, and Our Reasons to Survive”
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly 94 (4) 2013, pp. 486 – 502

“Finlay and Schroeder on Promoting a Desire” (with Joshua DiPaolo)
Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, December 2011, pp. 1 – 7

“A New Argument for the Multiplicity of the Good-for Relation”
The Journal of Value Inquiry 45 (2) 2011, pp. 121 – 133

Book Reviews

David Enoch’s *Taking Morality Seriously: A Defense of Robust Realism* (Oxford 2011)
The Review of Metaphysics 66 (1) 2012, pp. 146 – 148.

Work in Progress

“Autonomous Vehicles and Trolleys: New Foundations for the Ethics of Machine Learning”
(with John Basl)

pending editorial review for *Autonomous Vehicle Ethics: Beyond the Trolley Problem*
(Oxford University Press), editors David Černý, Tomáš Hříbek, Ryan Jenkins

A paper on the relationship between reasons and reasoning (undergoing revisions)

A paper on the relationship between theories of instrumental transmission and theories of the source of practical normativity (in preparation)

Grants and Fellowships

Responsible Computer Science Challenge: Stage I (Harvard, 2019 – 2020)
\$150,000. **Collaborator** on “Embedded EthiCS: Module Design and Teaching Materials for Core CS Courses” (PIs: Barbara J. Grosz, Radhika Nagpal)

Ethics and Technology Fellow (Harvard, 2018 – 2019)
Fellow-in-Residence at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, with additional support from the Center for Research on Computation and Society

New Faculty Initiative Grant (ISU, 2015)
\$3,500. Competitive University Research Grant awarded to fund research and conference travel.

The Richard McHugh Scholarship (UW, 2012)
\$3,000. Awarded by the UW Philosophy Department annually to support dissertation research.

Vilas Travel Grant (UW, 2011)
\$1,500. Competitive grant awarded by the University of Wisconsin Graduate School for travel to the Naturalisms in Ethics Conference in Auckland, NZ.

William Hay Summer Fellowship (UW, 2011) (declined)
Competitive summer research funding awarded by the UW Department of Philosophy.

Prizes and Awards

Temkin Graduate Essay Prize in Value Theory, UW, 2013
Awarded in recognition of the best essay in value theory, as judged by the faculty.

College of Letters and Sciences Teaching Fellow Award, UW, 2012
Awarded to 15 Teaching Assistants who have demonstrated excellence in teaching. Approximately 1,300 Teaching Assistants were serving in the College at the time.

Honored Instructor, UW, 2010, 2009
Instructors are nominated for this award by students in recognition of an instructor's "invaluable contribution to student learning."

Phi Beta Kappa, inducted 2007

Refereed Presentations

"Of Trolleys and Tesla: Could Trolley Cases Help Us Understand How to Program Autonomous Vehicles?" (with John Basl and Mark Lee)

- 15th International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society, ELISAVA Barcelona School of Design and Engineering March 2019
- 11th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2018
University of Colorado Boulder

"Educating for Gender Justice: A Case for Mandatory Gender-Differentiated Home Economics Classes" (with Gina Schouten)

- Society for Applied Philosophy, Queen's University, Belfast July 2016

"Reason to Promotion Inferences" (with Joshua DiPaolo)

- Central States Philosophical Association November 2015
- Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference October 2015

"Probabilistic Promotion Revisited" (with Joshua DiPaolo)

- 8th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2015
University of Colorado Boulder

“Practical Deliberation and Acting for a Reason: Two Arguments against Source Externalism”

- Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College March 2015
- American Philosophical Association (Central Division) February 2015
- Wisconsin Philosophical Association, UW-Madison April 2014

“Problems and Solutions for a Hybrid Account of Normative Grounding”

- St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality, University of Missouri-St. Louis/Washington University May 2014
- 1st Annual Conference of the Southern Normativity Group, University of Kent March 2014

“Parfit’s All or None Argument and the Development of Meta-normative Hybridism”

- American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division) December 2012
- Central States Philosophical Association, University of Missouri-Columbia September 2012
- Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College February 2012

“Moral Realism, Evolution, and Our Reasons to Survive”

- 5th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado Boulder August 2012
- 6th Annual Conference of the Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics, Northwestern University May 2012
- Indiana Philosophical Association, Depauw University April 2012
- Wisconsin Philosophical Association, UW-Oshkosh April 2012

“When do the Means Promote the Ends?” (with Joshua DiPaolo)

- Naturalisms in Ethics Conference, University of Auckland July 2011

“Humean Normativity and the Too Few Reasons Objection”

- Iowa Philosophical Society, Grinnell College November 2010

Invited Presentations

“Why Everyone Has It Wrong about the Ethics of Autonomous Vehicles” (with John Basl)

- Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto October 2019
- US Frontiers of Engineering Symposium September 2019

“Ethics Education in Computer Science: The Embedded EthICS Approach”

- Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto October 2019

“Moral Machine: What is it Good For?” (with John Basl)

- Artificial Intelligence and Experience Workshop, UMass Boston May 2019

“Trolleys, Autonomous Vehicles, and Machine Learning” (with John Basl)

- Science, Technology, and Society Seminar, Tufts University October 2018

- “Deciding on the Basis of Normative Reasons”
- University of Vermont Ethics Workshop June 2018
 - Boston University Ethics Seminar February 2018
- “The Science of Happiness” (one of three panelists)
- The Harvard Society for Mind, Brain, and Behavior Symposium April 2018
- “Two Questions about Contrastivism” (Author Meets Critics session for Justin Snedegar’s *Contrastive Reasons* (OUP))
- American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division) March 2018
- “Reasons and Deliberation”
- Minnesota State University, Department of Philosophy March 2017
 - Philosophy Desert Workshop March 2017

Commentaries

- On Chris Higgins’s “The Death Spiral of Contemporary Public Higher Education”
- Education, Justice, and Democracy Workshop, Illinois State University April 2016
- On Josh May’s “The Death of the Doctrine of Double Effect”
- Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College March 2015
- On Louis Gularte’s “On the Possibility of Compatibility between Moral Objectivity and Plan-based Expressivism”
- Central States Philosophical Association, University of Missouri-Columbia September 2012
- On Daniel Hartner’s “Two Dogmas of Ethical Naturalism”
- Indiana Philosophical Association, Depauw University April 2012
- On Seth Jones’s “Was Leibniz a Modal Realist? (Yes, yes he was)”
- Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College February 2012

Courses Taught

- Intelligent Systems: Design and Ethical Challenges – Harvard (Fall 2017)
 Co-taught with Barbara Grosz, this course encourages computer science students to reflect on ethical issues involving artificial intelligences, and to consider how appropriate design techniques may solve or mitigate moral problems.
- Baseball and Philosophy: God, Beauty, and Morality – Harvard (Fall 2017)
 A Freshman Seminar that both treats baseball as a direct object of inquiry, and as a lens through which to view and understand philosophical issues beyond the game.

Death: Its Nature and Significance – Harvard (Fall 2016)

A Freshman Seminar focusing in the first half of the course on metaphysical issues related to death, and on axiological and moral issues in the second.

Morality and the Good Life: An Introduction to Ethics – Harvard (Fall 2016, Spring 2018, Spring 2020)

In addition to introducing students to the dominant normative ethical theories in Western philosophy, the course also includes units on well-being, applied ethics, and meta-ethics.

Well-Being – Harvard (Spring 2018)

This seminar, offered to graduate and undergraduate students, focuses on contemporary accounts of well-being; includes some attention to recent psychological research.

Practical Reasons – Harvard (Spring 2017)

Intended for both graduate and undergraduate students, this course addresses the relationship between reasons and morality, and the source(s) of practical normativity.

Workshop in Moral and Political Philosophy – Harvard (Spring 2018, with Lucas Stanczyk)

In this course, dissertating graduate students present their work in progress. It is a forum for discussion and constructive criticism from both peers and instructors.

Classic Western Moral Theories – ISU (Fall 2013)

In addition to providing an introduction to the dominant normative ethical theories in Western philosophy, the course also includes units on well-being and meta-ethics.

Contemporary Western Moral Theories – ISU (Spring 2016)

This course is concerned with developments in ethical theorizing since the early 20th century, with a special emphasis on issues in meta-ethics.

Rights and Wrongs – ISU (Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2015)

This course offers introductory instruction in applied ethics, with a special emphasis on written and oral communication. Topics rotate regularly.

Topics in Moral Theory: Death, Well-Being, and Morality – ISU (Fall 2014)

This senior-level seminar examines issues related to the badness of death for the one who dies, posthumous harm, and the morality of abortion, among other topics related to death.

Introduction to Ethics – UW-Madison (Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2012)

In addition to providing an introduction to the three dominant normative ethical theories in Western philosophy, the course also includes units on well-being and meta-ethics.

Contemporary Moral Issues – UW-Madison (Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013)

This course offers introductory instruction in applied ethics, with a special emphasis on written and oral communication. Topics rotate regularly.

Basic Issues in Philosophy – ISU (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016)

The course is taught as an introduction to philosophy, covering arguments concerning the existence of God, external-world skepticism, free will, and normative ethics.

Professional Development

American Association of Philosophy Teachers Seminar on Teaching and Learning, 2012

This national seminar focused on designing appropriate learning objectives, pedagogical techniques, and assessment methods. Participants were selected competitively.

Student Supervision (all at Harvard University)

Advisor or Co-Advisor for Senior Thesis

Mars He “On the Relationship between Reasons and Responsibility” (2018)

Lauren Mandaville “Military Metaphysics: US Policy and Civilian Casualties in the Levant” (2017)

Jonathan Slifkin “The Hart-Finnis Debate: Philosophy of Social Science in Legal Positivism and Natural Law Theory” (2017)

Directed Study

Mark Lee (Harvard Law) Independent study on ethics and artificial intelligences (2018)

Service

To the profession

Journal referee for: *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Noûs*, *Philosophia*, *The Philosophical Quarterly* (3x), *Res Philosophica*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Southwest Philosophy Review*

Conference referee for: British Society for Ethical Theory (2017), Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop (2018, 2019), St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality (2015)

To Harvard University

Faculty Affiliate, Assembly: Disinformation 2018 –

To the Harvard University Department of Philosophy

Co-Director, Embedded EthiCS 2018 –

Graduate Student Publication Workshop 2017, 2019

To Illinois State University
Faculty Advisor, Redbird WingTsun 2016

To the Illinois State University Department of Philosophy
Colloquium Committee 2014 – 2016
Teaching Committee 2014 – 2016
Curriculum Review Committee 2014 – 2015
Assessment Committee 2014 – 2016

References

Selim Berker

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Harvard University
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Edward Hall (teaching reference)

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