

MICHAEL RANDALL BARNES

Curriculum Vitae

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

Specialization: Social & Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Language (esp. speech act theory), Ethics of Emerging Technology (esp. Social Media Ethics, Ethics of AI, and Data Ethics), Applied Ethics

Competence: Social Epistemology, Bioethics, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Education, Business Ethics

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

Institute for the Study of Human Flourishing,
at the University of Oklahoma: Postdoctoral Fellow, 2020 – 2021

University of Toronto: Sessional Lecturer, Spring 2020

Ryerson University: Sessional Lecturer, Spring 2020

Georgetown University: Teaching Associate, 2015 – 2019

Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal: Managing Editor, 2017 – 2019
Book Review Editor, 2014 – 2017

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2019

Dissertation: “Subordinating Speech and the Construction of Social Hierarchies”

Committee: Quill (Rebecca) Kukla (chair), Alisa Carse, Madison Powers & Lynne Tirrell (external)

M.A. Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2014

B.Ed. Intermediate/Senior Education, OISE, University of Toronto, 2012

Teachable subjects: English; Philosophy

M.A. Philosophy, Carleton University 2011

M.A. Thesis: “Exploitation in Developing Countries: Fairness in International Trade and Labour”

Advisors: Jay Drydyk & Vida Panitch

B.A., (Honours), double major in Philosophy and Professional Writing, York University, 2009

REFEREED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming. “The Pragmatics of Protest and Positive Propaganda.” In *The Movement for Black Lives: Philosophical Perspectives*, edited by Michael Cholbi, Brandon Hogan, Alex Madva, and Benjamin Yost, 183–210. Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming. “Hate Speech,” co-authored with Luveell Anderson. In the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward N. Zalta. (Conditionally accepted; undergoing final revisions.)
2016. “Speaking with (Subordinating) Authority,” *Social Theory & Practice* 42 (2): 240–257.
2013. “Exploitation as a Path to Development: Sweatshop Labour, Micro-Unfairness, and the Non-Worseness Claim,” *Ethics and Economics* 10 (2): 26–43. [Reprinted in the *Journal of the Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (CSSPE) Volume 1: Practical Ethics – Perspectives and Issues*, 158–179. 2017.]

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Who Do You Speak For? And How?: Anonymity and Identity in Online Abuse.” (*under review*)
- “Collective Authority in Hate Speech” (*under review*)
- “Presupposition in Propaganda: A Socially Extended Analysis” (*invited submission*)
- “Online Extremism, AI, and (Human) Content Moderation”
- “Promise and Peril in Bringing Speech Act Theory Online: Collateral Damage in Speech Acts”

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

This dissertation fits within the literature on subordinating speech and aims to demonstrate that *how* language subordinates is more complex than has been described by most philosophers. I argue that the harms that subordinating speech inflicts on its targets (chapter one), the type of authority that is exercised by subordinating speakers (chapters two and three), and the expansive variety of subordinating speech acts themselves (chapter three) are all under-developed subjects in need of further refinement—and, in some cases, large paradigm shifts. I also examine cases that have yet to be adequately addressed by philosophers working on this topic, like the explosion of abusive speech online (chapter four) or the distinctive speech acts of protest groups (chapter five). I argue that by considering cases like these alongside the so-called ‘paradigm’ cases that inform most models, we are better able to capture the realities of this phenomena as described by members of groups targeted by such speech. I develop a novel account of speaker authority to explain the variety of pragmatic effects subordinating speech generates. Instead of seeing this authority as reducible to either a formal position or a merely local, linguistic phenomenon, I argue for a conception of speaker authority that is a richly contextual social fact, distributed unevenly among members of different social groups. I also develop an account of *collective* authority that explains how a group of speakers can subordinate in ways that no individual speaker is capable of doing. This account, I argue, is better able to capture the reality of harmful speech than individualist models. Overall, I show how a more fine-grained account of subordinating speaker authority gives us a more accurate picture of the different subordinating speech acts available to speakers, along with how these harm their targets.

COURSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT AS SOLE INSTRUCTOR

Hamilton College Summer Program in Philosophy (HCSPiP):

Disagreement in the Digital Age: Philosophical Reflection About/With New Technology
(Summer 2020 – *cancelled due to COVID-19*)

Ryerson University:

Philosophy and Death (Spring 2020)^o

University of Toronto:

Seminar in Applied Ethics: Ethics of Emerging Technologies (Spring 2020)^o

Georgetown University:

Introduction to Ethics (Summer 2017 & Summer 2019)*

Introduction to Philosophy (Summer 2018)

Philosophy of Education (Spring 2017)[^]

Ethics of Speech* (Fall 2016)

Oppression & Justice* (Spring 2016)

Bioethics (Fall 2015)

* Included as part of Georgetown's *Engaging Diversity* program

[^] Cross-listed in the *Education, Inquiry and Justice* minor at Georgetown

^o Transitioned fully online after COVID-19

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

- GU Center for New Designs in Learning & Scholarship, Apprenticeship in Teaching, 2019.
- Ontario College of Teachers, Certificate of Qualification Intermediate and Senior divisions, 2012

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

Online Extremism, AI, and (Human) Content Moderation

- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, July 16–18, 2021, Aston, PA. (*2020 event canceled due to COVID-19, rescheduled for 2021*)

Collective Authority in Hate Speech

- American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific division meeting, April 2021, San Francisco, CA. (*2020 event canceled due to COVID-19, rescheduled for 2021*)

The Promise and Peril of Bringing Speech Act Theory Online

- The Social, Moral and Political Impact of Virtual Technology Workshop, hosted by the Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile, January 22–23, 2021. (*Via Zoom*)

Who Do You Speak For? And How? Anonymity and Identity in Online Abuse

- American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern division meeting, January 2020, Philadelphia, PA.

- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, July 19–21, 2018, Rochester, MI.
- Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) annual conference, June 4–7, 2018, Montréal, QC
- 21st Annual CUNY Graduate Philosophy Conference, March 23, 2018, New York, NY.

Animal Rights Activism and Other Liberatory Movements (co-authored with Hailey Huget)

- Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy (CSWIP) Conference, September 28–30, 2018, Cape Breton, NS.

Nonideal Theory, Action-Guidance, and the Evaluation of Moral Failures

- MANCEPT Workshops, September 11–13, 2017, Manchester, UK.

The Pragmatics of Protest as ‘Positive Propaganda’

- 18th Annual Columbia-NYU Philosophy Graduate Conference, March 24, 2018, New York, NY.
- American Philosophical Association (APA) Central division meeting, February 21–24, 2018, Chicago, IL.
- University of Toronto’s Annual Graduate Conference, May 8–9, 2017, Toronto, ON.
- Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) annual conference, May 28–31, 2017, Toronto, ON.
- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, July 21–23, 2016, Ottawa, ON.

Non-Human Animal Exploitation (co-authored with Hailey Huget)

- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, July 13–15, 2017, Chicago, IL.
- American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH), October 6–9, 2016, Washington, DC.

Neurodiversity and the Bounds of the Moral Community (co-authored with Hailey Huget)

- American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) annual meeting, October 22–25, 2015, Houston, TX.
- Poster presentation at the Montreal Neuroethics Conference for Young Researchers, April 17, 2015, Montreal, QC.

Confronting the Authority Problem for Subordinating Speech

- Dominating Speech Workshop, held at the University of Connecticut, November 21–23, 2014, Hartford, CN.
- Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (CSSPE) Annual Meeting, May 24–26, 2014, St. Catharines, ON.
- University of Toronto’s Annual Graduate Conference, May 1–2, 2014, Toronto, ON.

Exploitation as a Path to Development

- International Development Ethics Association (IDEA) 2011 Conference, June 9–11, 2011, Bryn Mawr, PA.
- Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (CSSPE) Annual Meeting, May 31–June 2, 2011, Fredericton, NB.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Collective Authority in Hate Speech,” at William Paterson University. Feb. 2, 2021. (*Via Zoom*)
- “Who Do You Speak For? And How? Anonymity and Identity in Online Abuse,” for the Cambridge University *Meaning Workshop Group*. August 26, 2020. (*Via Zoom*)
- “Online Abuse and Collective Speech Acts” as part of the *Slurs, Name-calling, and Exclusionary Speech* Workshop at Technische Universität Berlin, March 9–13, 2020.
- “The Diversity of Strategies for Diversifying Syllabi,” as part of the *Ethics of Pedagogy* series at the Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto. Jan 30, 2020.
- “Who Do You Speak For? And How? Anonymity and Identity in Online Abuse,” at the University of Saskatchewan. Jan 2, 2020.
- “Who Do You Speak For? And How? The Management of Identities in Online Abuse” as part of the *Speech, Identity, and Privacy in the Age of Social Media* Invited Session, at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern division meeting, January 2018 (*cancelled due to weather*).
- Presentation on Jennifer Saul’s “Dogwhistles, Political Manipulation, and Philosophy of Language,” at the Georgetown Philosophy of Language Workshop. February 29, 2016.
- Presentation on Erin Kelly’s “Habermas on Moral Justification,” at the Georgetown European-Philosophy Workshop. Mar 21, 2016.
- Presentation on Jason Stanley’s *How Propaganda Works* and Mary Louise Pratt’s “Ideology and Speech-Act Theory,” at the Georgetown Philosophy of Language Workshop. Nov 23, 2015.

COMMENTS

- On Nir Eyal and Anders Herlitz’s “Inputs and Outputs in Distributive Ethics,” at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Central division meeting, February 2020.
- On Gretchen Ellefson’s “The Cooperative Principle Revisited,” at the Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2019.
- On Eric Bayruns Garcia’s “Expression-Style Exclusion,” at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern division meeting, January 2019.
- On Charles Lassiter’s “Perceived Rational Authority, Conversational Implicature, and the Epistemology of Implicit Bias” at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern division meeting, January 2017.
- On Catherine Klausen & David Devidi’s “No Mere Difference,” at the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) annual conference, May 2016.
- On Chris Howard’s “Mental Agency Doesn’t Matter: A Defense of Metaethics,” at the Georgetown University Philosophy Conference, April 2013

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Kevin Kumashiro University of Illinois, Chicago, May 2012 (arranged as part of my Teacher Education Training at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education).
- Vida Panitch, Carleton University, Summer 2011.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Ryerson University:

Fall 2019 Problems in Philosophy (Rohan Sud)

Georgetown University:

Summer 2015 Introduction to Ethics – *Online Only Class* (James Olson)
Spring 2015 Political and Social Thought (Mark Murphy)
Fall 2014 Political and Social Thought (Terry Pinkard)
Spring 2014 Introduction to Ethics (Terry Pinkard)
Fall 2013 Introduction to Philosophy (Mark Lance)
Spring 2013 Introduction to Ethics (Karen Stohr)
Fall 2012 Introduction to Ethics (John Keown)

Carleton University:

Spring 2011 Issues in Practical Philosophy (Vida Panitch)
Fall 2010 History of Ethics (Vida Panitch)
Spring 2010 Philosophy of Human Rights (Ken Ferguson)
Fall 2009 History of Ethics (Gordon Davis)

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Voting member, non-scientist, on the Biomedical and Pediatric Oncology Committee A (Institutional Review Board), 2016–2018.
- Participant: Joint Bioethics Colloquium series, NIH Department of Bioethics, 2014–2016.
- Coordinator of the Georgetown Philosophy Pedagogy Group, 2016–2017.
- Coach, Georgetown University Ethics Bowl and Bioethics Bowl teams, 2012–2013.
- Referee for the Georgetown University Philosophy Conference, 2013, 2014.
- Diversifying Syllabi Group, contributing member, <http://diversifyingsyllabi.weebly.com>.
- Volunteer for the Georgetown Minorities And Philosophy (MAP) Conference 2018.
- Department Organizer with Georgetown Alliance of Graduate Employees, 2017–2019.
- Referee for: *Public Affairs Quarterly*; *Ethnicities*; *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*; *Journal of Business Ethics*; *Ethics and Information Technology*; *Phenomenology and Mind*; *Erkenntnis*.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND OTHER AWARDS

Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2012 – 2013 (*declined*).

From Conferences:

Graduate Student Travel Stipend, APA Eastern Division Annual Meeting, January 2020.
Graduate Student Travel Stipend, APA Central Division Annual Meeting, February 2018.
The Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics Student Essay Prize, 2014.

From Georgetown University:

Graduate Student Travel Award, 2017.
Graduate Student Teaching Award Nomination, 2016.
Political and Social Thought Assistantship, 2014–2015.
Engelhard Teaching Fellowship, 2014.

From Carleton University:

Graduate Scholarship, 2009–2010.
Dean of Graduate Studies Academic Excellence Scholarship for Domestic Students, 2009–2011.

From York University:

Undergraduate Entrance Award, 2005.
Faculty of Arts Sessional Academic Achievement List, 2005–2006, 2007–2008, 2008–2009.
Graduated cum laude, Member of Dean's Honour Roll, 2009.

GRADUATE COURSES

Carleton University:

Buddhist & Contemporary Ethics (Wendy Donner)
Graduate Seminar (Heide Maibom and Jay Drydyk)
Capabilities Approach (Jay Drydyk)
Virtue Epistemology (David Matheson)
Practices of the Self: Ancient and Modern (Annie Larivée)
Roots of Analytic Philosophy (David Matheson)
Philosophy of Language (Eros Corazza)

Georgetown University:

Metaphysics Proseminar (Linda Wetzel)
Gender & Feminism (Alisa Carse)
Ethics Proseminar (Mark Murphy)
Rousseau & Romanticism (Rebecca Kukla)
Distributive Justice (Madison Powers)
Phenomenology (Bill Blattner)
Moral Damage/Moral Repair (Alisa Carse)
Information & Experimentation (James Mattingly)
Deontic Pluralism (Maggie Little)
Epistemology Proseminar (Rebecca Kukla)
Aristotle & Virtue Ethics (David Bronstein and Karen Stohr)
Moral Innovation (Henry Richardson and Terry Pinkard)
Moral Status (Maggie Little)

LANGUAGES

English, and intermediate French

CITIZENSHIP

Canadian

REFERENCES

- 1. Quill (Rebecca) Kukla, PhD., MA** (dissertation chair)
Professor of Philosophy and Senior Research Scholar in the Kennedy Institute of Ethics
Georgetown University
rk75@georgetown.edu
- 2. Lynne Tirrell, PhD.** (external dissertation committee member)
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Connecticut
lynne.tirrell@uconn.edu
- 3. Alisa Carse, PhD.** (dissertation committee member)
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Georgetown University
carsea@georgetown.edu
- 4. Madison Powers, JD, D.Phil.** (dissertation committee member)
Professor and Francis J. McNamara Chair and Senior Research Scholar in the Kennedy Institute of Ethics
Georgetown University
powersm@georgetown.edu
- 5. Mark Murphy, PhD.** (teaching reference)
Professor & McDevitt Chair of Religious Philosophy
Georgetown University
Mark.Murphy@georgetown.edu
- 6. Rohan Sud, PhD.** (teaching assistance reference)
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Ryerson University
Rohan.sud@ryerson.ca