Jonathon VandenHombergh, PhD

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AOS

Bioethics, philosophy of mind

AOC

Ethics, logic, metaphysics, history of philosophy

Appointments

Clinical Ethics Fellow, the Laurie J. Girand Center for Biomedical Ethics, Stanford University	2026-
Visiting Neuroethics and Clinical Consciousness Scholar, John J. Lynch, MD Center for Ethics MedStar Washington Hospital Center	2026-
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Bioethics, National Institutes of Health	2024-26
Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Lone Star Community College	2018-20
Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2016-24

Education

PhD, Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *The One is the Type of the Many* (defended 2024), committee: Farid Masrour (chair), Alan Sidelle, Bruno Whittle	2016-24
MA, Philosophy, University of Houston	2014-16
BS, *magna cum laude*, Psychology and Philosophy, Aquinas College	2009-13

Peer-Reviewed Publications

The Exploitation Argument against Artificial Companionship, *AI and Ethics*	2026
Assisted Dying in Unjust Conditions (w/ Scott Kim), *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*	2026
Expressivist Concerns for Assisted Dying on Request,[1] *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 52: 547-51	2026
Hallucination as Perceptual Synecdoche, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 104(1): 80-95	2025

[1] This paper was designated "Editor's Choice" for its issue; see Kenneth Boyd's editorial Minute particulars in the same issue.

Consciousness, Conceivability, and Intrinsic Reduction,[2] *Erkenntnis*, 85(5): 1129-51 2020

Inconceivable Physicalism, *Analysis*, 77(1): 116-25 2017

Other Publications

A Comparative Analysis of Surrogate Decision-Making with and without Patient Preference Predictors (w/ Annette Rid and Dave Wendler), in *The Handbook of Digital and Experimental Methods in Bioethics*, Springer. Forthcoming

A Reply to Reed on my 'Expressivist Concerns for Assisted Dying on Request'[3]
Journal of Medical Ethics 2026

Works in Progress/Under Review

A paper on the role of vagueness in conceivability arguments against materialism (under review)

A paper on the priority of inauthentic advance directives (w/ Dave Wendler; under review)

A paper on autonomy concerns for predictive algorithms in medicine (accepted at forthcoming conference)

A paper on zero-grounding explanations for why there is anything at all (second draft)

A paper on the morality of using large language models for clinical ethics consultation (first draft)

A paper on the metaphysics of involuntary holds for psychiatric but not neurological disorders (first draft)

Professional Presentations

A Dilemma for Patient Preference Prediction, The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society 10th Annual Meeting 2026

The Moral Significance of Assisted Dying in Unjust Conditions, American Society for Bioethics and the Humanities 2026 Annual Meeting 2026

The Inner Part of Chaotic Hallucination, 114th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology 2023

Conceptual Sieves, 69th New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society 2018

Conceptual Sieves, Third International Conference on Philosophy of Mind 2017

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[2] A critical discussion of this article, written by Peter Marton, was also published in *Erkenntnis*: Conceivability, Kripkean Identity, and S5: A Reply to Jonathon VandenHombergh, 2023, 90(3): 1265-74.

[3] This is a response to Philip Reed's paper, Autonomy-centred assisted death laws still avoid expressivism, 2026, in the same journal. Reed's paper is itself a response to my "Expressivist concerns for assisted dying on request" (see above).

Phenomenal Concepts and the Disjunction Problem, 108th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology 2016

The Logic of Quantified Two-Dimensional Conceivability Arguments, Masterclass Conference with David Chalmers 2015

Honors

Philosophy Department Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2022-23

Marcus G and Blanche L Singer Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2022

Philosophy Department Summer Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2021

College of Letters and Science Teaching Fellow, Nominee (one of two department-wide) University of Wisconsin-Madison 2021

Philosophy Department Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2016-17

Teaching (Full Responsibility)

Introduction to Philosophy, Lone Star Community College and University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sample lecture slides (basics of philosophy) 11 times

Contemporary Moral Issues, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sample lecture slides (crash course in ethical theory) 6 times

Introduction to Ethics, Lone Star Community College and University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sample video lecture (Kant, fairness, and justice) 3 times

Formal Logic, Lone Star Community College
Sample lecture (syntax and semantics of propositional logic) 1 time

Teaching dossier (includes teaching statement, evidence of teaching excellence, diversity statement, old and tentative syllabi, and sample assignments)

Teaching Assistant

Elementary Logic, University of Wisconsin-Madison, (w/ John McKay and Josh Mund) 2 times

Introduction to Ethics, University of Wisconsin-Madison (w/ Emily Fletcher) 1 time

Introduction to Ethics, University of Houston (w/ Tamler Sommers) 1 time

Introduction to Philosophy, University of Houston (w/ Helen Hattab) 1 time

Introduction to Mind, University of Houston, (w/ Josh Weisberg) 1 time

Service

Reviewer for *Analysis*, *Asian Journal of Philosophy*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ergo*, *Erkenntnis*, *Medicine Healthcare and Philosophy*, *Neuroethics*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Ratio*, *Theoria*; book proposal reviewer for Routledge

Session Chair (ad hoc), 114th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology	2023
Session Chair, Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association	2022
Invited Commenter, 110th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology	2018
Fellowship Application Committee, Bioethics Department at NIH	2024-25
Journal Club Organizer, Bioethics Department at NIH	2024-26
T-Shirt Designer/Distributer, Bioethics Department at NIH	2025

Volunteering

Clinical Ethics Shadowing, The John J. Lynch Center for Clinical Ethics, MedStar Washington Hospital Center	2025
Dinner Preparation, Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health	2025
Interim Hospice	2023-25
English Tutor, The Literacy Network	2023

Academic Philosophy References

Farid Masrour (advisor and committee chair)
Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Alan Sidelle (committee member)
Professor of Philosophy, emeritus
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Clinical Bioethics References

Christine Grady (former chief, NIH bioethics)
Research Scholar, Kennedy Institute of Ethics
Faculty, Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics
Professor of Neuroscience, School of Medicine
Georgetown University
4000 Reservoir Rd NW
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Dave Wendler (acting chief, NIH bioethics)
Acting Chief
Department of Bioethics
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(Academic Philosophy References continued)

Bruno Whittle (committee member)
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Jesse Steinberg (teaching advisor)
Teaching Faculty, Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
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Molly Lasco (supervisor)
Professor and Chair
English and Developmental English
Lone Star College-System Office
5000 Research Forest Drive
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(Clinical Bioethics References continued)

Scott Kim (mentor)
Senior Investigator
Department of Bioethics
Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health
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Robert Steel (mentor)
Staff Scientist
Department of Bioethics
Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health
10 Center Dr.
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Graduate Coursework

Philosophy of Mind/Cognitive Science

Externalism (Farid Masrour), Consciousness (Josh Weisberg), Mental Representation (Cameron Buckner), Philosophy of Mind, 80's and 90's (Larry Shapiro), Belief (Jesse Steinberg), Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Cameron Buckner)

Bioethics/Biomedical Ethics

Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research (Holly Taylor w/ guest speakers), Clinical Ethics Fellowship First Year Seminar (Robert Steel, w/ gues speakers), Joint Bioethics Colloquium (David Wasserman and Sean Aas, w/ guest speakers)

Metaphysics

Philosophy of Religion (Justin Coates), Free Will (Martha Gibson), Meta-Ethical Constructivism and Constitutivism, (Mike Titelbaum), Contemporary Big Pictures in Metaphysics (Alan Sidelle), Grounding (Bruno Whittle; audited)

Philosophy of Language and Logic

Modal Logic (James Garson), Philosophy of Mathematics (James Garson), Counterfactuals (John Mackay), Logic and Ontology (James Garson)

History of Philosophy

Early Analytic (Martha Gibson), Aristotle's Scientific Method and Metaphysics (Cynthia Freeland), Epistemology from Hume to Quine (Bredo Johnsen)

Epistemology

Fine-Tuning (Elliott Sober), Philosophy of Social Science (Josh Weisberg), Philosophy of Science (Josh Weisberg), Epistemology of Logic (Mike Titelbaum; audited)

Dissertation Abstract

The problem of the many is a paradox, on which many candidates are individually and equally well-suited to uniquely constituting an object. In this dissertation, I defend a novel solution to the problem of the many: typism. According to typism, the object in question is constituted by the type to which the many candidates belong as tokens, rather than any of the tokens themselves. Just as it is not paradoxical to claim that "rose" is the longest word in "a rose is a rose is a rose"—despite the presence of three longest words therein—it is not paradoxical to claim that the candidate constitutes an object—despite the presence of many candidate constituters. After the introduction, I present in chapter 1 a synoptic description and defense of typism, in the process comparing it with alternative solutions. The remainder of the dissertation elaborates on key issues from this first chapter, its centerpiece. Chapter 2 provides an account of distinctively metaphysical arbitrariness and explains why such arbitrariness occasionally—as in the problem of the many—warrants rejection. Chapter 3 clarifies the resemblance between types and their tokens which (among other things) underlies the defense of typism, specifically by appeal to the generic features of pluralities of said tokens. Chapter 4 addresses an explanatory challenge to typism—how can abstract types constitute non-abstract objects?—by outlining a model on which constitution is, in this case, a form of projection (e.g., as occurs in augmented reality technology). Finally, I conclude the dissertation by pictorially summarizing the typist's response to the problem of the many and pointing toward future work on the relationship between perception and metaphysical determinacy.