Dear all in the Philosophy and Ethics group of the department of Industrial Engineering and Innovation Sciences at the University of Eindhoven, the Netherlands;

please accept this brief letter of introduction in application to the advertised 0.6 position teaching ethics of technology for first year engineering students (Reference number V39.4787)

My full name is Jeffrey Benjamin White, but people usually call me Jeff. I am a philosopher, ethicist and dedicated teacher.

I worked at the University of Twente for a couple of years. My contract ended last September (details in the CV, below), after which I applied for a special visa to be able to stay in the Netherlands to find another position. Currently, we are in Hengelo, and available for work.

Documents below include communications from past employers, students and colleagues with a focus on teaching. I am fortunate to have made some good friends during my time at the UT. I brought to the UT deep experience designing and leading ethics courses for some of the worlds very best students of science and technology at KAIST. My time at the UT has only made me better. I would like to bring this enthusiasm and commitment to Eindhoven, if you feel that I may be a good fit.

Regardless, thank you for your patience in reviewing these materials, and I wish you only the best.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey White

Visiting Researcher
Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Cognitive Neurorobotics
https://groups.oist.jp/cnru

Editor – student forum
AI&Society
https://www.springer.com/journal/146
Education
Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Missouri - Columbia, 2006
Dissertation: *Conscience: toward the mechanism of morality*
M.A./M.S. Philosophy/Chemistry, Cleveland State University, 2001
B.A./B.S. Philosophy/Chemistry (A.C.S.), Bowling Green State University, 1996

Academic Experience
Assistant Professor (philosophy) - University of Twente, Netherlands Fall 2018-Fall 2020
Visiting scholar, OIST – Tani group, Cognitive Neurorobotics 2017-present
Researcher (cognitive robotics) - KAIST 2015-2016
Assistant Professor (philosophy) - KAIST 2010-2015
Teaching assistant (philosophy) - University of Missouri – Columbia 2001-2006
Graduate assistant (philosophy/chemistry) - Cleveland State University 1996-2001
Chemistry department lab technician/assistant - BGSU 1992-1994

Publications
“Machine ethics: From machine morals to the machinery of morality” (book review of Pereira and Lopes, 2020) for *Prometheus*, Pluto In press
“Autonomous Reboot: Kant, the categorical imperative, and contemporary challenges for machine ethicists” (article) for an *AI & Society* special issue on autonomous artificial agency 2021 (online)
“Cognitive neurorobotics and self in the shared world, a focused review of ongoing research” (article, with Jun Tani) for *Adaptive Behavior* 2020 (online)
“Autonomous Reboot: Aristotle, autonomy and the ends of Machine ethics” (article) for an *AI & Society* special issue on autonomous artificial agency 2020 (online)
“The role of AI and robotics in technologically mediated human evolution” (article) for *AI & Society* 2020
“Dreyfus on the "fringe": information processing, intelligent activity, and the current status of thinking machines” (article) for a special issue of *AI & Society* on Dreyfus 2019
“From biological to synthetic neurorobotics approaches to understanding the structure essential to consciousness (part 3)” (article, with Jun Tani) for the *APA Newsletter of Philosophy and Computing* 2017
“From biological to synthetic neurorobotics approaches to understanding the structure essential to consciousness (part 2)” (article, with Jun Tani) for the *APA Newsletter of Philosophy and Computing* 2017
“From biological to synthetic neurorobotics approaches to understanding the structure essential to consciousness (part 1)” (article, with Jun Tani) for the *APA Newsletter of Philosophy and Computing* 2016
“Simulation, self-extinction, and philosophy in the service of human civilization” (article) for *AI&Society*, Springer 2016
“Rethinking Machine Ethics in the Age of Ubiquitous Technology” (edited collection, with Rick Searle) for IGI Global 2015
“Grounding Social Sciences in Cognitive Sciences" (book review of Sun, 2012) for *Philosophical Psychology*, Taylor and Francis 2015
"Models of moral cognition” (proceedings) for *SAPERE*, Springer 2014
Publications (continued)


"Autonomy Rebuilt: Rethinking Traditional Ethics towards a Comprehensive Account of Autonomous Moral Agency" (article) *Natural Intelligence*, International Neural Network Society 2012

"Infosphere to Ethosphere" (article) *International Journal of Technoethics*, IGI Global 2011

"Understanding and Augmenting Human Morality: the ACTWith model" (proceedings) Lorenzo Magnani, C. Pizzi, and W. Carnielli (editors) *Studies in Computational Intelligence #314: Model-Based Reasoning in Science and Technology*, Springer 2010

In process

“Training Big Data: Fairness and Bias in the Digital Age” (special issue, guest associate co-editor) for *Topics in Data Mining and Management* (first full submissions are coming in, now)

"Autonomous Reboot: the challenges of artificial moral agency and the ends of Machine ethics” (parts 3 and 4 of a four article series) under revision for *AI & Society*

Self-abduction (monograph) under (much delayed) contract with Springer for (supremely patient) Lorenzi Magnani’s SAPERE collection

Conscience: the mechanism of morality (complete monograph under revision)

Conference participation

Philosophy of human technology relations 2020, University of Twente – On the potential to mediate cooperative social transformations in an era of ubiquitous revolt (speaker, chair of Session 17: Technology and Politics) 2020

University of Twente Tech and Values Seminar – Machine ethics and solving the moral hard problem (speaker) 2020

OZSW – Amsterdam – A Garden too Perfect? The Neglect of Cognition in the Landscape of Ecological Enactivism (co- speaker, with Bas De Boer) 2019

Kongress der Wissenssolziologie, Koblenz – Artificial Objectification, its potential and reality (speaker) 2019

Philosophy Department Colloquium Sept. 19, 2019 – The Compass Point of Conscience: a Kantian interpretation of systems neuroscience (speaker) 2019

Sharif Spring School Conference on Ethics of AI, Tehran - Philosophy, Ethics, and Society: Ethical issues in AI (invited speaker – video) 2019

Dutch Research school of Philosophy (OZSW) 6th annual conference, University of Twente, Netherlands (session chair) 2018

University of Twente Tech and Values Seminar – Technologically mediated self-directed human evolution through predictive simulations assembled through the integration of established research programs in AI at different levels of organization (speaker) 2018
Conference participation (continued)

World Congress of Philosophy, Beijing (co-chair, session #58 Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence) 2018
Tilburg University, Netherlands – Prospects for fully autonomous (Kantian) AMAs - (guest speaker) 2017
Conference on Ethics and Artificial Intelligence, Norway – Prospects for fully autonomous (Kantian) AMAs - (invited speaker) 2017
OIST, Okinawa – Prospects for fully autonomous AMAs - (guest seminar) 2017
COGSCI 2017 (referee) 2017
COGSCI 2016 (referee) 2016
ICISTS – KAIST 2015 – Philosophy and ethics of AI and related technologies (invited speaker) 2015
7th Beyond Humanism Conference, Ewha University, Seoul (speaker, session chair) 2015
COGSCI 2015 (referee) 2015
ICISTS – KAIST 2014 - Philosophy and ethics of AI and related technologies (invited speaker) 2014
COGSCI 2014 (referee) 2014
KAIST workshop on Abduction (MC) 2014
ICISTS – KAIST - 2013 - Philosophy and ethics of AI and related technologies (invited speaker) 2013
MBR 2012, Italy, Modeling non-violent social transformation (speaker) 2012
MBR 2012, Italy, "Modeling Morality" (speaker) 2012
Harmony and Order vs. Spontaneity and Revolt in Eastern and Western Philosophies, The University of Hong Kong, "Toward a Universal Framework for Understanding Harmony and Revolt: the spontaneous as natural in Wittgenstein and Heidegger" (speaker) 2009
MBR 2009, Brazil, "Understanding and Augmenting Human Morality: An Introduction to the ACTWith Model of Moral Cognition" (speaker) 2008
Seoul National University, "Philosophical Implications of Gender Differences in Brain and Cognition: a review of recent research” (guest lecture) Moon Sook Byeon (course instructor) 2008
World Congress of Philosophy, Seoul National University, “Conscience, Consciousness, Scioussness And Science: A Glimpse At Neuroethics And The Future Of Moral Philosophy” (speaker) 2008
World Congress of Philosophy, Seoul National University, “Why Believe in Collective Agents? Because You Did Something Wrong!” (speaker) 2008
World Congress of Philosophy, Seoul National University, “Heidegger And The Space Of Life” (speaker) 2008
World Congress of Philosophy, Seoul National University, “Why Believe in Collective Agents? Because You Did Something Wrong!” (speaker) 2008
World Congress of Philosophy, Seoul National University, “Good Will and the Conscience in Kant's Ethical Theory” (speaker) 2008
Teaching Experience – University of Twente

Project-based program-specific module contributions, individually designed/updated.

Spring 2020
1. Computer Science/Business Info Tech, graduation project semester (co-taught with Patrick Smith and Sage Cammers-Goodwin) - philosophy and ethics of technology and information
2. Creative technologies, graduation project semester - philosophy and ethics of engineering design
3. International business administration (IBA) – graduation project semester - business ethics
4. Mechanical engineering, fluid dynamics – engineering ethics
5. Ethics and Technology II – robot ethics

Fall 2020
1. Computer Science/Business Info Tech/Creative Tech, graduation project semester (co-taught with Patrick Smith and Sage Cammers-Goodwin) - philosophy and ethics of technology and information
2. Creative technologies, graduation project semester - philosophy and ethics of engineering design
3. Perspectives on Engineering Design (MS Elect. Engineering) – philosophy of engineering design
4. Stakeholder analysis (BS Mechanical Engineering) – engineering ethics

Spring 2019
1. International business administration (IBA) – graduation project semester – business ethics
2. Communication – graduation project semester – communication ethics
3. Mechanical engineering, fluid dynamics – engineering ethics
4. Creative technologies, graduation project semester – philosophy and ethics of engineering design
5. Information technology (TCS) and Business information technology (BIT) – graduation project semester (co-taught with Patrick Smith) – philosophy and ethics of technology and information
6. Psychology – philosophy of psychology
7. Psychology – ethics of psychology tutorials
8. Ethics and Technology II - Master’s course (co-taught with Philip Brey)

Teaching Experience – KAIST

These were full semester (sixteen week) courses, independently designed and annually updated.

Robot Ethics 2013, 2014
Minds and Machines (Summer/Winter) 2013, 2014
Information Ethics (Summer) 2014
Philosophy of Information 2015
Analytic Philosophy 2011

Student and Teaching Assistantships

(Teaching Assistantships) Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics, Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of War and Peace (John Kultgen, advisor; MU- Columbia) 2001-2006
(Graduate Assistantship) Graduate Admissions Office (CSU) 1999-2001
(Tutor) Athletics (CSU) 1998-1999
(Teaching Assistantship) Philosophy Department - Introduction to Logic (CSU) 1997-1998
(Lab technician) General Chemistry (BGSU) 1992-1994
Media Coverage and Appearances

TV Chosun Global Leaders Forum “Abolishing Government?” November 2017, with video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43P8usEbZGo&tl=1002s


This Morning, Seoul, "Plagiarism Prevalent in Korea?" April 25th, 2012 (guest)
Kevin Times (newspaper) “Korea still numb to plagiarism” May 2nd 2012 (quoted)

This Morning, Seoul, "Recent Suicide Cases at KAIST" April 14th, 2011 (guest)

YTN News (TV) April 14th, 2011 (focus on my Ethics class, coordinated with KAIST public relations)

Money Today (newspaper) April 13th, 2011 (quoted)

Yeonhap News (newspaper) April 12, 2011 (interview)

Other professional activities

Editor (student forum), AI & Society (Springer, Q1 SCImago: philosophy) 2020

Editorial advisory board, AI & Society 2018-2020

Editor for PhilPapers.org in Machine Ethics, Moral Status of Artificial Systems, Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

Reviewer of books and articles for various journals and associations (recents ongoing include Philosophies, Prometheus, Plos One Minds and Machines, Science and Engineering Ethics, Techne, Philosophical Psychology, HYLE, AI & Society, AIES 2020 ... )

My teaching philosophy

as reflected in unsolicited communications from recent students.

Concerning Fall 2019:

Hi Jeff,

Thanks for reviewing my ethics paper! I just wanted to compliment you on your teaching approach. Many lecturers simply take the formal, traditional approach of speaker vs audience, but you always showed effort to make it interactive, easier to understand by giving clear-to-grasp examples and adding humorous twists. You made ethics a lot less boring than I previously thought it would be, as I now see that it's applicable everywhere around me. Although I don't know very much about Star Wars, I seriously loved the way you transformed simple reading and discussing the assigned papers into the 20-somewhat-course Star Wars dinner menu. It all contributed to making the course a lot more enjoyable & better to understand. I think you are one of the few teachers that I will still remember in 20 years or so because you really made a difference. Thanks a lot for making this a fun course!

Goodbye for now and best wishes,

Concerning Spring, 2020:

Hi Jeff,

I just want to say thank you. You were the most helpful teacher I have had in a while! You really interact with your students and that makes class so much better; a lot of teachers have lost this. Thank you so much for everything!

Kind regards,
The following people are aware of recent work, with some directly involved with my teaching at the UT. All of them expect to hear from possible employers, and are ready to send you something about me directly. Please contact them using the information provided according to your interests. For information about my teaching, I list below Claas and Kees, and would be happy to provide contact info for others in other programs at the UT upon your request. Written references are copied after this list. First, you will find communication from from Kees. Kees is especially interested in teaching. I attach also an email from him effectively inviting you to contact him, directly. After these communications from Kees, I also attach letters from Lorenzo Magnani (Italy) and from Woosuk Park (KAIST). These letters are old, but I have frankly not asked for such from anyone since that time. Woosuk retired in 2015, and I am sorry to say that we have not communicated at least since my wife and I left Korea three years ago. I include his letter mostly in recollection of those early years and to help to put KAIST course evaluation scores in perspective alongside Woosuk's account of that period. Please contact me directly concerning any difficulties or delays in contacting any of the people, below.

General scholarship and dedication to the profession:
   Karamjit Gill
   Professor (Emeritus), University of Brighton, UK
   Editor-in-chief, *AI & Society* (ranked Q1 in Philosophy by SCImago)
   kgillbton@yahoo.co.uk

Teaching applied ethics for engineering students at a top technical university in the Netherlands:
   Kees Venner
   Professor, Engineering Technology
   Chair of Engineering, Fluid Dynamics Group
   University of Twente, Netherlands
   c.h.venner@utwente.nl

Teaching applied ethics for engineering students at a top technical university in the Netherlands:
   Claas Visser
   Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering
   University of Twente, Netherlands
   c.visser@utwente.nl

Research center collaboration:
   Stephanie Hessing
   Head cat herder
   Digital Society Institute
   University of Twente, Netherlands
   s.j.hessing@utwente.nl
Dear Jeff,

I hope you are enjoying your weekend and there is no urgent need to read this mail! ... but if you would like some positive input to make your day even better... go ahead...

Thank you for the excellent experience last Friday. I enjoyed your lecture, and also participating in it as sidekick. I had recommended your lecture to several people in the past weeks and it was fun to see that at least two of them showed up, my colleague Arne van Garrel, the big bear person you met with whom I developed the twin teaching concept and the coordination education of our department Brenda Benders. Both really enjoyed your lecture, and also the way you presented it all. And of course my compliments too. I think you do a great job bringing the topic of ethics across the floodlight for engineers who often tend to think that it is something far away from them.

I mentioned to you my activities in trying to create good learning environments. I did my Senior Teaching Qualification last year on module redesign focusing on "fun" and learning "how to solve" problems. Then with Arne at a course in aerodynamics in France we together had so much fun and the students too that we realized we had found something special or at least, made it "superconscious".

I wrote a grant proposal for the Brinkema Innovation Grant of the UT for teaching innovation and got that. It was awarded at the opening of the academic year, see:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3ZwNo8BRBU

Where you can also see my dogs, and hear an explanation of the concept and some of my vision. Attached you find some documents. It is all easy bedside reading. The "how to solve it" article is not an official article, I simply put it online and it is read quite often. Also attached the TWIN teaching proposal, and a first attempt at an "ongoing development" article for an educational conference. It will probably rejected as it does not have many results yet... but anyway... see for yourself. What I did in your lecture is based on these thoughts.

Kind regards

Kees

prof. dr. ir. C.H. (Kees) Venner | chair | Engineering Fluid Dynamics
University of Twente | Faculty of Engineering Technology

Mail address P.O.Box 217 | 7500 AE Enschede | The Netherlands
Visiting address Drienerlolaan 5 | 7522 NB Enschede | The Netherlands
E c.h.venner@utwente.nl | Appointments Mrs S.K. Janssen-Godschaal | T +31 (53) 4892735 | E s.k.godschaal@utwente.nl

To: White, J.B. (BMS)   Co: Visser, C.W. (ET)  Inbox - j.b.white@utwente.nl
Re: 

Dear Jeff,

Did you give our names as reference? In that case they will usually ask.
Or do you want us to directly write a letter in support unsolicited? The last thing is not so common in the Netherlands but of course I can do. It is certainly not too much to ask, and there is no patience here, we are always ready to support you as your talent should not be withheld from students and others!

kind regards

Kees

prof. dr. ir. C.H. Venner | chair | Engineering Fluid Dynamics
University of Twente | Faculty of Engineering Technology

Mail address P.O.Box 217 | 7500 AE Enschede | The Netherlands
Visiting address Drienerlolaan 5 | 7522 NB Enschede | The Netherlands
O Horsting N 246 (building 21) | T +31 (53) 489 2489 (489 2735)
E c.h.venner@utwente.nl | Appointments Mrs S.K. Janssen-Godschaal | T +31 (53) 4892735 | E s.k.godschaal@utwente.nl

See More from White, J.B. (BMS)
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR JEFFREY BENJAMIN WHITE

Pavia, Italy, November 30, 2011

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Lorenzo Magnani. Currently, I am full professor at the University of Pavia (Italy), Department of Philosophy, and hold a visiting professorship in China at Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou), Department of Philosophy. Since 1998, I have led a global group of researchers in Model Based Reasoning, and organize MBR conferences around the world. I am the author of more than a dozen books, and co-author or editor of 20 more, including the most recent L. Magnani (2011), Understanding Violence. The Understanding of Morality, Religion and Violence. A Philosophical Study, (Springer, Heidelberg/Berlin; L. Magnani (2009), Abductive Cognition. The Epistemological and Eco-Cognitive Dimensions of Hypothetical Reasoning, Springer, Berlin/Heidelberg; L. Magnani (2009), Morality in a Technological World. Knowledge as Duty, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (Paperback Edition). You can find me at my homepage: <http://www.unipv.it/magnani>, and can find a short profile of myself on Wikipedia.

I write to you today in recommendation of Jeffrey Benjamin White. I met him in Singapore in 2008, and took an immediate liking to him. He impressed me with his collegiality, modesty, frank discourse on sensitive issues, and willingness to engage on a broad range of topics. We spent some time together in Seoul at the World Congress of Philosophy in 2008, and have had increasingly frequent contact ever since. In 2009, Jeff contributed to the MBR conference I organized in Brazil (MBR09_BRAZIL). During this time, he impressed myself and many others, with his outgoing personality and insightful commentary. His presentation was greatly appreciated by the international community that attended the conference, due to the fact that Jeffrey has developed an original and interesting curriculum of research mainly concerning some issues in moral philosophy intertwined with cognitive science, always considering the most important relationships with philosophy and epistemology. During that time, we began discussing the plan for my most recent book on ethics, abductive cognition and technology, and continued our discourse through email afterwards. Jeffrey’s grasp of the issues was so compelling that I ended up quoting him at length in a most critical part of the book Understanding Violence, a section in the first chapter headed “Defining Violence”.

Most recently, Jeffrey contributed a deeply philosophical article to a special issue of the International Journal of TechnoEthics (edited by myself and other colleagues of my university in Italy) in which he tackles some very difficult and puzzling aspects within Luciano Floridi’s information ethics, resolving them around a robust application of ontropy, and grounding the analysis in the ancient Greek tradition. In my assessment, the research that he puts forward in this paper provides the basis for what promises to be an important book on
these issues. At the very least, he has opened himself up to further publications in the ethics of information and technology.

A portion of the paper for *TechEthics* is an acute exegesis from some of my own work, books and articles, from which he retrieves resources to resolve some recognized problems with Florida's approach. I must confess to having been quite pleased with his philosophically deep understanding of my work, sometimes misunderstood in the framework of the analytic tradition. Not only was Jeffrey Benjamin able to render an accurate and deeply philosophical interpretation of my work, but he was able to apply this understanding to solving sophisticated philosophical problems. Indeed, so impressed was I with his analysis that I asked him to compose a review of that book for the journal *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.

Jeffrey Benjamin White is a rare thinker these days. He is very bright, yet modest and eager to work with others on issues important to them. He is charismatic, yet rather than overshadow others in a superficial and self-centered way, he spends his charm empowering his fellows, challenging them, and encouraging them to both achieve and to feel confident in their achievements. Jeffrey is a great addition to our MBR community, and I am proud to consider him my friend and colleague. Perhaps most importantly, Jeffrey's scholarship is exceptionally notable. For one thing, his scope is very broad, as is evident by his recent publications in moral psychology and robotic ethics. For another, and I want to emphasize this point, he works at a deeply philosophical level. He lives a thoughtful philosophical life, as has been evidenced in every exchange we have ever shared, and this is truly an exceptional thing. Moreover, this philosophical way of life provides Jeff with compelling analytical force allowing him to easily build from analysis to synthesis, and to acutely realize the heart of complex philosophical issues.

Though I am not familiar with his teaching style, I have no doubt that his enthusiasm, and growing wisdom, are inspirational for students. So far as his scholarship goes, it is indeed inspiring. In my opinion, representing the direction of philosophy in the future, Jeffrey's work is groundbreaking in a good way, meaning that he is opening avenues that advance our collective understanding in directions that we feel good pursuing. He does not merely advance philosophical problems, he composes philosophical answers, and this is what we need from future philosophers. Jeff is especially qualified in this regard, as he brings resources to conceptual analysis that are productive of forward-thinking and constructive resolutions of philosophical problems, resources that are uniquely important in this era of increasing interdisciplinarity.

I can easily predict that Jeffrey Benjamin White will offer his home institution the three most important things that a faculty member can offer. He will bring enthusiastic collegiality, a willig capacity to integrate and collaborate with members of diverse departments, and a rapidly established track record of substantial scholarship with the promise and potential to increasingly contribute throughout the vast field of philosophy at the highest levels of scholarship. He promises to be one of the greatest of assets to your department, and for these reasons should be on your short list of candidates.

Taken all together, it is my professional opinion, having worked as a professional philosopher for more than 30 years and on 3 continents, that Jeffrey Benjamin White is an ideal candidate for Assistant Professor. Given his prolific and important scholarship, he will easily meet tenure publication requirements. Furthermore, I would note that, given my experience with Jeffrey, a young scholar of his aptitude and attitude requires
a stable post rich with teaching and advising and committee work (and so on) in order to
work at his highest levels. And, given Jeff's demonstrated understanding of emerging areas
of philosophical interest, he is uniquely capable of developing, and indeed invigorating, the
philosophical curriculum of courses around issues crucial for today's student body. If you
can offer Jeff this kind of challenge, then I urge you to hire him. In my professional
opinion, supporting this young man may be one of the best decisions you will ever make
for your department.

In all, Jeffrey Benjamin White is a deep thinker, both probing and insightful. I think that he
should have the chance to teach and research in the stimulating academic environment that
I think your University can offer. He will have the possibility to continue his studies in your
institution while offering to the students classes that take advantage of original research and
international involvement. I can easily predict that the activity of Jeffrey Benjamin White at
your University will be successful, since he will also be able to continue making intelligent
selections of research and didactic topics. I think that his capacity in integrating himself in
different research and academic teams and communities is evident upon considering his
international experience. Finally, Jeff's potential for professional publication is exceptional
not only because he fixes on important issues, but because he contributes important
resolutions to these issues. I think that he has superior intellectual capabilities, motivation,
and self-directedness. I recommend him highly for the position you opened.

If you would like to discuss the contents of this note further, or have questions on any
other subject, please feel free to contact me.

Lorenzo Magnani

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Magnani

Full Professor
Director: Graduate and Postgraduate Studies in Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy
Visiting Professor: Department of Philosophy,
Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou (Canton), P.R. China
Director: Computational Philosophy Laboratory
<http://www.unipv.it/webphilos_lab/>

Author's Website: <http://www.unipv.it/magnani>
Editor: Springer Book Series
Studies in Applied Philosophy, Epistemology and Rational Ethics
<http://www.springer.com/series/10887>
November 5, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my great honor and pleasure to recommend to you Dr. Jeffrey Benjamin White as a promising candidate for a teaching position at your institution. I first met him at the international conference “MBR 09 Brazil” in December 2009. So much impressed by his presentation and his enthusiasm for philosophy, I asked him to teach a course at KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology). Meanwhile, he helped me revising my papers for publication with utmost care and collegiality. As a consequence, I believe, I am qualified enough to comment on his potential both as a teacher and a philosopher.

Dr. White taught at KAIST as a temporary part-time lecturer for three semesters from February 2010 to May 2011. The first course he taught at KAIST, i.e., Ethics (Spring 2010), which is his major field of research, was a great success. Not to mention the terrific teaching evaluation, many of his students sent e-mails to me asking for more chances to learn from him. Though somewhat expected, I was very happy about the result. So, I asked Dr. White to teach two courses per semester. Even though his situation was not favorable (see below), he was willing to comply with my offer to teach one more course per semester: Philosophy of Mind (Fall 2010), Analytic Philosophy (Spring 2011).

Dr. White has a unique background holding an MS degree in chemistry as well as a Ph.D. in philosophy. This fact is important, because KAIST is one of the best science and engineering oriented universities in Korea. More important, however, must be that Dr. White is a dedicated teacher. Not only is he enthusiastic for his lectures, but also for taking care of students’ needs and difficulties. In particular, he tried to help students who are not so good in speaking English. I have to mention in this regard that last Spring, during KAIST’s most difficult time, he had such an impact on some students that their talk about him led to newspaper and radio interviews, with television news filming his class. All this is incredible in view of the fact that due to a hectic schedule, he actually slept on chairs in the lecturers’ room in order to be at KAIST in time for class. I have no doubts that he will show similar commitment to any institution and student body, given the opportunity.
As for Dr. White’s serious research in theoretical ethics, I am not qualified enough to evaluate it. Insofar as his enthusiasm for interdisciplinary co-work goes, however, I do have something to say. He provided with me with almost a half length detailed comments on my paper “Belief Revision Vs. Conceptual Change in Mathematics”, which appeared in *Studies in Computational Intelligence* last year. Since it was simply impossible to incorporate all his brilliant ideas in the final manuscript, I’ve been trying to write a jointly written paper with him on the generalization of my major thesis. Another example would be his recent development of a special course on “Robot Ethics”. When I asked him to submit a syllabus of one or two pages, he handed in an eighty page research article on how to develop an artificial moral agents, which is in fact an excellent literature survey of the field. He is currently working on several intriguing projects including the revised edition of his book on conscience.

Having said all this, I am rather sad failing to keep him at KAIST. For, I had so many plans to pursue with him, such as launching a new journal on experimental philosophy. Since KAIST couldn’t afford to offer him a full-time position, Dr. White failed to resolve the Visa problem. It was simply unexpected and unfortunate.

Dr. White’s academic promise is dazzling. To say the least, he has the potential in several fields including applied ethics, engineering/robot/information ethics, and philosophy of mind/cognitive sciences. He will always be a dedicated teacher. Finally, he will be a wonderful colleague to anyone. In a word, if he finds a single post with time to dedicate solely to teaching and service to the school, he should shine as an asset to any employer. I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Jeffrey Benjamin White as a promising candidate to your institution. In case you are interested in further details, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, perhaps via email. Thank you!

Respectfully yours,

Woosuk Park
Tenured Full Professor
Humanities and Social Sciences
College of Cultural Science
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
woosukpark@kaist.ac.kr
Course evaluations: KAIST

Course evaluation results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>The number of students</th>
<th>Response rate</th>
<th>Average (5.0)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>spring</td>
<td>Topics in Philosophy</td>
<td>Jeff</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>spring</td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind</td>
<td>Jeff</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>Jeff</td>
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<td>7.33</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Jeff</td>
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<td>6.76</td>
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<tr>
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Summary:

Our classes were very popular with the students of KAIST. I say “our” because I worked with many very bright and courageous young people there, especially during the later years after we were able to establish a culture and “firm up” expectations so that incoming students would hear from peers and older students what they should expect from our very challenging philosophy and ethics courses. 20 students was an average class size in humanities classes. We routinely operated at 2, 3 even 5x that number. Note that the final Philosophy of Mind class was cross-listed as a graduate level class due to graduate student interest. I made this class too difficult, which resulted in student stress and finally a lower evaluation score. We should have delivered a nearly perfect score, but I made a mistake. The assistants during those later years were drawn from the most successful students during from earlier years. There are no philosophy majors or minors at KAIST, only humanities electives for science and engineering students. 20 students was an average class size in humanities classes. We routinely operated at 2, 3 even 5x that number.

Scores dipped when I was stretched a bit too thin with too many work obligations both at KAIST and elsewhere, and later when we moved from Seoul to Daejeon, my wife and I married, we lost a child to miscarriage, and in general a lot of things changed rapidly. When things stabilized, we were able to put together some very fine courses. More details including class materials are available upon request.

Consider the dip in scores during 2011. Many KAIST students are educated with an emphasis on the memorization and repetition of formulae, and feel immense stress about grades. Many had aspired to attend KAIST since youth, and had studied from 6am to 12am daily for years mostly alone to achieve the scores necessary to go there. They succeeded to that point by reproducing information, solving formal problems within time constraints. I tried to work to balance this over-emphasis on formal problems with an equally heavy emphasis on applications, cases, and real-life contexts. Though I aimed to promote critical thinking and the development of different ways of approaching problems, I did not take into account that this different class environment, which may reward different approaches to problem solving and which may concern different sorts of questions than many students had become so proficient at answering, would cause such anxiety in many students. Actually, it took me a while to figure things out in a way that enabled me to take a different approach going forward.
Course evaluations: Twente

My position involved developing philosophy and ethics courses embedded within different degree programs with most of these for their respective graduation semesters. Course evaluations went to the programs, directly, and I have seen few of these, personally. I was informed of evaluation results in different ways, however. For instance, during my first quarter, I was nominated for the award for best teacher on campus by Proto, the student association for Creative technologies for which I had developed and was teaching their graduation semester:

On 26 Feb 2019, at 09:31, Daniela van Meggelen <educational@proto.utwente.nl> wrote:

Dear teacher,

The university educational award (UTEA) is coming up, an award given to the best lecturer of the University of Twente. With this award, both the students and the University want to emphasize the importance of quality education and want to encourage lecturers to provide their education with the best quality possible. We, as Study Association Proto, have to nominate one teacher from our studies Creative Technology and Interaction Technology to be a candidate for the final, university-wide, round. We are doing this by letting students vote on a selection of teachers.

We would like to know if you would like to be a candidate for our student vote! We appreciate the passion that CreaTe and I-Tech students have for their job and want to give you the chance to share it with other people as well. All you have to do is reply to this email with a picture of yourself, and an answer to the following questions:

- What is the most precious thing the study has given to you?
- What are you most proud of related to the study?

Please do so before the before Thursday the 7th of March. We will post these answers along with the picture on our Proto Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/s.a.proto/)

If, in the end, you are nominated as the study-wide candidate (and thus best CreaTe / I-Tech teacher), you are required by the university to send in a letter before the 31st of March. We will send an email at the time as well, with more details.

We hope to hear from you. If you have any questions, feel free to ask us!

Kind regards,

On behalf of the EducaCie,

Daniela van Meggelen | Officer of Educational Affairs of S.A. Proto

In the end, I did not win – not even close! After all, it was my first quarter, and few students had even heard of me, so it was not going to be possible to win a popular vote. It was important for me to be chosen by these students in this program, though, and I am proud of the honor.
As for an example of actual scores, especially relative to the programs in which I was embedded, below you will find emails from Hans Vossensteyn who coordinated the graduation semester for International Business Administration (CHANGEL) and one of our colleagues in that course. Every one of my lectures was recorded for absent/distant students.

Dear all,
I forgot to pass on the Evaluations of CHANGEL.
Congratulations, we scored a 6.1, which is higher than previous years.
Students particularly liked Jeff’s lectures and the Business case reflection sessions.
They found the planning stressful, particularly the tests (2 tests in 1 exam and too many factual questions instead of applications), the project next to the bachelor thesis research proposal.
So we have some issues for consideration again.
Best
Hans

Henry is a teaching professor with that program. We had been speaking on campus, and I had mentioned that it would be important for me to receive good student evals, given that I was working so hard to develop module specific content in philosophy and ethics for 8 different programs including developing a masters PSTS ethics class according to new guidelines from scratch, without assistants, all at the same time, and all for the first time at a new university and in new country.

Below, Henry relays results of student responses to evaluation questions:

The score for the semester-long course as a whole was 6.1.
I scored 8 for my Business Ethics contribution.

Hans has since left the UT. Michel Ehrenhard is in charge of the program. Contact info and more numbers can be delivered upon request for this and for other programs.
Often, I received feedback from students directly and spontaneously (as illustrated by the emails copied above in the CV). One example follows. A student from that past Spring's Philosophy and Ethics of Psychology course emailed to ask if she could attend my lectures for other courses. The student had since begun the MS in Psych, and wanted to visit some of my lectures that Fall in other programs to observe my teaching method (as an observer rather than as a student). The student eventually attended one of the TCS/BIT/Create classes (the graduation semesters for these programs had been combined in the Fall semesters, whereas in the Spring they were independent). After the class, I emailed the student requesting some feedback. Below, find this student's (anonymized) response above snapshots of the class activity for that day:

From:  
Subject: Re: Lectures  
Date: 27 November 2019 at 06:57:22 CET  
To: d.o.white@uvtwente.nl

Hi Jeff,

I really had a good time being your guest and I thought it would be nice if students, in general, were encouraged/enabled to make this experience. Having a look into other programmes, getting some inspiration and interacting with people from other departments and their view on the world.

Though my feelings towards giving a “presentation” in front of people from a different profession about a topic I have not been familiar with before were pretty aversive, it turned out to be quite pleasant. So, thank you for this little exposure therapy.

Well, regarding the feedback, I guess it is kind of biased since liking the way you teach and interact with students was one of the reasons why I was interested in joining one of your lectures/tutorials. But I can say that I did not regret it.

From my perspective, it’s refreshing to experience such an unconventional but authentic way of student-tutor interaction. You deliver the impression of socially being on the same level, thus, an easy to approach person you can trust, without breaking your authority role, though you shared your food. Nevertheless, that is a personal preference and there are also many students who prefer the cold, superficially more professional seeming, stick up one’s ass way. I guess it makes them feel special and educated, and approves their perceived necessity to go to uni to become a serious, professional and valuable member of society. But I don’t know for sure.

Moreover, it seems as if you are actually interested in the students’ perspective and understanding instead of just aiming to hear a text summary. Here, I think it was good that you rephrased the questions from the menu so people had to adjust their prepared answers. Besides evoking a nasty feeling of exposure, with the correct praise afterwards it can create a sense of mastery, which is pleasantly motivating.

Also nice to see was this little discussion group around your desk. Though I did not constantly observe it, it did not seem as if people felt uncomfortable.

And finally, I really liked this menu idea. Embedding this stiff, serious technology topic in a more casual and pleasant context facilitated, besides multiple other connotations, a more playful and light approach to the matter, aka digest the topic. Additionally, it was a pretty fitting representation of you as a tutor.

However, it was a bit sad that there was not enough time to listen to all of the groups. Would have been nice to have a discussion at the end.

In case you would like to have feedback on other or more specific things, do not hesitate to ask, I was just trying to picture my general impression, not wanting to get lost in unnecessarily overanalysing tiny things.