

Kenneth Silver, PhD

Trinity Business School
Trinity College
Dublin 2, Ireland

kennethmsilver@gmail.com
Cell: +1 (912) 667-2321
Trinity Office: +353-1-896-3494

Academic Employment

Trinity College Dublin, <i>Assistant Professor in Business Ethics</i> Trinity Business School	2019-current
University of Southern California, <i>Dornsife Preceptor</i> Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, & Sciences	2017-2019

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Southern California Dissertation: "The Constitution of Action" Committee: John Hawthorne (co-chair), Gabriel Uzquiano (co-chair), Kadri Vihvelin, Gary Watson, Ron Artstein <i>Areas of Specialization:</i> Business Ethics, Philosophy of Action <i>Areas of Competency:</i> Metaphysics, PPE, Applied Ethics	2017
B.A. with Honors in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Honor's Thesis: "Chairs Exist, and that's No Trivial Matter"	2010

Publications

Journal articles:

"Emergence within Social Systems," *Synthese*, forthcoming.

"Group Action Without Group Minds," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, forthcoming.

"Wronging by Requesting," with N. G. Laskowski, *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics (Vol.11)*, Mark C. Timmons (Ed.), forthcoming.

"Causal Exclusion and Ontic Vagueness," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming.

"Strategy (Part I): Conceptual Foundations," *Philosophy Compass*, 16(1): e12717, Jan. 2021.

"Habitual Weakness," *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*, 8(4): 270-277. Dec. 2019.

“Modern Portfolio Theory and Shareholder Primacy,” *Business Ethics Journal Review*, 7(6): 34-49. Sept. 2019.

“Can a Corporation Be Worthy of Moral Consideration?” *Journal of Business Ethics*, 159(1): 253-265. Sept. 2019.

“Avoiding Late Preemption with the Right Kind of Influence,” *Philosophia*, 47(4): 1297-1312, Sept. 2019.

“Omissions as Events and Actions,” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 4(1): 33-48, Sept. 2018.

“The Vague Time of a Killing,” *Philosophical Studies*, 175(6): 1383-1400, June 2018.

“Do I Think Corporations Should be Able to Vote Now?” *Business Ethics Journal Review*, 6(4): 18-23, May 2018.

Book review:

“Omissions: Agency, Metaphysics, and Responsibility, by Randolph Clarke,” *Mind*, 124(496): 1264-1268, Sept. 2015.

Work in Progress

“Competitive Advantage as a Disposition”

“Fair Decisions, Hard and Soft” (with Greg Faletto)

“How to Justify Holding Corporations Responsibility”

“What’s Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?”

“The State of Nature and Excusing Corporate Wrongdoing” (with Paul Garofalo)

Presentations (invited = *)

“Whither Shareholder Theory?” scheduled Nov. 2021, Fuqua School of Business, Duke Strategy Research Conference *

“Respondeat Superior and the Criminal Law: When Should the Master Answer?” scheduled March 2021, the Inaugural Criminal Theory Conference, Hebrew University Jerusalem

- “Fair Decisions, Hard and Soft” (with Greg Faletto), Nov. 2020, University of Copenhagen, Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness
- “What’s Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?” March 2020, Competence Center for Strategy and Competitiveness, FHWien der WKW, University of Applied Sciences for Management and Communication in Vienna, Austria *
- “Group Weakness,” Jan. 2020, Colloquium at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meeting
- “Corporate *Mens Rea*,” Nov. 2019, Trinity College Dublin, Symposium on Alex Sarch’s *Criminally Ignorant: Why the Law Pretends We Know What We Don’t* *
- “How to Not Rule Out the Market Failures Approach,” Oct. 2019, Dublin, the 26th International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference (IVBEC)
- “Group Weakness,” Sept. 2019, University College Dublin Center for Ethics & Public Life, Book Workshop on Stephanie Collins’ *Group Duties*
- “Competitive Advantage as a Disposition,” Aug. 2019, STR Division, Academy of Management Annual Meeting
- “The Value of Corporate Criminal Responsibility,” Aug. 2019, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting
- “The State of Nature and Excusing Corporate Wrongdoing” co-presented with Paul Garofalo, Aug. 2019, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting
- “The Market Failures Approach and the Ideal World Objection,” March 2019, New Orleans, for the Philosophy, Politics, & Economics (PPE) Society Annual Meeting
- “Group Action Without Group Minds,” Aug. 2018, Tufts University, Social Ontology 2018, the 11th Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference
- “Corporate Action Without Corporate Minds,” Aug. 2018, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting, ***Finalist for Best Conference Paper***
- “What’s Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?” May 2018, Business Ethics in the 6ix, Ted Rogers School of Business Management at Ryerson University
- “Vagueness and Exclusion,” April 2018, Colloquium at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meeting
- “What’s Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?” March 2018, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, Business Ethics Workshop
- “Corporate Behavior and Corporate Action,” Dec. 2017, Wharton School of Business, Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop

“Does Davidson’s View of Action Extend to Corporate Action?” Nov. 2017, Third Taiwan Metaphysics Colloquium

“What’s Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?” Aug. 2017, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting, Emerging Scholars Section

“Causal Exclusion and Constitution,” April 2017, Colloquium at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meeting

“Can You Wrong a Corporation?” Jan. 2017, Wharton School of Business, Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop

“Ethics for a Combined Human-Machine Dialogue Agent,” with Ron Artstein, March 2016, Stanford, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Spring Symposium

“Randolph Clarke’s, *Omissions: Agency, Metaphysics, and Responsibility*” April 2015, Author Meets Critics session at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meeting *

“The Constitution of Action” Feb. 2014, Symposium at the Central Division APA

“Causation and Rule-Relativity” April 2013, Yale/UConn Graduate Philosophy Conference

Presented as Commentator

Comments on Andrew Law’s, “No Counterfactual is Sufficient for Freedom,” April 2019, Colloquium at the Pacific Division APA Meeting

Awards

Finalist for Best Conference Paper Award, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting 2018
Society for Business Ethics Founders’ Award (2017)
Worth Award, UNC (2010) – awarded annually to a senior for excellence in philosophy

Media Engagement

Pea Soup Ethics Blogpost: “My Way: The Ethics of Financial Contributions” (with N. G. Laskowski), April 10, 2019

Roundtable on the Ethics of VR/AR, Upload LA, June 2017

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record:

Business Ethics	Spring 2020-continuing
Fundamentals of Philosophy, Ethics, and Social Science	Fall 2019-continuing
Are Corporations People?	Fall 2017-Spring 2019

Executive Education:

Segment: The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence	Delivered Nov. 2019
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Teaching Assistant at USC:

Ideas on Trial (Prof. Ed McCann)	Spring 2019
Philosophy of Film (Prof. Ed McCann)	Fall 2015, Fall 2016
Social Ethics for Earthlings and Others (Prof. Sharon Lloyd)	Spring 2014
Mind and Self (Prof. Jake Ross)	Fall 2013
Issues in Space and Time (Prof. Shieva Kleinschmidt)	Spring 2013, Spring 2017
Ancient Greek Culture and Society (Prof. Frank Lewis)	Fall 2012
Philosophy of Love (Prof. Ed McCann)	Spring 2012, Spring 2018
Science, Religion, and the Making of the Modern Mind (Prof. John Dreher)	Fall 2011

Workshop on Teaching Professional Business Ethics, Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business (June 2018)

Leadership Experience

Associate Director, Global Business Programme, TBS	2021-present
Steering Committee Member, <i>Trinity Centre for Justice and Values</i>	2020-present
Co-Organizer, Trinity Business Ethics Speaker Series, TBS	2020-present
Head of Fresh, Trinity Business School	2020-2021
Vice President, USC Philosophy Graduate Organization	2014-2015
Senator, USC Graduate Student Government	2014-2015
Organizer, USC Speculative Society	2012-2013

Professional Affiliation

The Academy of Management	The Society for Business Ethics
The American Philosophical Association	The International Social Ontology Society
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society	

Service to Discipline

Referee: *Oxford University Press*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Business Ethics Quarterly*, *Noûs*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of the APA*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Topoi*

Referee for EURAM, AOM Annual Conference, SBE Annual Conference (x2), USC/UCLA Annual Graduate Conference (x3)

Service to Trinity

Trinity College Foundation Scholarship Exam, various roles 2019-present

Trinity Business School Post-Graduate Appeals Committee, member 2020-present

Athena Swan Trinity Business School Self-Assessment Team, member 2019-2020

Trinity Research Ethics Committee, member 2019-2020

Business and Professional Experience

Passed CFA Level 1

Rosano Partners Commercial Real Estate, *Special Projects Consultant*

June 2016-Aug. 2016

Charity Brands Consulting, *Market Research Specialist*

Feb. 2016-June 2016

Experimental Experience

IRB-Certified Study: "It's Okay; I Understand"

2009

Supervised by Joshua Knobe

Discovers layman intuitions on the conventional versus moral rule distinction

Findings presented at UNC-CH research colloquium, 2009

References

External References for Business Ethics:

John Hasnas – hasnasj@georgetown.edu (202-687-4825)

William English – william.english@georgetown.edu (202-456-7890)

For Philosophy:

John Hawthorne – jhawthor@usc.edu (424-205-7171)

Gabriel Uzquiano – uzquiano@usc.edu (213-740-1074)

Gary Watson – glwatson@usc.edu (714-906-0361)

Kadri Vihvelin – vihvelin@usc.edu (213-740-5185)

For Teaching: Ed McCann – mccann@dornsife.usc.edu (213-740-5169)