

Chris Melenovsky

Philosophy Department
1600 Burrstone Ave.
Utica, NY 13502

cmmeleno@utica.edu
www.cmmelenovsky.com
cell: (860) 830-7311

APPOINTMENTS **Utica College** (August 2016 - present)
Assistant Professor
Philosophy Department

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (July 2014 - July 2016)
Research Assistant Professor
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program

EDUCATION **University of Pennsylvania**
(Ph.D. in Philosophy, 2014; M.A. 2011)
• Dissertation Supervisor: Prof. Samuel Freeman

University of Michigan
(B.A. in Philosophy; B.A. in Economics, 2007)

RESEARCH AREAS *Areas of Specialization:*
Political and Social Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Legal Theory

Areas of Competence:
Philosophy of Social Science, History of Value Theory, Metaethics
Defense Ethics

PUBLICATIONS “The Implicit Argument for the Basic Liberties”
• *Res Publica* (forthcoming)

“Not all Political Lies are Morally Equal”
• *Journal of Social Philosophy* (forthcoming)

“Incentives, Conventionalism, and Constructivism”
• *Ethics*, 126.3 (April 2016)

“Promises, Practices, and Reciprocity”
• *Philosophical Quarterly*, 67.266 (June 2016)

“Why Free Market Rights are Not Basic Liberties” (with J. Bernstein)
• *Journal of Value Inquiry*, 49.1 (March 2015)

“The Basic Structure as a System of Social Practices”
• *Social Theory and Practice*, 39.4 (October 2013)

UNDER REVIEW “Conventionalism and Legitimate Expectations”
“An Improved Conception of Social Cooperation”
“The Value of a Non-Ideal: A Response to Gaus”

- IN DEVELOPMENT “Legal Obligation and the Value of Choice”
 “A Moral Taxonomy of Social Practices”
 “Rawlsian Objectivity”
- PRESENTATIONS “Property Rights and Injustice: The Emancipation of the Serfs” [refereed]
 - 2018 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA, (Mar 15th-17th)
 “Conventionalism as Communitarian Contractualism” [refereed]
 - 2017 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress; Boulder, CO (Aug 10th-13th)
 “A Moral Taxonomy of Social Practices” [refereed]
 - 2017 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA, (Mar 16th-19th)
 “Contractualist Conventionalism” [refereed]
 - 2016 APA Eastern Division Meeting; Washington DC, (Jan 6th-9th, 2016)
 “An Improved Conception of Social Cooperation” [invited]
 - MIT Political Theory Workshop, Cambridge, MA (October 23rd, 2015)
 - 2015 UNC/Duke PPE Workshop, Chapel Hill, NC (August 22nd, 2015)
 “The Implicit Argument for the Basic Liberties” [invited]
 - IVR 2015 (July 27th, 2015)
 “Rawlsian Objectivity,” [refereed]
 - 2015 APA Pacific Division Meeting; Vancouver., (April 4th, 2015)
 “Promises, Practices, and Reciprocity” [invited]
 - 2014 UNC/Duke PPE Workshop, Chapel Hill, NC (August 30th, 2014)
 “The Basic Structure and Ethical Life,” [refereed]
 - 2014 APA Pacific Division Meeting; San Diego, CA., (April 16th, 2014)
 - 2014 Felician Ethical Conference; Lodi, NJ (April 26th, 2014)
 “Rawlsian Objectivity and Naturalism” [refereed]
 - 2014 York University Graduate Conference; Toronto, (April 24th, 2014)
 “The Practice-Dependent Wrong of Breaking Promises,” [refereed]
 - Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress; Boulder, CO., (August 9th-12th, 2012)
 - Felician Ethics Conference; Rutherford, NJ., (April 21st, 2012)
 “Why Economic Rights are not Basic Liberties,” [with Justin Bernstein]
 - Graduate Student Colloquia Series; Philadelphia, PA., (May 3rd, 2013)
 “The Basic Structure as a Particular Set of Social Practices,” [refereed]
 - Graduate Conference; CUNY, New York, NY., (April 20th, 2012)
 “Legal Obligation, Fairness and the Value of Choice,” [refereed]
 - Graduate Workshop Series, UPenn Program on Democracy, Citizenship,
 and Constitutionalism; Philadelphia, PA., (March 15th, 2012)
 “Finessing Ecumenical Expressivism” [refereed]
 - Brandeis Graduate Student Conference; Waltham, (March 6th, 2010)
 “International Right and Kant's World-Federation,” [refereed]
 - Oxford University Graduate Student Conference, (November 22nd, 2009)

DISSERTATION *A Mooring for Ethical Life: Assessing the Basic Structure of Society*

Supervisor: Samuel Freeman

Advisors: Kok-Chor Tan, Elisabeth Camp, Waheed Hussain

The dissertation defends the Rawlsian focus on the basic structure of society as the primary subject of justice. I give an account of what the basic structure is and why it is morally significant. By structuring our interaction with others, our basic institutions do not merely cause certain distributions, they often determine our moral obligations, our rights, and what values we should regulate our choices by.

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

- Philosophy of Law (Fall 2016, 2017)
 - A survey of both analytic and normative problems in Tort Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law, Property Law, and Constitutional Law
- Law and Ethics of Cyber Espionage [Online] (Fall 2016, 2017; Spring 2017)
 - Evaluates the policy and law that surrounds state-on-state, state-on-person, and company-on-company espionage, with special focus on cyber-espionage.
- Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2016, 2017; Spring 2017)
 - Focuses on developing skill in ethical reasoning by reviewing key ethical distinctions, applied topics, and major moral theories.
- Theories of Justice (Spring 2017)
 - Starting with contemporary debates, this class emphasizes the importance of political theories by focusing on the thought of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Smith, Nozick, Marx, and Rawls.
- Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense (Summer, Spring 2016)
 - Teaches the basics of and alternatives to just war theory before applying these ideas to contemporary topics like drone use, targeted killing, and secrecy.
- Introduction to PPE (Fall 2014, 2015; Spring 2015)
 - Introduces core concepts for the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program at UNC and Duke. The class examines rational choice theory, game theory, public choice theory, norms theory, and principles of distributive justice
- Capstone Seminar in PPE (Spring 2015, 2016)
 - Senior research seminar for the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program at UNC and Duke. Topics include cost-benefit analysis, application of public choice theory, the value of democracy, and measures of well-being.
- Introduction to Moral Theory (Fall 2014)
 - Introduction to different approaches in moral theory with focus on Mill, Kant, Hobbes, and Aristotle.
- Political Ethics (Fall 2012)
 - Applied ethics with focus on moral issues faced within political institutions such as voting and legal ethics.
- The Social Contract (Summer 2012)
 - Introductory class focusing on Hobbes, Locke, Bentham, Rousseau, Mill, Marx, Nozick and Rawls.

Teaching Assistant:

- Philosophy of Social Science (Cristina Bicchieri, Spring 2011)
- Justice, Law, and Morality (Samuel Freeman, Fall 2011)
- The Social Contract (Kok-Chor Tan, Spring 2011)
- Introduction to Ethics (Adrienne Martin, Fall 2010)

AWARDS

- Mellon/SAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2013-2014)
- Teaching Certificate, UPenn Center for Teaching and Learning (2013)
- Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching (2010-2011)
- Honorable Mention, Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching (2010-2011)

SERVICE AND
PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES

Within Philosophy Department:

- Core Oversight Committee, Utica College (2016/2017)
- Organizer, Kantian Ethics Reading Group, UNC (2015/16)
- Undergraduate honors thesis advisor for Daniel Irving on justifications of property rights (2015/16)
- Led undergraduate reading group on A. Buchanan's *The Heart of Human Rights* (Fall 2015)
- Led undergraduate reading group on T. Piketty's *Capital in the 21st Century* (Spring 2015)
- Participant, Early Career Ethics Writing Group, UNC (2014-16)
- Lead Organizer, "The Correspondence and Independence of Moral and Political Philosophy" Graduate Student Conference, (Nov. 2012)
- Organizer, UPenn Graduate Student Reading Group in Political and Ethical Philosophy (Fall 2013, Summer 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2011, Summer 2011, Spring 2011, Fall 2010)
- Undergraduate honors thesis advisor for Claudia Ricciardi, "Institutional Luck Egalitarianism," Spring 2012)
- Organizer, UPenn Graduate Student Writing Group (2011/12)
- Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy Department (2011/12)
- Graduate Student Colloquium Chair, Philosophy Department (2010/11)

Outside Philosophy Department

- Advisor, Utica College Debate Team (2016/2017)
- Instructor and Organizer for UNICEF/UPenn Course on Social Norms, (July 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Academic Administrator, Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, (June 2011-Dec. 2012)
- Researcher, Social Responsibility Action Committee, UPenn (2014)
- Independent Consultant on Social Norms and Development, UNICEF, (Jan-Sept. 2012)
- Judge for 2014 /15 North Carolina State Ethics Bowl Competition
- Graduate Associate, Harrison College House, (2009-2014)

Editing Experience

- Reviewed revised edition of John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice* to identify places where Harvard University Press did not make the revisions requested by Prof. Rawls. Future printings will reflect these corrections.
- Adrienne Martin, *How We Hope* (Princeton University Press, 2013)
- Claire Finkelstein, et al., *Targeted Killings: Law and Morality in an Asymmetric World*, Oxford University Press, 2012)
- Kok-Chor Tan, *Justice, Institutions, and Luck: The Site, Ground, and Scope of Distributive Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2012)

REFERENCES

Prof. Geoffrey Sayre-McCord
Morehead-Cain Alumni Professor
University of North Carolina
sayre-mccord@unc.edu

Prof. Geoffrey Brennan
Professor of Philosophy
Australian National University
geoffrey.brennan@anu.edu.au

Prof. Kok-Chor Tan
Associate Professor
University of Pennsylvania
kctan@upenn.edu

Prof. Cristina Bicchieri
Sascha Jane Patterson Harvie Professor
University of Pennsylvania
cb36@sas.upenn.edu

Prof. Samuel Freeman
Avalon Chair in the Humanities
University of Pennsylvania
sfreeman@upenn.edu

Prof. Thomas Hill
Kenan Professor of Philosophy
University of North Carolina
thill@email.unc.edu

Prof. Elisabeth Camp
Associate Professor
Rutgers University
elisabeth.camp@rutgers.edu

Prof. Barry Maguire
Assistant Professor
Stanford University
barry.maguire@stanford.edu