

Jonathan Spelman

Curriculum Vitae

May 2018

Ohio Northern University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Ohio Northern University, 2017-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Colorado Boulder, 2017

Dissertation Title: *Moral Obligation, Evidence, and Belief*

Advisor: Chris Heathwood

Committee: David Boonin, Elinor Mason, Alastair Norcross, and Graham Oddie

Abstract: Objectivism about moral obligation is the view that an agent's moral obligations do not depend on her beliefs or her evidence; they depend on the facts. In my dissertation, argue that given the way we use the phrase "moral obligation" and the nature of *obligation* more generally, we should reject objectivism. Furthermore, I use the fact that unreasonably risky behavior is morally wrong to give a novel argument for the view that an agent's moral obligations depend on her beliefs.

Certificate in College Teaching, University of Colorado Boulder, 2017

M.A., Philosophy, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2010

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Philosophy and Political Science (double major), Ashland University, 2008

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Normative Ethics (esp., consequentialism, moral responsibility, and the nature of moral obligation)
Metaethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Practical Ethics (including bioethics, business ethics, environmental ethics, and professional ethics)

Philosophy of Law

Epistemology

Philosophy of Religion

Early Modern Philosophy

Critical Thinking/Logic

AWARDS

2018 A.W. Mellon Fellow in Technology-Enhanced Learning

2017 Excellence in Graduate Teaching Leadership Award, CU Boulder Graduate Teacher Program

2016 The Best Should Teach Silver Award, CU Boulder Graduate Teacher Program

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

["Ignorance and Moral Obligation, written by Michael J. Zimmerman," *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 14, no. 3 \(2017\): 264-267.](#)

Work in Progress

"The Moral 'Ought' and Moral Obligation"

"Moral Obligation and Punishment"

"Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation"

"In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation"

"Is There Blameless Wrongdoing?"

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

- (2019) "Moral Obligation and Punishment," American Philosophical Association's 2019 Eastern Division Meeting, Poster Session, New York, NY, January 7-10, 2019.
- 2018 "The Moral 'Ought' and Moral Obligation," 2018 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Philosophical Association, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, April 7, 2018.
- 2018 "In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation," 2018 Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University, Adrian, MI, April 6-8, 2018.
- 2018 "The Moral 'Ought' and Moral Obligation," Spring 2018 Meeting of the West Virginia Philosophical Association, Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, March 16-17, 2018.
- 2018 "In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation," American Philosophical Association's 2018 Eastern Division Meeting, Main Program, Savannah, GA, January 3-6, 2018.
- 2017 "Moral Obligation and Punishment," Central States Philosophical Association's 2017 Annual Meeting, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, October 27-28, 2017.
- 2017 "Moral Obligation and Punishment," The 71st Annual Meeting of the Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Weber State University, Ogden, UT, October 12-14, 2017.
- 2016 "Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation," American Philosophical Association's 2016 Pacific Division Meeting, Main Program, San Francisco, CA, March 30-April 3, 2016.
- 2015 "Choosing between Consequentialist Theories of Virtue," Gateway Graduate Conference: Virtue Ethics Through the Ages, University of Missouri–St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, March 6-7, 2015.
- 2014 "Consequences and Virtue," Society of Christian Philosophers' 2014 Mountain-Pacific Region Conference, Carroll College, Helena, MT, April 3-4, 2014.
- 2014 "The Original Position, the Difference Principle, and the Unborn," 11th Annual Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, March 20-22, 2014.
- 2012 "A Critique of Zimmerman's Solution to the Problem of Moral Luck," University of Calgary Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, April 14, 2012.
- 2012 "A Defense of Phenomenal Conservatism," Southwest Graduate Conference, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, March 2-3, 2012.
- 2010 "A Theory of Objective Moral Assessment," Ohio Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, April 10, 2010.
- 2009 "Knowledge as Cognitive Achievement," 61st Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR, October 23-24, 2009.

Public

- 2018 "Is It Wrong to Eat Meat?" Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, April 23, 2018.

Invited

- 2015 "Moral Luck," Colloquium Talk, Ashland University, Ashland, OH, December 1, 2015.

Departmental

- 2017 "In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation," CU Boulder, Summer Seminar Talk, June 15, 2017.
- 2016 "Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation," CU Boulder, Center for Values and Social Policy (CVSP) Talk, March 28, 2016.
- 2015 "Moral Obligation and Blame," CU Boulder, CVSP Talk, January 30, 2015.

TEACHING

Refereed Presentations

- (2018) "A Prisoner's Dilemma Game for Professional Ethics Courses" (with Patrick Croskery), American Association of Philosophy Teacher's Twenty-Second Workshop-Conference on Teaching Philosophy, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC, July 25-29, 2018.
- 2017 "Student Assessment in the Inclusive Classroom," CU Boulder's Graduate Teacher Program's Spring 2017 Inclusive Classroom Workshop Series, Boulder, CO, March 24, 2017.

- 2017 “Teaching Ethical Theory with Interactive Websites,” American Philosophical Association’s 2017 Central Division Meeting, Affiliated Group Program (American Association of Philosophy Teachers), Kansas City, MO, March 1-4, 2017.

Workshop Participation

- (2018) A.W. Mellon Technology-Enhanced Learning Workshop
2017 American Association of Philosophy Teachers’ Workshop on Inclusive Pedagogy
2017 Graduate Teacher Program’s Consultative Learning Advancement Workshop, CU Boulder
2016 American Association of Philosophy Teachers’ Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy
2016 CU Diversity on Campus Training, CU Boulder
2016 Graduate Teacher Program’s Lead Graduate Student Teacher Training, CU Boulder

COURSES TAUGHT

Ohio Northern University

- Environmental Ethics (x1)
Professional Ethics (x5)
Logic (x2)

Ashland University

- Workplace Ethics (online) (x1)

CU Boulder

- Introduction to Ethics (x5)
Introduction to Philosophy (x4)
Philosophy & Law (x4)
Introduction to Western Philosophy: Modern (x1)
Introductory Logic (x2)
Philosophy & Society (x2)

SERVICE

Professional

- Reviewer for *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 2017-
Chair for Book Symposium on Zimmerman’s *Ignorance and Moral Obligation* at the Pacific APA, 2017
Referee for the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, 2015-2017
Referee for the Rocky Mountain (Graduate) Philosophy Conference, 2012-2014, 2016
Author of *1,000-Word Philosophy* encyclopedia entry on “[The Repugnant Conclusion](#),” 2014
Author of *1,000-Word Philosophy* encyclopedia entry on “[Moral Luck](#),” 2014
Lead organizer for the Society of Christian Philosophers’ Mountain-Pacific Region Conference, 2013

Campus

- Co-coach of Ohio Northern University’s Ethics Bowl Team, 2017-present
Philosophy Club talk on punishment, 2016
Philosophy and Film talk on *V for Vendetta*, 2015
Co-organized the Veritas Forum event “Science & Faith,” 2015
Philosophy Club talk on population ethics, 2014
Co-organized the Veritas Forum event “Atheism & Christianity,” 2013
Philosophy Club talk on moral luck, 2013

Departmental

- Lead Graduate Student Teacher, 2016-2017
Organized and led a pedagogy reading group, 2017
Organized and led a teaching workshop on course preparation, 2017
Organized and led a teaching workshop on midterm feedback, 2016
Organized and moderated a teaching panel on writing exams, 2015

Community

Judged Regional High School Ethics Bowl competition, 2017
Consulted for Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins' Ethics Bowl team, 2017
Co-taught at Cherry Creek High School on paternalism and the problem of evil, 2016
Consulted for Peak to Peak Charter School's Ethics Bowl team, 2015
Co-taught at Cherry Creek High School on paternalism, 2015
Moderated Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl competition, 2014
Taught at Centaurus High School on the ethics of genetic engineering, 2014
Co-taught at Fairview High School on moral luck, 2014
Co-taught at Fairview High School on distributive justice, 2013
Co-taught at Fairview High School on free will, 2013

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

CU Boulder

Metaethics: Alastair Norcross
Well-Being: Chris Heathwood
Ethics Proseminar: Boonin, Hanna, Heathwood, Hosein, and Norcross
Epistemology: Brian Talbot
Epistemology: Rob Rupert
Personal Identity: David Barnett
Metaphysics and Epistemology Proseminar: Forbes, Hanna, Koslicki, and Tooley
Plato: Dominic Bailey
Nietzsche: Michael E. Zimmerman

University of Missouri–St. Louis

Recent Ethical Theory: John Brunero
Classical Ethical Theory: Eric Wiland
Philosophy of Law: John Brunero
Philosophy of Action: Eric Wiland
Theories of Knowledge: Brit Brogaard
Metametaphysics: Brit Brogaard
Metaphysics Proseminar: Gualtiero Piccinini
Philosophy of Science: Robert Northcott
Formal Logic: Andrew Black

Saint Louis University

Aquinas on Moral Virtue, Eleonore Stump
Hume and Reid, John Greco

REFERENCES

Chris Heathwood, *Associate Professor of Philosophy*
University of Colorado Boulder
(303) 735-0450
heathwood@colorado.edu

Elinor Mason, *Senior Lecturer* (equivalent to *Associate Professor of Philosophy*)
The University of Edinburgh
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