

TRAVIS TIMMERMAN

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AOS: Ethics and the Philosophy of Death

AOC: Epistemology, Bioethics, and Political Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT

Seton Hall University, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, August 2016 – present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Syracuse University, May 2016

Dissertation: *In Defense of Deprivationism*

M.A., Philosophy, Syracuse University, 2014

Ph.D. Candidate, Philosophy, Arizona State University, 2009-2011 (Transferred to Syracuse University Fall 2011)

M.A., Political Science, Arizona State University, 2009

Thesis: *John Stuart Mill's Radical(esque) Feminism*

B.A., Philosophy, Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University, 2008

B.S., Political Science, Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University, 2008

Certificate, Politics, Philosophy, and Law, Arizona State University, 2008

Thesis: *Considering the Supposed Sublation of Liberalism: An Exposition and Critique of Post-Liberal Political Theory*

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- (1) "A Dilemma for Epicureanism," *Philosophical Studies* (forthcoming).
- (2) "You're Probably Not Really A Speciesist," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- (3) "A Case for Removing Confederate Monuments" in Ethics, Left and Right: The Moral Issues that Divide Us ed. Bob Fischer (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- (4) "Doomsday Needn't Be So Bad," *dialectica* (forthcoming).
- (5) "Avoiding The Asymmetry Problem," *Ratio* (2018 print; 2017 online first).
- (6) "Save (some of) the Children," *Philosophia* (2018 print; 2017 online first).
- (7) "Actualism Has Control Issues," *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (2016). (co-authored with Yishai Cohen)
- (8) "Moral Obligations: Actualist, Possibilist, Or Hybridist?," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2016). (co-authored with Yishai Cohen)

- (9) “Your Death Might Be The Worst Thing Ever To Happen To You (But Maybe You Shouldn’t Care),” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2016).
- (10) “Reconsidering Categorical Desire Views” in Immortality and the Philosophy of Death ed. Michael Cholbi (Rowman and Littlefield, 2016).
- (11) “Sometimes There Is Nothing Wrong With Letting A Child Drown,” *Analysis* (2015) 2: 204-212.
- + Reprinted in Exploring Contemporary Moral Issues: Readings in Applied Ethics eds. Steven Cahn and Andrew Forcehimes (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).
- + Reprinted in The World of Philosophy: An Introductory Reader (2nd edition) ed. Steven Cahn (Oxford University Press, 2018).
- + Reprinted in The Moral Life: An Introductory Reader in Ethics and Literature (6th edition) eds. Louis P. Pojman and Lewis Vaughn (Oxford University Press, 2017)
- + Reprinted in Exploring Moral Problems: An Introductory Anthology eds. Steven Cahn and Andrew Forcehimes (Oxford University Press, 2017)
- + Reprinted in Exploring Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology (6th edition) ed. Steven Cahn (Oxford University Press, 2017)
- + Reprinted in Principles of Moral Philosophy: Classic and Contemporary Approaches eds. Steven Cahn and Andrew Forcehimes (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- + Reprinted in Exploring Ethics: An Introductory Anthology (4th edition) ed. Steven Cahn (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- (12) “Does Scrupulous Securitism Stand-Up to Scrutiny? Two Problems for Moral Securitism and How We Might Fix Them,” *Philosophical Studies* (2015 print; 2014 online first) 6:1509-1528.
- (13) “The Persistent Problem of the Lottery Paradox: And Its Unwelcome Consequences for Contextualism,” *Logos and Episteme* (2013) 4: 85-100.

REVIEWS

- (1) Review of John Martin Fischer’s and Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin’s Near Death Experiences: Understanding Visions of the Afterlife in *The Philosophical Quarterly* (2018 print; 2017 online first).
- (2) Review of Peter Singer’s The Most Good You Can Do: How Effective Altruism is Changing Ideas about Living Ethically in *The Philosophical Quarterly* (2016 print; 2015 online first).
- (3) Review of Charles Camosy’s Beyond The Abortion Wars: A Way Forward For A New Generation in *The Philosopher’s Magazine* (2016).
- (4) Review of Neil Levy’s Consciousness and Moral Responsibility in *The Philosophers’ Magazine* (2015). (co-authored with Sean Clancy)

POPULAR PHILOSOPHY

- (1) “Actualism and Possibilism,” *The Philosopher’s Magazine* (2016). (co-authored with Yishai Cohen)

- (2) “Why Lament a Bad Death?,” *The Philosopher’s Magazine* (2015).
- (3) “Who Comes First, Humans or Apes?” in *Planet of the Apes and Philosophy* ed. John Huss (Open Court, 2013).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

University Research Council (URC) Grant, Summer 2018

I received a \$10,000 grant for my project *Are Moral Obligations Determined by Actual or Possible Free Choices?*, which consists of at least two new papers about the intersection between the actualism/possibilism literature and free will literature. One paper is commissioned for the *Oxford Handbook of Consequentialism* and the other is being prepared for publication in a journal.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant, Summer 2017

I received a \$6,000 grant for my project *Accounting for Moral Responsibility in an Agent’s Free Actions*, which is a series of papers that explores the relationship between the actualism/possibilism debate in ethics and accounts of moral responsibility.

Immortality Project Grant (received with co-investigator Kirsten Egerstrom and principal investigator Ben Bradley), Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

We received a \$93,849.00 grant for our project *Death, Rational Emotion, and Meaningfulness*, which is a series of papers that explores the relationship between the badness of death and fitting attitudes towards one’s own death, as well as the meaningfulness of life.

Research Grant, Syracuse University, Summer 2014

I received a \$725 grant to write a paper on the metaphysics of death. The grant was awarded to three students based on the merit of paper proposals.

Research Grant, Syracuse University, Spring 2013

I received an external \$5,000 grant to write two papers on the philosophy of death.

Research Grant, Syracuse University, Summer 2012

I received a \$725 grant to write a paper on peer disagreement. The grant was awarded to three students based on the merit of paper proposals.

Travel Grant, Syracuse University Philosophy Department, 18 grants 2011-2015

Graduate Studies Fellowship, Graduate College, ASU, Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

\$10,000 fellowship awarded to one first year graduate student based on academic merit

MCLI Learning Grant, Phoenix College, Summer 2009

\$2,500 grant from the Maricopa County Community College School District to develop a Medical & Bioethics course for Phoenix College

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

- (1) “Actualism and Possibilism in Ethics” with Yishai Cohen (entry for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*)
- (2) “How to Be an Actualist and Blame People” with Philip Swenson (committed to, and provisionally forthcoming in, the fifth volume of *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility*)

- (3) “Actualist and Possibilist Consequentialism” with Yishai Cohen (committed to, and provisionally forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of Consequentialism* edited by Douglas Portmore, Oxford University Press)
- (4) “Actualist, Possibilist, or Hybridist Effective Altruism?: Fixing Effective Altruism’s Core Underspecification Problem” (provisionally forthcoming in *Effective Altruism: Philosophical Issues* edited by Theron Pummer and Hilary Greaves, Oxford University Press)
- (5) “The Stakes of the Actualism/Possibilism Debate for Business Ethics” with Abe Zakhem
- (6) “Searching for Virtue in Normative Ethics” with Yishai Cohen
- (7) “The Problem with Person-Rearing Accounts of Moral Status” with Bob Fischer (under review)

PRESENTATIONS

- (1) “The Problem of Person-Rearing Accounts of Moral Status” (with Bob Fischer) Eastern APA, January 2019
- (2) “The Problem of Person-Rearing Accounts of Moral Status” (with Bob Fischer) Romanell Conference at the University at Buffalo, July 2018 (Invited)
- (3) “A Case for Removing Confederate Monuments” The College of New Jersey, April 27th 2018 (Invited)
- (4) “Save (some of) the Children.” The Pacific APA, March 30th 2018 *Comments from Alexander Dietz*
- (5) “Effective Altruists: Actualists or Possibilists?” Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Conference, March 23rd 2018
- (6) “How to Be an Actualist and Blame People” (with Philip Swenson) The New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility (NOWAR), November 4th 2017
- (7) “Save (some of) the Children.” Felician Ethics Conference, October 14th 2017
- (8) “Save (some of) the Children.” Romanell Conference at the University at Buffalo, July 28th 2017 (Invited)
- (9) “How to Be an Actualist and Blame People” Neutrality: Reasons, Values, and Times Conference at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), July 14th 2017
- (10) “Epicureanism is Either False or Deprivationism in Disguise” Stockholm June Workshop in Philosophy at Stockholm University, June 9th 2017 (Invited)
- (11) “Effective Altruists: Actualists or Possibilists?” Uppsala University, June 7th 2017 (Invited)
- (12) “Effective Altruists: Actualists or Possibilists?” the Ethics of Giving conference at the University of St. Andrews, May 23rd 2017 (Invited)
- (13) “Doomsday Needn’t Be So Bad” The College of New Jersey, April 19th 2017 (Invited)
- (14) “Epicureanism is Either False or Deprivationism in Disguise” Philosopher’s Cocoon Conference at the University of Tampa, October 10th 2016 *Comments from Jason Chen*

- (15) “If You’re Going to Eat Meat, You Should Eat Factory Farmed Meat” the Ninth Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME) poster session, August 11th 2016
- (16) “You’re Probably Not *Really* a Speciesist” The PANTC Bioethics conference at the University at Buffalo, July 28th 2016 (Invited)
- (17) “Epicureanism is Either False or Deprivationism in Disguise” Regents Lecture at the University at Buffalo, March 25th 2016 (Invited)
- (18) “Speciesism Is False by (Most) Speciesists’ Own Lights” The 161st meeting of the Creighton Club, October 17th 2015 (received Graduate Student Presentation Award) *Comments from David Limbaugh*
- (19) “Death and Appropriate Attitudes” Capstone Conference of the Immortality Project, May 29th 2015
- (20) “Doomsday Needn’t Be So Bad” The Younger Scholars Workshop (part of the Immortality Project), The University of California, Riverside, May 24th 2015 (Invited)
- (21) “Virtue Ethics as a Substantive Normative Ethical Theory” (with Yishai Cohen) The Felician Ethics Conference, April 25th 2015
- (22) “The Only Plausible Epicurean Views Are Deprivation Views in Disguise” The Pacific APA, April 2nd 2015 *Comments from Alan McLuckie*
- (23) “The Only Plausible Epicurean Views Are Deprivation Views in Disguise” The National Autonomous University of Mexico Graduate Conference, February 20th 2015 *Comments from Rodrigo Valencia*
- (24) “Two New Problems for Categorical Desire Views” The International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying (IAPDD) Conference at Cal Poly Pomona, November 20th 2014
- (25) “Sometimes There Is Nothing Wrong with Letting A Child Drown.” San Diego State University’s annual SoCal Philosophy Conference on October 19th 2014
- (26) “Normativity Without Metaphysical Vagueness” (with Yishai Cohen) The Seventh Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME) poster session, August 8th 2014
- (27) “A New Argument Against Speciesism” The University of Toronto’s New Frontiers of Ethics Conference, April 25th 2014 *Comments from Stefan Dolgert*
- (28) “Actualism’s *ad hoc* Problem” (with Yishai Cohen) The Pacific APA, April 19th 2014 *Comments from Nathaniel Sharadin*
- (29) “Reconsidering Categorical Desire Views.” Pennsylvania State’s Philosophy, Life, Death conference, March 1st 2014 *Comments from Ryan Pollock*
- (30) “Your Death Might Be The Worst Thing Ever to Happen To You (But Maybe You Shouldn’t Care)” Facing Death Conference at Rhodes University (South Africa), November 28th 2013
- (31) “Dual Obligations Hybridism” (with Yishai Cohen) The Northwest Philosophy Conference at Pacific University, October 5th 2013
- (32) “Dual Obligations Hybridism” (with Yishai Cohen) The Annual British Postgraduate Philosophy Association Conference at the University of Glasgow, June 26th 2013

- (33) “Does Scrupulous Securitism Stand-Up to Scrutiny? Two Problems For Moral Securitism And How We Might Fix Them” Dowling College’s Philosophy Conference, April 6th 2013
- (34) “Accounting For ‘Ought Implies Can’ In Our Reasons For Action: How Externalists Can Level The Playing Field” Southwest Graduate Conference, March 3rd 2012
- (35) “Avoiding The Asymmetry Problem: Why Prenatal Non-existence Could Be Just As Bad As Postmortem Non-existence” University of Miami’s Graduate Conference, October 22nd 2011
- (36) “John Stuart Mill’s Radical(esque) Feminism” Northern Arizona University’s Intellectual Intersections: A Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, February 4th 2011

COMMENTARIES

- (1) Roman Altshuler’s “Death and Possibility,” International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying (IAPDD) Conference, Uppsala University, August 2018
- (2) Jason Chen’s “A Solution to the Problem of Alienation,” Philosopher’s Cocoon Conference, University of Tampa, October 2016
- (3) Stephen Kershner’s “Filling Out Proportionality,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME) IX, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2016
- (4) John Martin Fischer’s and Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin’s Near-Death Experiences: Understanding Visions of the Afterlife, International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying (IAPDD) Author Meets Critics session, May 2016
- (5) John Basl’s and Christian Coons’s “Inferring from Ought to Is: The Puzzle of Moral Science,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME) VII, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2014
- (6) Tyler Paytas’s “You Really Ought to Use a Cleaver to Kill Jones: The Underspecification of Practical Oughts,” Syracuse University’s Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2012

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACTIVITY

Contributor at the PEA Soup (Philosophy, Ethics, Academia) Blog; I also co-run the discussions of the *Journal of Moral Philosophy* articles on PEA Soup.

Journal Referee for the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (2018, 2017) *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (2018), *Journal of Social Philosophy* (2018), *Analysis* (2017), *Mind* (2017), *Ethics* (2017), *Philosophical Studies* (2017, 2016 x 2), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2017), *Ergo* (2017), *dialectica* (2017 x 2), *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2017), *Journal of Value Inquiry* (2017 x 2), *Social Theory and Practice* (2017), *Philosophia* (2018, 2016, 2015), *The Journal of Philosophical Research* (2017, 2016 x 2), *The Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (2016)

Manuscript Referee for Oxford University Press (2017), Springer (2017)

Co-organizer for the Second International Association for the Philosophy and Death and Dying (IAPDD) Conference, which was held at Syracuse University from May 18th-20th 2016.

Referee for Syracuse University’s Graduate Philosophy Conference (Spring 2012-2015)

Co-organizer for Syracuse University’s 2013 Graduate Philosophy Conference

Referee for Arizona State University’s Graduate Philosophy Conference (Fall 2010)

Affiliations American Philosophical Association (APA), Executive Committee Member for the International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying (IAPDD)

Wireless Philosophy helping to organize a series on the philosophy of death and created a video on the Symmetry Argument for *Wireless Philosophy* www.wi-phi.com
The Owl I was an invited guest on The Owl, the Brooklyn Public Philosophers podcast.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor at Seton Hall University

Phi 1120: <i>Philosophy Through Film</i>	Fall 2018
Phi/Envl 2112: <i>Environmental Ethics</i>	Spring 2018
Phi 3940: <i>Special Topics - Parfit's On What Matters, Vol. 3</i>	Fall 2017
Phi 1130: <i>Biomedical Ethics</i>	Summer 2017
Phi 2175: <i>Philosophy of Death</i>	Spring 2017, Fall 2018
Phi 1101: <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>	Fall 2016
Phi 1105: <i>Introduction to Ethics</i>	Fall 2016 - present

Instructor at Syracuse University

Phi 192: <i>Introduction to Moral Theory</i>	Fall 2015
Phi 300: <i>Biomedical Ethics</i>	Summer 2015
Phi 107: <i>Theories of Knowledge and Reality</i>	Fall 2013, Spring 2016

Instructor at Arizona State University

Phi 101: <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>	Winter 2010, Summer 2011
Pos 103: <i>Introduction to Political Ideology</i>	Spring 2007

Instructor at Phoenix College

Phi 213: <i>Medical Ethics and Bioethics</i>	Summer 2010 – Present
Phi 101: <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>	Summer 2009 – Spring 2011
Phi 212: <i>Contemporary Moral Issues</i>	Spring 2017
Phi 105: <i>Introduction to Ethics</i>	Fall 2010, Spring 2011
Phi 103: <i>Introduction to Logic</i>	Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Summer 2017, Summer 2018
Phi 216: <i>Environmental Ethics</i>	Spring 2012
Pos 110: <i>American National Government</i>	Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant at Syracuse University

Phi 300: <i>Biomedical Ethics</i> (Samuel Gorovitz)	Fall 2014
Phi 192: <i>Introduction to Moral Theory</i> (David Sobel)	Spring 2014
Phi 192: <i>Introduction to Moral Theory</i> (Ben Bradley)	Spring 2013
Phi 197: <i>Human Nature</i> (Kim Frost)	Fall 2012
Phi 191: <i>Ethics and Contemporary Issues</i> (Laurence Thomas)	Spring 2012
Phi 175: <i>Social and Political Philosophy</i> (Matthew Koehler)	Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant at Arizona State University

Phi 307: <i>Philosophy of Law</i> (Peter de Marneffe)	Spring 2011
Phi 329: <i>History of Modern Philosophy</i> (Cheshire Calhoun)	Fall 2010

REFERENCES

Ben Bradley, (315) 443-5813, wbradley@syr.edu
 Sutton Distinguished Chair and Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University

John Martin Fischer, (951) 827-3762, john.fischer@ucr.edu
 Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, UC Riverside

David Hershenov, (716) 645-0150, *dh25@buffalo.edu*
Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University at Buffalo

Jeff McMahan, 0186-527-671, *jeff.mcmahan@philosophy.ox.ac.uk*
White's Professor of Moral Philosophy, University of Oxford

Hille Paakkunainen, (315) 443-5827, *hpaakkun@syr.edu*
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University

Douglas Portmore, (480) 965-5778, *dwportmore@gmail.com*
Professor of Philosophy, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Arizona State University

David Sobel, (315) 443-8463, *davidsobel3@gmail.com*
Guttag Professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University

Teaching Reference: Samuel Gorovitz, (315) 443-9331, *sgcas@syr.edu*
Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse University