

# Matthew Lamb

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## Education

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University of Rochester

Ph.D. in Philosophy

12/2021

Dissertation: "The Epistemic Condition of Blameworthiness, Reasonable Expectations, and Revisionary Implications"

Committee: William J. FitzPatrick (chair), Earl Conee, Andrew Berger

Colorado State University

M.A. in Philosophy

08/2013

Thesis: "Saving the Equal Weight View from Itself: A Modest Approach to Strong Conciliation"

Committee: Jeff Kasser (chair), Michael Losonsky, Bradley MacDonald

University of North Florida

B.A. in Philosophy

08/2011

## Dissertation

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"The Epistemic Condition of Blameworthiness, Reasonable Expectations, and Revisionary Implications"

My dissertation focuses on the topic of when ignorance excuses an agent from being blameworthy. I develop a novel defense of the reasonable expectations view (hereafter 'RE'). RE holds that ignorance excuses if and only if the agent could reasonably be expected to have avoided or corrected the ignorance. RE is highly plausible on its face; it captures the intuitive notion that fairness and desert matter for blameworthiness. However, a central objection to RE is that it takes too many cases of ignorance to excuse compared to our ordinary practice of blame. Moreover, the standard defense of RE overlooks the way that difficulty in knowing better matters for reasonable expectations. What can reasonably be expected of an agent is sensitive to how difficult it is for the agent to understand what their evidence justifies. Moreover, the sensitivity to difficulty results in RE having significantly revisionary implications due to the current circumstances of many real, non-ideal agents. However, I argue that the resulting revisionary implications are unproblematic, since they're due to applying ordinary practice's concern with desert and fairness to an empirically informed picture of many real, non-ideal agents.

Committee: William J. FitzPatrick (chair), Earl Conee, Andrew Berger

## Area of Specialization

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Normative Ethics, Epistemology

## Area of Competence

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Metaethics, Applied Ethics

## **Publications**

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### *Forthcoming*

“Quality of Will Accounts and Non-Culpably Developed Mental Disorders,” *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*

## **Teaching (Primary Instructor)**

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### Widener University

PHL 350 – Ethics (Fall 2019) (Spring 2020) (Fall 2020) (Spring 2021)

PHL 352 – Business Ethics (Fall 2019) (Fall 2020) (Spring 2021)

### Rowan University

PHIL 110 – Logic of Everyday Reasoning (Fall 2021)

PHIL 121 – Intro to Philosophy (Spring 2020) (Fall 2020) (Spring 2021) (Fall 2021)

PHIL 150 – Intro to Ethics (Spring 2021)

PHIL 369 – Philosophy of Science (Fall 2019)

### Jefferson University

ETHC 202 – Environmental Ethics (Fall 2021)

ETHC 215 – Evil and Good (Fall 2021)

### University of Rochester

PHL 103 - Moral and Social Problems (Summer 2017)

### Colorado State University

PHL 103 - Moral and Social Problems (Fall 2013) (Summer 2014)

PHL 206 - Knowledge and Existence (Fall 2013)

## **Teaching (Teaching Assistant)**

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### University of Rochester

PHL 101 – Intro to Philosophy

Instructor: Earl Conee (Fall 2018)

Instructor: Alison Peterman (Spring 2019)

PHL 102 – Intro to Ethics

Instructor: Jon Tresan (Spring 2018)

PHL 103 – Moral and Social Problems

Instructor: William J FitzPatrick (Fall 2015) (Fall 2017)

PHL 226 – Public Health Ethics  
Instructor: Richard Dees (Fall 2016)

PHL 225 – Biomedical Ethics  
Instructor: William J FitzPatrick (Spring 2016) (Spring 2017)

#### Colorado State University

PHL 101 – Intro to Philosophy  
Instructor: Rick McKita (Spring 2012) (Fall 2012)  
Instructor: Pdraig Gallagher (Spring 2013)

PHL 103 – Moral and Social Problems  
Instructor: Philip Cafaro (Fall 2011)

#### Manuscripts

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##### *In Progress*

“The Issue of Difficulty and Reasonable Expectation Accounts of the Ignorance Excuse”

“Cognitive Biases, Ignorance, and Reasonable Expectations: An Argument for Reasonable Expectation Accounts as Revisionary”

#### Conference Presentations

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| “Module Tropes without Overdeterminism: A Weak Antirealist Approach”<br>Central States Philosophical Association, Buffalo, NY - Oct 2018                             | 08/2018 |
| “Ignorance, Blame, and Reasonable Expectations”<br>21 <sup>st</sup> Annual North Florida Student Philosophy Conference, University of North Florida<br>(invited)     | 04/2018 |
| “Module Tropes and Weak Trope Anti-Realism”<br>2017 Graduate Philosophy Conference, Louisiana State University   | 04/2017 |
| "Moral Objectivism, Intuitionism, and Epistemological Queerness"<br>15 <sup>th</sup> Annual North Florida Student Philosophy Conference, University of North Florida | 03/2012 |

#### Academic Awards and Fellowships

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| Outstanding Essay Award, University of Rochester                           | 2017          |
| Slattery Fellowship, University of Rochester                               | 08/2014-05/16 |
| Undergraduate Philosophy Paper Contest Winner, University of North Florida | 2011          |

## Professional Activities

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### Climate Committee Member

University of Rochester, Dept. of Philosophy 11/2018-08/2019

### Organizing Committee

Biennial Rochester Graduate Epistemology Conference 2016, 2018

### Graduate Student Ambassador

University of Rochester, Dept. of Philosophy 08/2017-05/2018

## Professional Development Courses

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### Colorado State University

E608 - Integrating Writing in the Academic Core (Fall 2011)

## Other Related Experience

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### Writing Consultant

University of Rochester, Writing, Speaking and Argument Center 10/2016 - 05/2019

## Graduate Courses

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### University of Rochester

PHL 416 – Mathematical Logic  
PHL 424 – History of Ethics  
PHL 442 – Metaphysics  
PHL 443 – Theory of Knowledge  
PHL 452 – Philosophy of Science  
PHL 461 – Kant  
PHL 465 – Select Topics in Ancient Philosophy  
PHL 467 – British Empiricism  
PHL 470 – Select Topics in Modern Philosophy  
PHL 502 - Formal Epistemology  
PHL 502 - Select Topics in Epistemology: Semantic Internalism v Externalism; Experimental Philosophy; Epistemic Circularity  
PHL 517 - Select Topics in Ethics: Moral Reasons  
PHL 517 - Select Topics in Ethics: Moral Responsibility  
PHL 542 - Special Problems in Metaphysics: Theories of Properties  
PHL 595 - Independent Study in Metaphysics: Trope Theory

Colorado State University

PHL 500 - Seminar in Major Philosophical Texts: Kant's Critique of Pure Reason  
PHL 500 - Seminar in Major Philosophical Texts : Wittgenstein & Rule-Following  
PHL 525 - Seminar in Epistemology  
PHL 547 - Seminar in Ethical Theory: Metaethics  
PHL 548 - Seminar in Normative Ethical Theory  
PHL 695 - Independent Study: Phil of Mind/Phenomenology  
PHL 570 - Seminar in Contemporary Philosophical Theory: Naturalism

## References

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William FitzPatrick

Gideon Webster Burbank Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, University of Rochester  
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Earl Conee

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earl.conee@rochester.edu

Paul Audi

Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Rochester  
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Alison Peterman

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