

Mike Ashfield

Curriculum Vitae

Utah State University
Department of Communications & Philosophy
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., *Philosophy*, University of Southern California, *Submitted & Defended*, Summer 2021
Dissertation: “The Virtue of Reasonableness,” Supervised by Ralph Wedgwood

M.A., *Philosophy*, Northern Illinois University, August 2013

M.A., *Theology*, Acadia Divinity College, Acadia University, May 2009
Thesis: “Must a Good God be Moral? An Exploration of Agatheism,” Supervised by Bill Brackney
(Theology, Acadia Divinity College) & Stephen Maitzen (Philosophy, Acadia University)

B.A. with Distinction, *Philosophy & Great Books*, St. Thomas University, May 2005

AOS Social and Political Philosophy, Epistemology, Value Theory, Normative Ethics, Religion

AOC Applied Ethics, Metaphysics, Mind, Logic, Critical Reasoning, 20th Century Analytic

EMPLOYMENT

Utah State University (Logan), *Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow*, since 08/2021

University of New Brunswick (Fredericton), *Instructor*, 09/2019–05/2021

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

Graduate Fellow, USC Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project, 2020–21

Research Assistantship, USC Graduate School, 2018–19

Competitive Summer Research Grant, USC Graduate School, 2018

Competitive Teaching Assistantship, USC Joint Educational Project, 2017–18

General Education Graduate Assistant Award, 2016–17

Provost’s Ph.D. Fellowship, USC Graduate School, 2012–17

Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 2012–16

Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Northern Illinois University, 2012

Graduate Assistantship, Northern Illinois University, 2010–12

Golden A Award, Acadia University, 2007–08; one of three awarded University-wide

Renewable Entrance Scholarship, Acadia Divinity College, 2006–08

Outstanding Scholar Award, St. Thomas University, 2004–05

Fredericton Community Foundation Scholarship, St. Thomas University, 2003–04

RESEARCH

Publications

“Five Problems for the Moral Consensus on Sins,” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* (Forthcoming): 1–33; DOI: [10.1007/s11153-021-09795-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11153-021-09795-x).

“Against the Minimalistic Reading of Epistemic Contextualism: A Reply to Wolfgang Freitag,” *Acta Analytica* 28(1) (March 2013): 111–125; DOI: [10.1007/s12136-012-0153-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12136-012-0153-5).

Selected Papers In Progress or Under Review

“Enmity Against God: On Sin and Righteousness” (R&R from *Religious Studies*)

“What if Reasonableness Ain’t All in the Head?” (R&R from *Journal of Political Philosophy*)

Selected Refereed Presentations

“Liberal Virtues”

May 2021 • Canadian Section of the IVR

June 2021 • Jilin University: “Ethics, Epistemology, and Where they Come Together” (Postponed)

“Sin as a Harm to Relationships”

May 2021 • Princeton-Rutgers Philosophy of Religion Incubator Conference

“Is there a group-level analogue of manslaughter? Can it be a form of genocide?”

May 2019 • Canadian Section of the IVR

“Reasonableness Ain’t All in the Head”

June 2018 • Canadian Section of the IVR

May 2018 • Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference

“Supported Decision-Making and Epistemic Justice for Persons with Mental Illness”

July 2018 • Anscombe Bioethics Centre: “Mind, Medicine & Morals” (**Honorarium**)

September 2017 • WMU Medical Humanities Conference

“Enemies of a Loving God: Amatory Christian Theology”

October 2019 • SLU Graduate Student Conference: “Justice and Philosophy of Religion”

October 2018 • 4th Theistic Ethics Workshop (**All Expenses Paid**)

June 2018 • Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers

“On the Epistemic Status of Reasonable Disagreement: Reply to Enoch”

September 2016 • MANCEPT Workshop on Theories of Public Reason (**Meritorious Bursary**)

August 2016 • Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (poster presentation)

May 2016 • Canadian Philosophical Association

May 2016 • Canadian Section of the IVR

“Replies to Friedman on the Possibility of a Credal-Theoretic Account of Suspended Judgment”

March 2016 • American Philosophical Association Central Division

October 2015 • UNR Graduate Philosophy Conference (**First Prize for Best Conference Submission**)

“A Credal-Reductive Account of Rational Agnosticism: Reply to Friedman”

May 2015 • Northwest Student Philosophy Conference

April 2015 • Notre Dame/Northwestern Graduate Epistemology Conference (**Honorarium**)

“Paradox Lost: Anti-realism, Theism, Fitch’s Paradox, and the Conditional Fallacy”

October 2012 • Society for Exact Philosophy

“Against the Minimalistic Reading of Epistemic Contextualism: A Reply to Wolfgang Freitag”

October 2011 • Illinois Philosophical Association

September 2011 • Central States Philosophical Association

“Emergent Dualism and the Problem of Resurrection”

June 2011 • Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers

Critical Commentaries

Comments on Nicole Dular’s “Mansplaining as Epistemic Injustice,” Central APA, 2020

Comments on Julian Jonker’s “Discrimination at a Distance: Vicarious Wrongs and the Comparative Test for Discrimination,” Central APA, 2019

Comments on James Fritz’s “Uncertainty, Belief, and Ethical Risk,” Eastern APA, 2019

Comments on Rima Basu’s “What We Epistemically Owe To Each Other,” Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, 2018

Comments on Travis Lacroix & Cailin O’Connor’s “On the Role of Power in the Evolution of Inequitable Norms,” CPA, 2018

Comments on David Rocheleau Houle’s “Scanlon, Pure Normative Claims, and Necessity,” CPA, 2018

Comments on Georgi Gardiner’s “Safety, Sensitivity, and Legal Standards of Proof,” Universität zu Köln: “Rationality and Reasonableness,” 2018 (**Graduate Respondent Honorarium**)

Comments on Chris Dragos’s “Extended (Group) Knowledge,” CPA, 2017

Comments on Amelia Hicks’s “Moral Uncertainty and Value Comparison,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, 2016

Comments on Eric Mathison’s “Desires and Ill-Being,” CPA, 2016

Comments on Wesley Cragg’s “Reshaping the Social Contract: The financial crisis as sign and symptom,” Canadian Meeting of the IVR, 2016

Workshops and Summer Institutes

Fourth Theistic Ethics Workshop, Wake Forest University, October 2018 (**All Expenses Paid**)

International Rationality Summer Institute 2, Irsee, Germany, September 2018 (**All Expenses Paid**)

Invited Non-Refereed Presentations

“Does Public Reason Provide Resources for Resisting Epistemic Injustice in Public Discourse?” presentation to the UCSB Graduate Colloquium, Santa Barbara, CA, 11.10.2016

“On the Epistemic Status of Reasonable Disagreement,” a public colloquium hosted by the Department of Philosophy, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, 07.22.2016

“The Strong, the Brave, the Forgotten,” USC Inter-Health Council Medical Humanities Panel discussion on the ethics of veteran healthcare, Los Angeles, CA, 04.07.2016

“Do Universal Human Rights Exist?” A panel discussion on practical ethics sponsored by the USC Levan Institute of Humanities and Ethics, Los Angeles, CA, 10.22.2015

“God, Evil, & Morality: A Debate” with Dr. Stephen Maitzen, co-sponsored by the ADC Students’ Association, Acadia Students’ Union, and Philosophy Department, Wolfville, NS, 03.06.2008

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Utah State University, Department of Communication Studies & Philosophy

- Fall 2021 PHIL 2400 *Ethics*
 PHIL 3600 *Philosophy of Religion* (two sections)
 Spring 2022 PHIL 2400 *Ethics*
 PHIL 3600 *Philosophy of Religion* (two sections)

University of Southern California, Summer Programs

- Summer 2017 CORE 195 *Ethical Business Strategies*; [Course Syllabus and Selected Handouts](#)
 Summer 2016 CORE 195 *Ethical Business Strategies*; Co-instructed with [Rima Basu](#)

Teaching Assistant (Tutorial Instruction, Tutoring in Office Hours, and Grading)

University of New Brunswick, Faculty of Arts

- Winter 2021 ARTS 1002 *Development of Western Thought II* (Megan Woodworth)
 Winter 2020 ARTS 1000 *Development of Western Thought* (Sean Kennedy)
 Fall 2019 ARTS 1000 *Development of Western Thought* (Carolyn MacDonald)

University of Southern California, Department of Philosophy

- Spring 2017 PHIL 174 *Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice* (Jon Quong) [Selected Handouts](#)
 Fall 2016 PHIL 288 *Love and its Representation in Western Literature, Film, and Philosophy* (Ed McCann) [Selected Handout](#)
 Spring 2015 PHIL 140 *Contemporary Moral and Social Issues* (Jake Ross) [Selected Handouts](#)
 Fall 2014 PHIL 220 *Science, Religion, and the Making of the Modern Mind* (Zlatan Damnjanovic) [Selected Handouts](#)
 Spring 2014 PHIL 155 *Modern Philosophy and the Meaning of Life* (Steve Finlay)
 Fall 2013 PHIL 220 *Science, Religion, and the Making of the Modern Mind* (Z.D.)

Overall Average USC Student Evaluation Score: 4.65/5 ([Complete USC student evals](#))

Teaching Assistant (Grading & Tutoring in Office Hours; No institutional evals conducted)

Northern Illinois University, Department of Philosophy

- Spring 2012 PHIL 105 *Logic and Critical Reasoning* (John Beaudoin)
 Fall 2011 PHIL 390 *Sex, Gender and Love* (Sharon Sytsma)
 Fall 2011 PHIL 101 *Introduction to Philosophy* (Tomis Kapitan)
 Spring 2011 PHIL 231 *Contemporary Moral Issues* (Jason Hanna)
 Fall 2010 PHIL 231 *Contemporary Moral Issues* (Nicoleta Apostol)

Guest Lecturer

“What Should be for Sale? The Moral Limits of Markets Debate,” PHIL 174: Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice (Jon Quong), University of Southern California, 2.3.2017

“Is there a Moral Duty to Obey the Law? Suggested Grounds of Political Obligation from the *Crito* and Contemporary Schools of Thought,” Presentation to the undergraduates of the Department of Philosophy, Concordia University Irvine, 2.27.2017

“Why We Should Take Ethics Seriously,” Inaugural *Ethics Boot Camp: Developing Your Ethical Toolkit*, USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics, 4.22.2016

“God, Morality, and the Problems of Evil,” Team lecture with [Renee Bolinger](#), PHIL 155: *Modern Philosophy and the Meaning of Life* (Steve Finlay), University of Southern California, 2.20.2014

Other Teaching Experience

Dalhousie University

Teaching Assistant (Grader), PHIL 2260 *Philosophy of Art* (Carmel Forde), Fall 2020

University of New Brunswick

Writing Tutor, UNB Writing & Study Skills Centre, Fall 2019–present

University of Southern California

Graduate Teaching Assistant, [USC Joint Educational Project \(JEP\)](#), 2017–18

I developed reflective curricula for JEP’s service-learning project ([Selected Prompts](#)). JEP-participating courses allow students to earn credit for serving the community as mini-course instructors or tutors in nearby schools, translators for immigration legal aid services, volunteers with anti-poverty and housing organizations, and health service volunteers. Students are required to reflect on their service, in light of theories and concepts covered in the course, through reflective essays and discussions led by undergrad Program Assistants (PAs), who I mentored as discussion leaders and graders. Courses included:

AMST 252 Black Social Movements in the U.S.

COLT 374 Women Writers in Europe and America

COMM 324 Intercultural Communication

PHIL 166 Current Moral and Social Issues

PHIL 168 The Meaning of Life

PHIL 254 Science, Knowledge and Objectivity

PHIL 431 Law, Society, and Politics

PSYC 355 Social Psychology

SOCI 155 Immigrant America

SOCI 353 Public Policy and the Criminal Justice System

SOCI 360 Social Inequality: Class, Status, and Power

Selected Volunteer Programs:

Pre-Law Project

Trojan Health Volunteers

Understanding Homelessness Through Service

St. Thomas University

2008–2010 Research Assistant (Grader and Occasional Lecturer for Christine Cornell)

ENGL 1006 *Intro to English Literature*

ENGL 2513 *Development of Science Fiction*

ENGL 3386 *16th Century Poetry and Prose*

GRID 3106 *Love & Friendship*

GRID 3206 *Human Nature and Technology*

GRID 4903 *Honours Seminar: The Inklings*

2008–2010 Writing Tutor, St. Thomas University Writing Centre

Acadia Divinity College, Acadia University

2007–2008 Research Assistant (Grader and Online Course Assistant to Glenn Wooden)

BIBL 5013/23 *Intro to the Old Testament 1 & 2*

SERVICE

Professional Service

Editorial Work

Managing Editor, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, Summer 2018–Fall 2019

Editorial Assistant, *Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Conference of the Association of Core Texts and Courses*, 2004–2005

Conferences Co-Organized

USC-UCLA Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, 2018

Midwest Regional Graduate Philosophy Conference, Northern Illinois University, 2011

Other Service

Co-Teacher, [Corrupt the Youth—Los Angeles](#), Youth Education Department, Los Angeles LGBT Center, 2018–2019

Referee & Invited Commentator, Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference, 2018–20

Referee, USC-UCLA Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy, 2012–present

Referee, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 2012–2018, 2020

Referee, Midwest Regional Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2010

Admin, [Atlantic Region Philosophers' Association \(ARPA\) Facebook page](#), 2015–2019

I maintain a widely-circulated comprehensive list of Canadian philosophical conferences, professional bodies, journals, blogs, podcasts, etc.: tinyurl.com/philos-canadiana

Departmental Service

Grad Mentor, [USC Gathering Philosophers in Southern California Inaugural Workshop](#), 2018

Grad Student Representative, Graduate Committee, USC Philosophy Department, 2016–2017

Vice President, Pegasus: USC Philosophy Graduate Student Association, 2015–16

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) USC Chapter Committee Member, 2014–2016

Graduate Student Advisory Council, Department of Philosophy, NIU, 2011

University Service

Instructor, *Introduction to Ethics* (Spring 2019) and Co-Instructor, *How the Mind Works* (Fall 2020) with [Vishnu Sridharan](#), Santa Fe Springs Women's Custody-to-Community Transitional Reentry Facility, [USC Prison Education Project](#)

Referee, USC Levan Ethics Essay Contest, 2016–18

Co-organizer, 8th Annual USC Graduate Research Symposium, Spring 2016

Co-creator and Co-organizer with [Rima Basu](#) and [Maegan Fairchild](#), inaugural *Ethics Boot Camp: Developing Your Ethical Toolkit*, USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics, Spring 2016

Senator, Graduate Student Government, USC 2015–2016

Academic Affairs Committee Member, Graduate Student Government, USC 2015–2016

Faculty of Theology Student Representative, Acadia University Senate, 2007–2008
Faculty of Theology Representative, Acadia Students' Union Council, 2007–2008 (**ASU
Councilor of the Year Award**)

Professional Association Membership

American Philosophical Association
Canadian Philosophical Association
International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (Canadian Section)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK & EXAMINATIONS

Social & Political Philosophy

PHIL 530 *Law and Philosophy Workshop* (Andrei Marmor & Alex Sarch, USC)
PHIL 530 *Law and Philosophy Workshop* (Jonathan Quong & Gary Watson, USC)
PHIL 537 *Social and Political Philosophy* (Jonathan Quong, USC)
PHIL 590 *Directed Reading: Public Reason* (Jonathan Quong, USC)
Qualifying Exam for Doctoral Dissertation Prospectus on “The Virtue of Reasonableness” (USC)

Epistemology & Metaphysics

PHIL 501 *Belief and Degree of Belief* (Kenny Easwaran, USC)
PHIL 501 *Topics in Epistemology* (John Hawthorne, USC)
PHIL 570 *Rational Belief* (Ralph Wedgwood, USC)
PHIL 552 *Metaphysics of Science* (Carl Gillett, NIU)
PHIL 611 *Epistemology* (Mylan Engel Jr., NIU)
PHIL 612 *Metaphysics* (Alicia Finch, NIU)
Comprehensive Exam in Metaphysics & Epistemology (NIU)

Ethics & Value Theory

PHIL 501 *Rational Choice* (Ralph Wedgwood, USC)
PHIL 503 *Intro to Contemporary Philosophical Literature on Value* (Ralph Wedgwood, USC)
PHIL 560 *Metaphysics for Moral Philosophers* (Kadri Vihvelin, USC)
Area Exam in Normative and Applied Ethics (Jonathan Quong & Ralph Wedgwood, USC)
PHIL 631 *Advanced Ethical Theory* (Steve Daskal, NIU)
Comprehensive Exam in Ethics (NIU)
THEO 6013 *Intro to Christian Ethics* (Bill Brackney, Acadia)

Logic, Language, & Mind

PHIL 450 *Intermediate Symbolic Logic: Metatheory* (Kenny Easwaran, USC)
PHIL 499 *Modal Logic* (Gabriel Uzquiano, USC)
PHIL 504 *Philosophy of Language* (Geoff Pynn, NIU)
PHIL 505 *Intermediate Logic* (David Buller, NIU)
PHIL 640 *Philosophy of Mind* (Carl Gillett, NIU)

PHIL 691 *Special Topics: Truth* (David Buller, NIU)
PHIL 691 *Special Topics: Paradoxes* (Valia Allori, NIU)
Comprehensive Exam in Philosophy of Science, Language, & Mind (NIU)

History

PHIL 411 *Plato* (Ralph Wedgwood, USC)
PHIL 500 *Intro to Contemporary Philosophical Literature* (Scott Soames & Gabriel Uzquiano, USC)
PHIL 520 *The Philosophy of Thomas Reid* (James Van Cleve, USC)
PHIL 529 *Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy* (David Buller, NIU)
CHUR 5013 *Church History to the Reformation* (Bob Wilson, Acadia)
CHUR 5013 *Church History since the Reformation* (Bob Wilson, Acadia)

Biblical Studies & Theology

BIBL 5013/23 *Intro to the Old Testament 1 & 2* (Ken Penner, Acadia)
BIBL 6013/23 *Intro to the New Testament 1 & 2* (Craig Evans, Acadia)
BIBL 7323 *Special Topics: The Biblical Canon* (Lee McDonald, Acadia)
BIBL 7533 *Life and Letters of Paul* (Craig Evans, Acadia)
GREE 6006 *New Testament Greek Grammar* (Greg Herrick, Acadia)
THEO 6203/13 *Systematic Theology 1 & 2* (Bill Brackney, Acadia)
THEO 7513 *Points of Contact: Understanding World Religions* (Bruce Matthews, Acadia)
Master's Thesis Defense of "Must a Good God be Moral? An Exploration of Agatheism"

Professional Development

PHIL 589 *Writing for Publication in Philosophy* (John Hawthorne, USC)
PHIL 593 *Teaching Philosophy* (Mark Schroeder, USC)
IDST 7053/63 *Research Methods 1 & 2* (Carol Anne Janzen, Acadia)

REFERENCES

Ralph Wedgwood
Professor, USC Dornsife School of Philosophy
Dissertation Committee Chair
wedgwood@usc.edu

Mark Schroeder
Professor, USC Dornsife School of Philosophy
Dissertation Committee Member
maschroe@usc.edu

Jonathan Quong
Professor, USC Dornsife School of Philosophy
USC Gould School of Law
Dissertation Committee Member
quong@usc.edu

Stephen Finlay
Professor, USC Dornsife School of Philosophy
Faculty Teaching Mentor
finlay@usc.edu