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**Curriculum Vitae  
Ben Laurence  
University of Chicago**

**Professional Appointments**

2009-2010	Lecturer (Philosophy), University of Chicago
2010-2011	Law and Philosophy Fellow, University of Chicago
2011-2016	Assistant Professor (Philosophy), University of Chicago
2016-2019	Lecturer (SSCD), University of Chicago
2019-Present	Associate Instructional Professor (SSCD), University of Chicago

**Education**

University of Pittsburgh; Ph.D. (2008)  
Reed College; B.A. (1998)

**Areas of Specialization**

Political Philosophy, Kant's Political Philosophy, Human Rights

**Areas of Competence**

The Philosophy of Action, Ethics, The Philosophy of Race

**Published Essays**

1. "An Anscombean Approach to Collective Action" in *Anscombe's Intention*, (Harvard University Press, 2010), edited by Jennifer Hornsby, Frederick Stoutland and Anton Ford.
2. "The Responsibility-Form of Rights and Practical Capacities", *Arizona State Law Review*, 2011.
3. "Juridical Laws as Moral Laws in Kant's *Doctrine of Right*" in *Practical Normativity: Essays on Reasons and Intentions in Law and Practical Reason*, (Cambridge University Press, 2014), edited by George Pavlakos and Veronica Rodriguez Blanco.

4. “The Parts and Whole of Plato’s Republic” with Anton Ford forthcoming in *Practical Reason: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives* (Berlin: De Gruyter Verlag, 2015), edited by James Conant and Sebastian Roedl.
5. “Ethical Considerations on Quadratic Voting” co-authored with Itai Sher, *Public Choice*. July 2017, 172:1-2, pp. 195-222.
6. “Kant on Strict Right”, *Philosopher’s Imprint*. February 2018, 18:04, pp. 1-22.
7. “Constructivism, Strict Compliance, and Realistic Utopianism”, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. September 2018, 97:02, pp. 433-453.
8. “The Question of the Agent of Change”, forthcoming in *The Journal of Political Philosophy*, early view available at <https://doi.org/10.1111/jopp.12204>.

### **Book Reviews**

1. “Constructivism in Practical Philosophy”, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2013.
2. “G.A. Cohen’s Lectures on the History of Moral and Political Philosophy”, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2014.

### **Works in Progress**

1. *Agents of Change: Political Philosophy as Practical Reasoning* (under contract with Harvard University Press)
2. “Against Vulgar Liberalism”
3. “Scarcity and Utopia”
4. “Kant and The History of Rights”

### **Invited Talks and Presentations**

1. “Two Ways to Defy Reality: Utopianism and Value Pluralism”, Philosophy Department, Columbia University, 2008.
2. “Some Unfinished Business of Early Modern Philosophy”, Early Modern Workshop, University of Chicago, 2009.
3. “Material Resources in Ideal Theory”, Philosophy Department, Illinois Wesleyan University, 2009.
4. “What’s Right in Isaiah Berlin’s Value Pluralism?”, Philosophy Department, College of William and Mary, 2010
5. “An Anscombean Account of Collective Action”, Philosophy Department, College of William and Mary, 2010
6. “On Tragic Conceptions of Politics”, Franke Institute, University of Chicago, 2011.
7. “The Priority of Ideal Theory”, Practical Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, 2012.
8. “Juridical Laws as Moral Laws in Kant’s *Doctrine of Right*”, *Kant’s Doctrine of Right*, conference at Universitat Leipzig, 2013.

9. “Juridical Laws as Moral Laws in Kant’s *Doctrine of Right*”, Legal Theory Colloquium, Northwestern University Law School, 2013.
10. “Two Conceptions of Ideal Theory”, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, 2014.
11. “Two Conceptions of Ideal Theory”, Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, 2014.
12. “Two Conceptions of Ideal Theory”, Philosophy Department, Auburn University, 2014.
13. “Two Conceptions of Ideal Theory”, Center for Race and Social Justice, Columbia University, 2015.
14. “Kant on Strict Right”, German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, 2015.
15. “Inequality and Democracy”, public lecture given at Coastal Carolina University as the Visiting Ethicist at the Jackson Family Center for Ethics and Values, 2016.
16. “Constructivism, Strict Compliance, and Realistic Utopia”, Philosophy and Political Science Departments, Coastal Carolina University, 2016.
17. “Ethical Considerations on Quadratic Voting”, *Quadratic Voting and The Public Good*, Becker-Friedman Institute, University of Chicago, 2016.
18. “Constructivism, Strict Compliance, and Realistic Utopia”, Workshop on Moral, Political, and Legal Philosophy, Law School, University of Chicago, 2016.
19. “Agents of Change”, Practical Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, 2016.
20. “Agents of Change”, *Thinking Across Borders*, conference at the Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago, 2017.
21. “Against Vulgar Liberalism”, *Virtue and Practical Reasoning Under Conditions of Social Oppression*, conference at Concordia University, 2018.
22. “Virtue and Vice in Auschwitz: Primo Levi on the Necessity and Impossibility of Judging of the Oppressed”, The Hyde Park Institute, University of Chicago, 2019.
23. “Agents of Change: Political Philosophy as Practical Reasoning”, *Book Manuscript Workshop*, University of Chicago, 2019.
24. “Between Philosophy and History: Notes on a Failed Dialogue”, The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, University of Chicago, 2020.
25. “Agents of Change: Political Philosophy as Practical Reasoning”, guest lecturer in Professor Dan Brudney’s graduate course, *How Do We Do Critical Political Philosophy*, University of Chicago, 2020.
26. “Kant and the History of Rights”, invited speaker at *Kant’s Doctrine of Right*, conference at University of Chicago, 2020. Cancelled 4 days before the start of the conference owing to COVID-19.

### **Conferences Organized**

1. *Justice at Work*, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights and the Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, 2016.

### **Conference Panels and Comments**

1. Panel Chair, Ethics and the Place of Philosophy: The Legacy of Bernard Williams' Critique, Conference, University of Chicago, 2011.
2. Comments on Frederick Neuhouser's *Rousseau's Theodicy of Self-Love*, Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2012.
3. Comments on Rahel Jaeggi, "What (If Anything) is Wrong with Capitalism?", Human Rights Workshop, University of Chicago, 2013.
4. Panel Chair, Healthcare and Human Rights, Conference, University of Chicago, 2014.
5. Panel Chair, Normative Ethics and Welfare Economics, Conference, University of Chicago, 2014.
6. Comments on Laura Valentini, "Human Rights, Dignity, and Sovereign Authority", Human Dignity, Conference, University of Chicago, 2015.
7. Panel Chair and Discussant for Pablo Gilabert, "Labor Rights as Human Rights", *Justice at Work*, Conference, University of Chicago 2016.
8. Panel Chair and Discussant for Andrew Israelsen, "Is Right Realizable? Kant's Rechtslehre and the Ethical Community", American Philosophical Association, Central Meeting, 2016.
9. Panel Chair and Discussant for A.J. Julius, "Reconstruction", Other Minds Other Wills, Conference, University of Chicago, 2017.
10. Panel Chair and Discussant, "Ideal Theory and Its Critics", Midwest Political Science Association, 2018.
11. Panel Participant, "What the UDHR Means to Me", Festival of Human Rights, Pozen Family Center, University of Chicago, 2019.
12. Panel Chair, "Justice at Work", Internship Symposium, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, (2019).
13. Panel Participant, "Building and Sustaining Faculty Unions", the Teaching Hub, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, 2019.
14. Comments on Nicholas Vrousalis, "The Capitalist Cage", Social Justice Theory Workshop, Concordia University, 2019.

### **Conferences, Workshops, and Trainings Attended**

1. Forum on Teaching in the Core, University of Chicago, 2018.
2. Self-Consciousness and Objectivity, Franke Institute, University of Chicago, 2018.
3. Campus Human Rights Conference, Donia Center for Human Rights, University of Michigan, 2018.
4. Festival of Human Rights, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, University of Chicago, 2019.
5. Teaching Hub, Sessions on: "Teaching Philosophical Writing", "Innovative Pedagogies for Sexual Ethics", and "Nonwestern Philosophy for Undergraduate Ethics", American Philosophical Association, Central Meeting, 2019.
6. Social Justice Theory Workshop, Concordia University, 2019.
7. Teaching Hub, Sessions on: "Bringing Research and Pedagogy Together in the Classroom", "Teaching Introductory Courses without Canonical Texts", and

- “Navigating Working Conditions as Philosophy Teachers”, American Philosophical Association, Central Meeting, 2020.
8. Canvas and Zoom Training, University of Chicago, 2020.
  9. Canvas and Zoom Training for Philosophers and Linguists, University of Chicago, 2020.
  10. Panopto Training, University of Chicago, 2020.
  11. Remote Learning Pedagogy Training, University of Chicago, 2020.
  12. Beyond Essays and Exams: Assessment and Assignment Options, University of Chicago, 2020.

### **Grants and Awards**

1. New Initiative Grant, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, 2015.  
Awarded \$20,000 to launch a new initiative at the Pozen Family Center titled “Justice at Work”, on issues of justice connected with labor and human rights. The grant funds a conference with the same title scheduled for October 2016, with more funding to be forthcoming for future conferences in following years.
2. Conference Grant, Franke Institute for the Humanities, 2015.  
Awarded \$4000 to help fund the “Justice at Work” conference in October 2016.
3. Faculty Residential Fellowship, Franke Institute for the Humanities, 2013.  
Awarded for work on the project Realistic Utopianism, exploring the utopian impulse in political philosophy, and its relation to the practical nature of political philosophy.
4. Law and Philosophy Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2010.
5. Mellon Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2007.
6. Allan Ross Anderson Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2002.
7. Phi Beta Kappa, Reed College, 1998.
8. Garlan Prize in Philosophy, Reed College, 1998.

### **Courses Taught**

1. Philosophical Perspectives (Autumn 2010, Winter 2011, Spring 2011, Autumn 2011, Autumn 2012)
2. Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights (Autumn 2011, Autumn 2012, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020)
3. Introduction to Ethics (Winter 2009)
4. The Social Contract Theorists (Spring 2009)
5. Libertarianism (Autumn 2012, Winter 2016)
6. Political Liberalism (Winter 2012)
7. Disagreement (Spring 2013)
8. Kant’s Doctrine of Right (Winter 2013)
9. Introduction to Political Philosophy (Winter 2015, Winter 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020)
10. Utopianism (Spring 2015)
11. You Call This Democracy? (Spring 2016)

12. Human Rights in World Civilizations (Autumn 2016, Winter 2017, Autumn 2017 (2 sections), Winter 2018, Autumn 2018, Winter 2019, Autumn 2019, Winter 2020)
13. Justice at Work (Autumn 2016, Winter 2020)
14. Racial Injustice (Winter 2017)
15. B.A. Essay Seminar (Autumn 2017, Winter 2018, Autumn 2018, Winter 2019 )

### **Professional Service**

1. Reviewer for manuscripts, *Harvard University Press*.
2. Referee for articles, *Philosopher's Imprint*.
3. Referee for articles, *Theoria*.
4. Referee for articles, *Journal of Social Philosophy*.
5. Referee for articles, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*.
6. Referee for articles, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*.

### **University Service**

1. Organizer of the Human Rights in World Civilizations core sequence (2017-2018), (2018-2019), (2019-2020)
2. Board member, Human Rights Program, University of Chicago (2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020)
3. Graduate Lectureship Committee, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (2019-2020)
4. Committee of the Council of the College, University of Chicago (2014-2015)
5. Admissions Committee, Philosophy Department (2014-2015)
6. Early Modern Search Committee, Philosophy Department (2014-2015)
7. German Idealism Search Committee, Philosophy Department (2014-2015)
8. Graduate Program Committee, Philosophy Department (2014-2015)
9. Dissertation Completion Committee, University of Chicago (2014-2015)
10. Ethics Search Committee, Philosophy Department (2011-2012, 2012-2013)
11. Placement Committee, Philosophy Department (2011-2012, 2012-2013)
12. Pozen Professor Search Committee, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (2011-2012)
13. Faculty Course Grant Committee, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (2012-2013)
14. Human Rights Core Design Committee, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (2014-2015, 2015-2016)
15. Intern Interview Committee, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (2015-2016)
16. Graduate Student Research Fellowship Committee, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019)
17. Workshop Sponsor
  - a. Early Modern Workshop (2009-2010)
  - b. Contemporary Philosophy Workshop (2010-2011, 2011-2012)
  - c. Law and Philosophy Workshop (2011-2012, 2012-2013)
  - d. Practical Philosophy Workshop (2014-2015, 2015-2016)

e. Human Rights Workshop (2014-2015, 2015-2016)

**BA Theses Advised**

1. Erin Cary	2010-2011
2. Muhammad Aktar	2011-2012
3. Joseph Longenecker	2012-2013
4. Lina Dayem	2012-2013
5. Helen Hailes	2012-2013
6. Joshua Fox	2012-2013
7. Eric Singerman	2014-2015
8. Paul Dillon	2015-2016
9. Kara Moore	2016-2017
10. Noah Abromowitz	2017-2018
11. Jacob Kleinbaum	2017-2018
12. Zunaira Sadar	2018-2019
13. Long Dang	2018-2019
14. Sarah Lewis	2019-2020

**MA Theses Advised**

1. Will McIntire	2010-2011
2. Scott Roniger	2011-2012
7. Eric Piper	2011-2012
4. Neil Backus	2012-2013
5. David Ambrose	2012-2013
6. Yuchen Li	2014-2015
7. Elliot Koch	2014-2015
8. Jesse Bachir	2015-2016
9. Tyler Wilkinson	2015-2016
10. Nestor de Buen	2017-2018

**Dissertation Committees**

1. Joseph Lubenow	2010-2013
2. Alexander Langlais	2012-2016
3. David Holiday	2012-2015
4. Jacob Butcher	2014-Present
5. Pascal Brixel	2016-Present
6. Erika Tschinkel	2016-2018
7. Emily Dupree	2016-2017