Benjamin Wald

Curriculum Vitae

University of Toronto
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Areas of Specialization

Ethics, Philosophy of Action and Practical Reasoning

Areas of Competence

Bioethics, Business Ethics, Legal & Political Phil., Phil. of Mind, Epistemology

Employment

2017–2019   **Lecturer**, *University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy.*

Education

2010–2016   **PhD in Philosophy**, *University of Toronto.*
Thesis title: *Judging The Guise of the Good by Its Fruit*
Supervisor: Sergio Tenenbaum
Committee Members: Philip Clark, Pamela Hieronymi, Thomas Hurka, Andrew Sepielli

2008–2010   **Masters in Philosophy**, *McMaster University.*
Supervisor: Elisabeth Gedge
Readers: Mark Vorobej, Stefan Sciaraffa

2005-2008   **Bachelors in Philosophy**, *Bishop's University.*

Publications:

Forthcoming   "A New Defense of the Motive of Duty Thesis", *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*

2018   "Action Explanation," co-authored with Sergio Tenenbaum, in *The Oxford Handbook of Reasons and Normativity*, ed. Daniel Star, Oxford University Press

2015   "Transparency and Reasons for Belief," *Logos & Episteme*, 6(4):475-494

Revise and Resubmit

"Collectivized Intellectualism", with Julia Smith, at *Res Philosophica*

Book Reviews

2016   Review of Joshua Gert, *Normative Bedrock: Response-Dependence, Rationality, & Reasons*, in *The Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 13(1):257-260

Talks:

2018   "Collectivized Intellectualism", with Julia Smith, St. Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality (SLACRR)

2018   "Thin Constitutivism: A Realist Explanation of Moral Motivation", American Philosophical Association Pacific division

2018   "Thin Constitituvism: A Realist Explanation of Moral Motivation", Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference

2017   "Moral Worth and Right Reasons", American Philosophical Association Eastern division

2015   "Moral Worth and the Motive of Duty", Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress

2015   "Transparency and Reasons for Belief", Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference

2014   "Normativity and Best Explanations", Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference

2014   "Normative Concepts and Normative Natural Kinds", Waterloo Graduate Conference

2014   "Normative Concepts and Normative Natural Kinds", York Graduate Conference

2013   "The Problem of Alternative Normative Concepts", Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference

2009   "Dealing with Disagreement: Distinguishing Two Types of Epistemic Peers", Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Conference

Awards

2016-2017   Martha Lile Love Teaching Award (Awarded to one graduate instructor per year in the University of Toronto Philosophy Department, 150$)

2017   American Philosophical Association Graduate Student Travel Stipend (300$)

2012–2014	Social Science and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship (National merit based doctoral fellowship, $20,000 per year)
2010-12	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Provincial merit based doctoral scholarship, $15,000 per year)
2009-10	Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships Program (National merit based scholarship for Masters students, $17,500)

Professional Service:

2014-2017	Assistant editor for Philpapers, Practical Reason category
2013-2014	President of the Graduate Philosophy Student Union
2011-2013	Secretary of the Graduate Philosophy Student Union
2011-2014	Member of the Graduate Executive Committee
2011-2016	Referee for the University of Toronto Graduate Conference

Professional Training

Advanced University Teaching Preparation Certificate

Teaching Workshops (Toronto Center for Teaching Support and Innovation):

- Classroom Assessment Techniques: the How and Why of Checking for Student Understanding
- Preparing Your Teaching Dossier
- Tri-Campus TA day
- Mental Health issues on Campus: Identifying and Responding to Students
- Better Teaching by Design: Principles and Strategies of Effective Assessment
- Elements of Effective Lesson Planning
- Healthy Learning Environments
- Universal Instructional Design and the Role of the TA
- Reading Up: Instructional Strategies for Developing Student's Critical Reading and Analysis
- Fostering Academic Integrity

Teaching Experience:

Course Instructor:

Issues in Philosophy of Law, 3rd year course, Winter 2019
Introductory Philosophy, 2nd year course, Winter 2019

Law and Morality, 2nd year course, Winter 2019
Global Bioethics, 3rd year course, Fall 2018
The Rationalists, 3rd year course, Fall 2018
War and Morality, 3rd year course, Winter 2018
The Rationalists, 3rd year course, Winter 2018
Global Bioethics, 3rd year course, Fall 2017
Business Ethics, 3rd year course, Fall 2017
Topics in Political Philosophy, 3rd year course, Summer 2017
Issues in Philosophy of Law, 3rd year course, Winter 2017
Ethics, 3rd year course, Spring 2016
Moral Issues, 2nd year, course, Spring and Summer 2016
Law and Morality, 2nd year course, Spring 2015
Philosophy of Law, 2nd year course, Spring and Summer 2014

Philosophy Essay Clinic (writing instruction):

Fall 2015

Tutorial Leader:

Biomedical Ethics, Fall 2016
Introduction to Ethics, Winter 2016
Knowledge and Reality, Winter 2015
Law and Morality Fall 2014
Intro to Ethics Fall 2013, Fall 2012,
Law and Morality Spring 2013
Philosophy of Religion Fall 2010

Grader:

Ethics and Mental Health, Fall 2011
Ethics, Genetics, and Reproduction, Winter 2012

Graduate Coursework (* audited)

Teleology in Mind and World, Jennifer Whiting and Denis Walsh
Evidence, Jennifer Nagel and Jonathan Weisberg
Reference and Communication I, Imogen Dickie
Reference and Communication II, Imogen Dickie *
Kant's Ethics, Sergio Tenenbaum
Wittgenstein, Sonia Sedivy
Truth, Relativism and Disagreement, Gurpreet Rattan
Metaethics, Andrew Sepielli
Formal Tools in Philosophy, Jonathan Weisberg
Rationality, Consciousness and Action, Andrew Sepielli and Benj Hellie

Kant's Legal Philosophy, Arthur Ripstein
The Philosophy of Kit Fine, Jessica Wilson *
Philosophy of Biology, Denis Walsh
Constitutivism, Phil Clark *
Rationality Across Time and Persons, Sergio Tenenbaum and Julia Nefsky *
Questions, Arguments, and Open Question Arguments, Phil Clark *

References

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Philip Clark
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University of Toronto at Mississauga North Building, Room 283

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University of Toronto at Mississauga North Bldg, Room 276

Pamela Hieronymi
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Jonathan Weisberg (Teaching Reference)
University of Toronto
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University of Toronto at Mississauga 281A North Building

Dissertation Abstract: Judging the Guise of the Good by Its Fruit

My dissertation presents a novel defense of the "Guise of the Good" View—the view that to have a desire, or indeed any motivational mental state, the agent must take the content of that attitude to be good. Historically, the guise of the good was broadly endorsed, with defenders including Plato, Aristotle, and Kant. However, the view has been rejected by many contemporary philosophers working in moral psychology, while the modern proponents of the Guise of the Good have focused on defensive arguments—trying to show how the thesis can overcome various counter-examples and objections, while relying on appeals to intuition to provide the positive argument. I provide a needed positive

argument for the Guise of the Good Thesis, to show why the thesis is independently plausible and worth defending. My strategy is to show that the guise of the good is a theoretically fruitful account of human agency by putting it to work solving problems in practical reasoning, action explanation, accounting for moral worth, and explaining moral motivation.