

# LEVI TENEN

Butler University, Department of Philosophy, Religion and Classics  
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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

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SPECIALIZATION: Ethics (esp. Value Theory), Environmental Ethics, Aesthetics

COMPETENCE: Metaethics, Applied Ethics

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. (Philosophy; minor Art History)—Indiana University, Bloomington (expected May 2020).

M.A. (Philosophy)—Indiana University, Bloomington (May 2015).

B.A. (Philosophy, *magna cum laude*)—Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR (May 2012).

Summer Study in Leipzig—University of Arizona (June 2010).

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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Butler University (Future Faculty Teaching Fellow)      2019-2020

## DISSERTATION

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Title: “An Account of Extrinsic Final Value”

Artworks, heritage sites, religious relics, family heirlooms, and natural entities are all highly valued. But what sorts of value do they have? Arguably, they do not have intrinsic value, or a value borne solely by their internal features. On a standard view, this implies that they are at most valuable for the sake of other things. But I follow others in arguing against this latter claim. Even if they do not have intrinsic value, the foregoing objects can still be valuable for their own sakes. They can have extrinsic final value. In my dissertation, I respond to the most pressing objection to this view by providing an account that shows precisely how it is that entities can have this sort of value. In the process, I draw out implications my account has for debates in normative ethics, environmental ethics, and aesthetics.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marcia Baron (Chair)  
Rudy Professor of Philosophy  
mbaron@indiana.edu

Sandra Shapshay  
Professor of Philosophy  
sshapsha@indiana.edu

Allen Wood  
Ruth Norman Halls Professor of Philosophy  
awwood@indiana.edu

Sarah Bassett  
Associate Professor of Art History  
sebasset@indiana.edu

## RESEARCH

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### PUBLICATIONS

1. An Account of Extrinsic Final Value  
*Journal of Value Inquiry* (forthcoming)
2. Aesthetic and Historical Value: Their Difference and Why It Matters  
*Environmental Values* (forthcoming)
3. The Good, the Beautiful, the Green: Environmentalism and Aesthetics (special issue)  
*The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 76: 4. Guest editor with Sandra Shapshay.
4. Introduction (with Sandra Shapshay)  
*The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 76: 4.

### REVIEWS

- Robert Stecker's "Intersections of Value: Art, Nature, and The Everyday"  
*The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* (forthcoming)

### PRESENTATIONS (\* INDICATES REFEREED)

- An Account of Extrinsic Final Value  
2019 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, CO\*
- Nature's Extrinsic Final Value  
2019 International Society for Environmental Ethics, Blue River, OR\*
- Valuing the Extrinsically Valuable for Their Own Sakes  
2018 Nelson Lecture, Indiana University, Bloomington
- Princess Diana's Dress, Mink Coats, and Nature: Reasons for Valuing as Ends  
2018 APA—Pacific Division, San Diego\*  
2017 Indiana Philosophical Association, West Lafayette\*
- What's Aesthetics Got to Do with It?—Reasons for Preserving Nature  
2017 Rocky Mountain Division of the American Society for Aesthetics\*  
- 2017 Best Graduate Student Essay Prize for the ASA—Rocky Mtn Div.  
2017 Aesthetic Normativity Conference, Salt Lake City\*  
2016 Environmental Aesthetics & Ethics Workshop, IUB
- The Real Reason Kant Provides the Wrong Kind of Reason for Valuing Animals  
2017 APA—Pacific Division, Seattle\*  
2016 Indiana Philosophical Association, Greencastle\*
- Why Noël Carroll, and Everyone Else, Should be a Contextualist  
2015 American Society for Aesthetics, Annual Meeting, Savannah\*
- Expression, Gut Reactions, and Abstract Art (with Jay Odenbaugh)  
2011 Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, Portland, OR\*
- Mathematics within the *Republic*  
2011 Int'l Conf on Philosophy and Education, Olympia, Greece\*  
2011 Int'l Conf on Politics and Econ in Global Era, Vouliagmeni, Greece\*

COMMENTS PRESENTED

On Rob Lucecky's "Roman Ingarden's Ontology of the Picture," IPA, 2017.

On Gwen Bradford's "The Value of Achievements," Northwest Philosophy Conference, 2011.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

Co-organizer (with Sandra Shapshay) of Environmental Aesthetics & Ethics: at the Intersection Conference, IUB, May 2016. Speakers included Noël Carroll, Emily Brady, Dale Jamieson, Allen Carlson, and Katie McShane. We received 9 grants totaling \$28,400, including from the American Society for Aesthetics (7k) and IUB College Arts and Humanities Institute (10k).

**HONORS & AWARDS**

2019 William Slaymaker Graduate Fellowship.

2017-2018 James B. Nelson Dissertation Fellowship, IUB Department of Philosophy.

2017 Graduate Student Travel Stipend—Pacific APA 2018 and Pacific APA.

2017 Best Graduate Student in Philosophy Essay Prize for the ASA— Rocky Mountain Division.

2017 Oscar Ewing Prize for "What's Aesthetics Got to Do with Environmental Preservation?"

2016 Bo and Lynn Clark Outstanding Associate Instructor, Indiana University.

2015 Travel award from the American Society for Aesthetics

2012 Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society.

**GRADUATE COURSEWORK AND PEDAGOGY WORKSHOPS** (\*INDICATES AUDITED)PEDAGOGY

Excellence in Teaching (Leah Savion)

FACET Workshop (Faculty Academy on Excellence in Teaching) 2019 attendee

AAPT Workshop on Inclusive Pedagogy (IUB 2017).

ETHICS, METAETHICS, PHILOSOPHY OF LAW, AESTHETICS

Contemporary Ethical Theories (Marcia Baron)

Ethical Theory (Morality's Normativity and the Reactive Attitudes) (Kate Abramson)

Metaethics (Stephanie Leary)\*

Ethical Theory (Reactive Attitudes) (Kate Abramson)\*

Contemporary Ethical Theories (Blame) (Kate Abramson)\*

Ethical Theory (Virtue & Character; Relativism; Feminism) (Kate Abramson)\*

Philosophy of Art (Sandra Shapshay)

Intensive Reading course on Environmental Aesthetics (Sandra Shapshay)

Legal Philosophy\* (Marcia Baron)

Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (Pieter Hasper)

Kant's Ethical Theory\* (Allen Wood)

Topics in Kant's Ethics (mini-course at Stanford; Allen Wood and Barbara Herman)\*

Kant's Third Critique\* (Sandra Shapshay)

**HISTORY**

Nineteenth Century Philosophy (Sandra Shapshay)

Kant's Critique of Pure Reason (Allen Wood)

**LOGIC, METAPHYSICS, EPISTEMOLOGY, ACTION**

Logical Theory I (D.C. McCarty)

Logical Theory II (D.C. McCarty)

Metaphysics (Tim O'Connor)

Theory of Knowledge (Skepticism) (Adam Leite)

Philosophy of Action (upper-level undergraduate survey course) (Kirk Ludwig)\*

**ART HISTORY** (through IUB Art History Dept.)

Historiography (Sarah Bassett)

Installation Art (Denise Carvahlo)

History of Print (Bret Rothstein)

**TEACHING** (STUDENT EVALUATIONS AVAILABLE IN TEACHING PORTFOLIO OR UPON REQUEST)**COURSES TAUGHT (OR TO BE TAUGHT) AS SOLE INSTRUCTOR**

Butler University (2019-2020)

*Knowledge and Reality*

*Value Theory*

*Environmental Philosophy*

*Classics of Social & Political Thought*

Indiana University (2015-2019)

*Business and Morality*

*Philosophy and The Environment* (taught twice with different syllabi)

*Introduction to Ethics*

**TEACHING ASSISTANT**

Indiana University (2013-2015)

*Introduction to Philosophy* (main instructor: Frederick Schmitt)

*Elementary Logic* (taught twice, main instructor: Mark Kaplan)

**GRADER**

Indiana University

*Medieval Philosophy* (main instructor: Rega Wood; 2018)

*19th-century Philosophy* (main instructor: Sandra Shapshay; 2013)

**COURSE DESIGN**

While at IU, I developed *Philosophy and the Environment* in entirety: I proposed the course to the IUB philosophy faculty for inclusion in the undergraduate Course Catalogue. They approved the course and added it to the department's offerings. The College and University have subsequently approved it as a "GenEd Arts & Humanities" and "Breadth of Inquiry" course. The course has since been fully enrolled.

GUEST LECTURER

“10 steps to writing a philosophy paper” (writing workshop for undergraduates; 2015, ‘16, ‘17).  
 “Schopenhauer’s Aesthetics and Metaphysics.” Guest Lecturer in D. C. McCarty’s “Classics in  
 Philosophy of Art, 2014.

TUTORING

Writing Tutorial Services Tutor, IUB, Fall 2014. 160 hours of tutoring undergraduate students on  
 intro writing courses, business courses, advanced major courses (esp. Art History  
 Capstone course), application materials; 1/2 of students were ESL students.

**COURSES I AM PREPARED TO TEACH**

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INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Introduction to Ethics\* (\*syllabus found in my teaching portfolio)  
 Introduction to Philosophy\*  
 Classics in Social and Political Philosophy  
 Environmental Philosophy\*  
 Introductory Symbolic Logic  
 Applied Ethics\*  
 Introduction to Aesthetics  
 Business Ethics\*  
 Animal Ethics

INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE COURSES (MODIFIABLE FOR GRADUATE LEVEL)

Value Theory: Moral, Aesthetic, and Historical\*  
 Ethical Theory  
 Contemporary Aesthetics (survey)  
 History of Aesthetics  
 The Ethics of Art  
 Issues in Metaethics  
 Environmental Ethics & Aesthetics  
 Ethics in A Time of Climate Change  
 History of Ethics  
 Reasons  
 Kantian Ethics  
 Love and Friendship: the ethics of relationships  
 Monuments and Heritage Sites: Studies in Historical Value and Repatriation

**COURSES I WOULD BE HAPPY TO PREPARE WITH ADVANCED NOTICE**INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Gender, Race, and Sexuality  
 Contemporary Social Issues  
 Critical Thinking  
 Philosophy of Religion

Philosophy of Law  
 Philosophy of Technology  
 Bioethics  
 LGBTQ+ Philosophy  
 Philosophy of Sport  
 The Meaning of Life  
 Death, Dying, and the Afterlife  
 Contemporary Social Issues

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INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED LEVEL

Philosophical Methods (covers methodologies and research practices in philosophy)  
 Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy  
 Aesthetics and Modern Art (co-teachable with a professor of Art or Art History).  
 Contemporary Metaphysics  
 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy  
 Ancient Philosophy

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**RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

For Sandra Shapshay (2015–2017) organized conference on Environmental Aesthetics & Ethics and helped edit *The Palgrave Schopenhauer Handbook*.

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**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

2019-20 Faculty Liaison for Butler University's Philosophy Club  
 2018 Introduced Peter Singer for his lecture in IU's 2018 *Themester* series  
 2016, 2017 Session Chair, Indiana Philosophical Association.  
 2016-17 President, Graduate Association of Students in Philosophy (GASP).  
 2016 Session Chair, Environmental Aesthetics & Ethics conference (IUB).  
 2016 Facilitator for Hot Topics: Black Lives Matter and Policing (IUB)  
 2016 Session Chair at Workshop in Normative Ethics WiNE  
 2015-16 Member of Climate Committee, IUB Philosophy Dept.  
 2015-16 Social Coordinator, IUB Phil Dept. Facilitated a cohesive and welcoming community.

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**Professional Memberships**

American Philosophical Association June 2016 – present.  
 International Society for Environmental Ethics 2019-present.  
 American Society for Aesthetics February 2015 – present.

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**Languages**

English (native)  
 German (some reading and speaking)

Levi Tenen

*Dissertation Abstract*

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Do artworks, heritage sites, religious relics, family heirlooms, and non-living natural entities have intrinsic value—a value that they would have, to borrow G. E. Moore’s words, even “in absolute isolation?” If not, does this entail that they are only valuable for the sake of other things? I follow others in thinking that, even if they do not have intrinsic value, they can be valuable for their own sakes. They can have *extrinsic final value*. No one has shown, though, how or why an object can have such value. So, I develop an account of this value and highlight implications of the resulting view.

Part of the reason it is important to develop such an account is that it is natural to wonder, skeptically, whether the putative examples of extrinsic final value really *are* instances where the given object is valuable for its own sake. Among the examples offered are a pen used by Abe Lincoln, a dress worn by Princess Diana, and a family heirloom. Each is said to be valuable for its own sake given its relation to the relevant person. But one might suspect, instead, that these objects are merely valuable for the sake of other things, such as for the sake of “indirectly connecting us to a person we admire.”

In the first half of my dissertation, I respond to this line of thought. Drawing from the work of Samuel Scheffler, I begin by sketching an account of what it is to value something for its own sake, modifying ideas from Scheffler to distinguish this mode of valuing from what is involved with valuing something instrumentally. Then, developing an idea put forward by Guy Fletcher and by Rabinowicz and Rønnow-Rasmussen, I argue that there can be a reason to value an object for its own sake on account of its relation to someone one loves or admires, where it is one’s warranted love or admiration that renders it reasonable to value the object in this way. I identify a particular feature of love and admiration that shows exactly why this is the case. Then I highlight an upshot of the resulting account: it avoids a “wrong reason” objection facing alternative views that hold that one should value non-intrinsically-good entities for their own sakes because adopting such an attitude is conducive to some end.

In the second half of my dissertation, I explore the idea, mentioned by others, that wilderness has extrinsic final value. I first identify a variety of other natural entities, including species and ecosystems, that seem to have this sort of value too, and then I go on to sketch an account of their value. My view is that these entities can have final value if they stand in certain relations to other things that people are warranted in valuing in what I, following Christine Swanton, call a partly “passive” manner. One upshot of this account is that it justifies valuing nature for its own sake without presupposing a problematic metaphysical view according to which things such as mountains and rivers have a normative feature just in themselves. Second, it clarifies the values present in a world increasingly affected by humans, helping one determine when human influence does, and when it does not, undermine nature’s final value. In the final chapter of my dissertation, I draw out a third upshot of my view: nature’s historical value, which is often a species of extrinsic final value, offers better justification for preserving certain natural entities than does nature’s aesthetic value.